

Common Core Lesson Plan

Topic: The Korean War/MacArthur and the President conflict

Title: “Old Soldiers Never Die”

Resources

- Excerpt of “Old Soldiers Never Die” speech
- PowerPoint with primary source photos
- Handout for annotation

Common Core Literacy Standards

- **WHST**
 - Research to build and present knowledge: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject matter under investigation.
- **RH**
 - Key Idea and Detail: Determine if the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source: provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
 - Craft and Structure: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies
 - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas; Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital sources.

Essential Social Studies Standards

- 8.H.2: Understand the ways in which conflict, compromise and negotiation have shaped North Carolina and the United States

Background Information

- Investigation of Korean War

Instructional Sequence (before, during, and after instruction)

Step 1

Students share with their groups their ideas about the following question. “Is there is a right time for a soldier to disregard a direct order from the president, and if so, when would that be”

Step 2

As a class, view the photos and background of the “Old Soldiers Never Die” speech from the PowerPoint. Analyze the excerpt from the primary source (also in handout format) to discover the purpose for MacArthur in delivering this speech.

Step 3

Share information with group or with class.

Step 4

Student defends position in summary to pull together interpretation and understanding of primary documents and any modification of prior knowledge.

The speech ends as follows:

"Of the nations of the world, Korea alone, up to now, is the sole one which has risked its all against communism. The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description. They have chosen to risk death rather than slavery. Their last words to me were: "Don't scuttle the Pacific."

I have just left your fighting sons in Korea. They have done their best there, and I can report to you without reservation that they are splendid in every way.

It was my constant effort to preserve them and end this savage conflict honorably and with the least loss of time and a minimum sacrifice of life. Its growing bloodshed has caused me the deepest anguish and anxiety. Those gallant men will remain often in my thoughts and in my prayers always.

Annotate:

- **Circle unfamiliar vocabulary and define the words in the space below. Use context clues and/or other resources.**
- **Underline the most important phrase to you and explain in details why you selected this phrase. You may use other resources (e.g., MacArthur PowerPoint) to support your explanation.**
- **Summarize in one sentence the main point MacArthur is making in this speech.**

**MacArthur's Speech:
"Old Soldiers Never Die..."**





General Douglas MacArthur
President Harry S. Truman



General Douglas MacArthur



General Douglas MacArthur

1951 had not been a good year for Douglas MacArthur: after almost losing a war in Korea it seemed he had already won, he was dismissed by President Truman, making headlines around the world.

Why?



General Douglas MacArthur




General Douglas MacArthur
President Harry S. Truman




General Douglas MacArthur


1951 had not been a good year for Douglas MacArthur: after almost losing a war in Korea it seemed he had already won, he was dismissed by President Truman, making headlines around the world.



Based on what you have learned, was Truman justified in dismissing MacArthur?
Defend your position:




General Douglas MacArthur
President Harry S. Truman




General Douglas MacArthur



For thirty-seven minutes on April 19, he held America in the palm of his hand. MacArthur's address before a joint session of Congress, one of the great moments in the early days of television, offered him a unique opportunity to tell his side of the story. He did not disappoint.



<p><i>The speech ends as follows:</i></p> <p>"Of the nations of the world, Korea alone, up to now, is the sole one which has risked its all against communism. The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description. They have chosen to risk death rather than slavery. Their last words to me were: 'Don't scuttle the Pacific.'"</p> <p>I have just left your fighting sons in Korea. They have done their best there, and I can report to you without reservation that they are splendid in every way.</p> <p>It was my constant effort to preserve them and end this savage conflict honorably and with the least loss of time and a minimum sacrifice of life. Its growing bloodshed has caused me the deepest anguish and anxiety. Those gallant men will remain often in my thoughts and in my prayers always.</p>	<p>Annotate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Circle unfamiliar vocabulary and define the words in the space. Use context clues and/or other resources.•Underline the most important phrase to you and explain in detail why you selected this phrase. You may use other sources (e.g. MacArthur PowerPoint) to support your explanation.•Summarize in one sentence the main point MacArthur is making in this speech.
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	<p>What do you see in this photograph?</p> <p>Where do you think the picture was taken?</p> <p>Support your answer.</p>
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	<p>How is this picture similar to the previous picture?</p>
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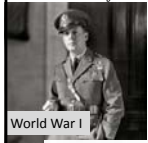
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Based on the reading and the photographs, has your opinion changed regarding MacArthur's dismissal by Truman? Defend your position:

I am closing my 52 years of military service. When I joined the Army, even before the turn of the century, it was the fulfillment of all of my boyish hopes and dreams. The world has turned over many times since I took the oath at West Point, and the hopes and dreams have all since vanished, but I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barracks ballads of that day which proclaimed most proudly that old soldiers never die; they just fade away. And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty."



Works Cited

General Douglas MacArthur photographs. Google Images.
Web. 25 April 2012.

"MacArthur". *American Experience*. 2009. PBS. Web. 19
April 2012. <[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/ames/
macarthur/filmore/reference/primary/macspeech05.
html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/ames/macarthur/filmore/reference/primary/macspeech05.html)>.

Created by Mrs. Rebecca H Michaels and Mrs. Sharyn H West, Martin Middle School, 2012.
