Lesson #3: Rosie the Riveter – “What’s My Line?”

Standards:
8.1.12C Evaluate historical interpretation of events.
8.3.12A Identify and evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to United States history from 1890 to Present.
5.2.12C Interpret the causes of conflict in society.

Objectives:
1. The students will be able to analyze the participation of women during war efforts of the past and the present.
2. The students will be able to comprehend the various roles of women throughout military history.
3. The students will be able to work together in groups to complete the What’s My Line? Activity.
4. The students will be able to create questions for a famous female and her involvement in the military in order to complete the What’s My Line? Activity.

Subject Matter: gender, roles, Medal of Honor, intelligence, entertainment, Non-traditional jobs

Materials:
Chalkboard
Chalk
Television
Media: Women in the Military: Willing, Able, Essential
Worksheet – “What’s My Line?” group task sheet and biographies

Procedure:
1. Set: Students will answer the following question written on the board or overhead:
   What do you already know about the past/present involvement of women in the military?

2. Media (optional):
   a. Students will view the film Women in the Military: Willing, Able, Essential
   b. It is to be assumed that the instructor has already viewed this film and is familiar with its content.
   c. Students will be asked to take notes on this film that will later be used for classroom activities and discussion.
3. “What’s My Line?” Cooperative Group Activity:

Students will break into groups of 4 or 5 depending on classroom size. Each student will be assigned a role (leader, recorder, reporter, task manager). The instructor will show the class a short segment from a video clip of the television show “What’s My Line?” to give students an example of what the activity will be about.

http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/whats-my-line-eleanor-roosevelt/7316669be241d50784a87316669be241d50784a8-191834030275?q=whats%20my%20line&FROM=LKVR5&GT1=LKVR5&FORM=LKVR11

After viewing the film, students will be given pictures and information pertaining to an important female and her contributions to past/present war efforts.

Marlene Dietrich
Rosie the Riveter
Mary Walker
Sarah Edmunds
Leigh Ann Hester
Rhonda Cornum

Using the picture and the information given, students will create questions referring back to their assigned female. They will then partner up with another group to act out the game of “What’s My Line?”

4. Informal Discussion:

The instructor will then have the students break their groups and return to their assigned seats.

The instructor will ask the students to share information about the female in which they were assigned –

Who was/is this person?
What did they do to impact the war effort?
What sacrifices or dangers did they incur?
How was her role considered “unconventional”, if at all?
How did society view women during the time period of this particular female’s service/actions?

Students will be given a few minutes to write down their ideas before discussion is resumed.

Close: Check for understanding –

Exit Slip – Students will be asked to write down one way that women have contributed to the war effort of the past and the present.
The instructor will collect the exit slips at the door on the students’ way out of the classroom.

**Assessment:**

1. The instructor will informally observe the students taking notes on the video.
2. The instructor will informally observe the students participating in the *What’s My Line?* activity.
3. The instructor will informally observe the students working together in groups.
4. The instructor will formally collect the Exit Slips during the closing activity.
“What’s My Line?”

**DIRECTIONS:** Each member of your group will assume one of the following roles:

Leader – ________________________________

Recorder – ______________________________

Reporter – ______________________________

Task manager – __________________________

“What’s My Line?” was a game show which originally ran in the U.S. from 1950 to 1967. The game challenged celebrity panelists to question contestants in order to determine their occupations. It was the longest-running game show in the history of United States. The rules of the game require panelists to ask questions which could only be answered by "yes" or "no".

Using the picture and information provided, create _____ questions referring back to your group’s assigned female. Once you have completed the questions, partner up with another group and act out the game of “What’s My Line?” Remember, all questions must be able to be answered with a “yes” or “no”.
Name: Maria Magdalene Dietrich - aka – “Marlene Dietrich”

Date of Birth: December 27 1901 – Schöneberg, Berlin, Germany

Death: May 6 1992 (age 90) – Paris, France

Occupation: Actress/Singer

Biography: Dietrich was known to have strong political views. She was also known to speak her mind. In interviews, she stated that she had been approached by the Nazi Party to return to Germany, but had turned them down. She was a devoted anti-Nazi, became an American citizen in 1939.

When the United States entered WWII, Dietrich became one of the first celebrities to promote the selling of war bonds. Although a fugitive of Germany, she traveled within miles of the German border to perform for the American troops. In 1944, She worked with the Morale Operations Branch of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). She became a vital part of the Musac project, which produced musical propaganda broadcasts designed to demoralize enemy soldiers. Dietrich was the only performer aware that her recordings would be used by the OSS. She recorded a number of songs in German for the project, including the popular Lili Marleen.

Dietrich was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by the United States government in 1947. She was also awarded the Légion d’honneur by the French government to recognize her wartime work. She was a fashion icon as well as a screen icon who would be followed by many to come.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlene_Dietrich
Name: ___________________________
Date: ____________________________

Name: Rosie the Riveter (fictional cultural icon)

Date of Birth: The term "Rosie the Riveter" was first used in 1942 in a song by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb.

“All the day long,
Whether rain or shine
She’s part of the assembly line.
She’s making history,
Working for victory
Rosie the Riveter”

Occupation: Assembly line/factory worker, mechanic

Biography: “Rosie the Riveters” took on male dominated trades during WWII in order to aide in the war effort. Rosie the Riveter was inspired by Rose Will Monroe, a woman from Kentucky who moved to Michigan during World War II. She worked as a riveter at an aircraft factory building B-29 and B-24 bombers for the U.S. Army Air Forces.

Films and posters depicting a female riveter appeared all over the country and were used to encourage women to go to work in support of the war effort. In 1942, Westinghouse Company’s War Production Coordinating Committee hired an artist from Pittsburgh, J. Howard Miller, to create a string of posters supporting the war effort. One of these posters became the famous “We Can Do It!” image. This image today is known as the “Rosie the Riveter,” though this was not the authors intention upon its creation. Miller based the “We Can Do It!” poster on a photograph taken of Michigan factory worker, Geraldine Doyle.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosie_the_Riveter
Name: Mary Edwards Walker

Date of Birth: November 26, 1832 – Oswego, New York
Death: February 21, 1919 (age 86, natural causes) – Oswego, New York

Occupation: Surgeon, United States Army

Biography: At the beginning of the Civil War, Mary Walker volunteered as a civilian for the Union Army. The Army at the time had no female surgeons, so she was forced to practice as a nurse, also working as an unpaid field surgeon near the front lines. Eventually, she was awarded a commission as a civilian "Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon" in September 1863, becoming the first-ever female U.S. Army Surgeon.

Following this commission, Mary Walker was appointed assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry. In order to treat civilians, she frequently crossed battle lines, resulting in her capture by Confederate troops on April 10, 1864. Walker was arrested as a spy and taken to Richmond, Virginia. Eventually she was released as part of a prisoner exchange.

Walker often wore men’s clothing, and was arrested for dressing as a man several times. After the war, she became an author and speaker, supporting women’s rights, temperance, and health care. She is the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Edwards_Walker
Name: Sarah Emma Edmunds

Date of Birth: December 1841 – Magaguadavic, New Brunswick, Canada

Death: September 5, 1898 – La Porte, Texas

Occupation: Union soldier, spy, and nurse

Biography: Sarah Emma Edmunds left home after her abusive parents forced her to marry a man she hated. She settled in Flint, Michigan, where she enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Infantry during the American Civil War disguised as a man named "Franklin Flint Thompson." Edmunds was given the position of a spy for the Union.

Frequently traveling into enemy territory in order to gather intelligence, Franklin Thompson used many disguises such as an African American male and Irish immigrant girl. Edmunds eventually contracted malaria, and instead of being revealed as a woman in a military hospital, she left the army and went to a private hospital. Upon her recovery, she learned that “Frank Thompson” was considered a deserter, and decided to serve as a nurse in Washington D.C.

In 1886, she received a government pension of $12 a month for her previous military service, eventually receiving an honorable discharge.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Emma_Edmunds
Name: Leigh Ann Hester

Date of Birth: January 12, 1983 (age 28) – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Occupation: Sergeant, Military Police Company – Kentucky Army National Guard

Biography: Leigh Ann Hester received the Silver Star for her military actions in Iraq on March 20, 2005. While shadowing a convoy near the town of Salman Park, Iraq, Hester and her team were ambushed by approximately 50 insurgent fighters. The insurgents carried assault rifles, machine guns, and rocket propelled grenades. Hester skillfully moved her team through the "kill zone" and in turn attacked a trench with hand grenades and grenade launcher rounds. The assault lasted almost a half an hour, in which Hester had killed at least three of her attackers. By the time the fighting had commenced, 27 insurgents were dead, six wounded, and one captured. Leigh Ann Hester is the first female soldier to receive the Silver Star for outstanding bravery since World War II and the first ever to be cited for courage in close quarters combat.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leigh_Ann_Hester
Name: Rhonda Cornum Ph.D., M.D.
**Date of Birth:** Born October 31, 1954 – Dayton, OH
**Occupation:** US Army Brigadier General, Director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

**Biography:** In 1990, Rhonda Cornum volunteered to go to the Persian Gulf as a flight surgeon with the 101st Airborne Division. The U.S. was preparing to go to war in order to fend off the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. While out on an attempt to rescue an injured fighter pilot with a broken leg, Cornum's Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Iraq. The helicopter crashed at 140 miles per hour.

Five of the eight crew members died in the crash. Cornum was shot in the shoulder and both arms were broken. She could not stand, as she had torn a ligament in her leg. She was captured by Iraqi soldiers and taken to a prison in the city of Basra. During the drive to the prison, Cornum was sexually assaulted by an Iraqi soldier. She was unable to fight back due to both of her broken arms. Rhonda Cornum was held prisoner for eight days. Although she was repeatedly interrogated, she refused to release any classified information. Cornum was released by her captors on March 5, 1991, a week after the war ended.

Information adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhonda_Cornum