

GRENADA



WWII Pacific Theater Resources

RESOURCE CONTENTS

- 18 Informational Texts
 - Variety of Text Features
 - A & B Response Formats
- 9 Extension Activities
 - Pair Texts with Nonfiction Readings
- Topics cover brief history of Japan, WWII, and the Pacific Theater
- Google Slides™ Links for Google Drive™
- Standards-aligned Resources
- Answer Keys for Applicable Activities!

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

TOPICS

- Overview of Japan and Okinawa
- U.S. Expansionism – 19th Century
- Japan's Rise to Power
- The Path to World War II
- Who's Who in World War II
- Theaters of World War II
- Japan Enters WWII
- The Attack on Pearl Harbor
- Japan Controls the Pacific
- Island Hopping in the Pacific
- The Battle of Iwo Jima
- Navajo Code Talkers
- The Battle of Okinawa
- Atomic Warfare
- A Post-War Pacific
- Japanese Internment
- From Enemies to Allies

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

1 Overview of Japan and Okinawa

➤ 18 Nonfiction Readings

➤ Educational Text Features

➤ Glossary of Key Vocabulary

➤ 2 Pages Per Reading



Map of Japan: Star (★) indicates Okinawa.

miles wide and 70 miles long. It is approximately 400 miles south of Japan's main islands. The island's climate is subtropical with mild winters, a rainy season, and hot and humid summers.

Brief History of Japan

Humans have inhabited Japan's islands since prehistoric times. Ancient Japan boasts of some incredible developments. Its ancient civilizations were some of the first to use pottery, developed the Shinto religion, and built impressively large structures for early humans. Throughout the centuries, Japanese civilizations have been greatly influenced by China, Korea, and other nearby peoples, interacting with them all through trade. As with most ancient civilizations, Japan's history is categorized by periods, each designating significant advances or changes in leadership.

Towards the end of Japan's medieval period in the late 16th century, the region experienced constant warfare between its feudal lords (daimyo). At the same time, Japanese pirates affected trade. Soon, European explorers arrived on the region's shores. Several daimyo, especially **Tokugawa Ieyasu**, worked to unify Japan's feudal lords. Tokugawa Ieyasu was finally successful in 1600 and created the

Geography and Climate

Present-day Japan is an island nation located in East Asia. Its land area is approximately the size of Germany or the U.S. state of California, but Japan's thousands of islands spread across a vast swath of the globe. They stretch from the Sea of Japan and East China Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east. Japan is not just defined by water, though. Over half of Japan's land is considered mountainous and many areas are covered with forests. Since Japan's islands spread out across the Pacific Ocean, the climate of the country varies from tropical in the south to colder and snowier in the north. Politically, the nation is separated into 8 different regions and 47 **prefectures**, or districts, each under the rule of a governor. Today, over 125 million people call Japan home.

Okinawa is one of Japan's prefectures, and it is the largest island in the region. It is located in the southern Kyushu region, part of the Ryukyu island chain, which also stretches between the East China Sea to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. Okinawa Island is about 7

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Tokugawa Shogunate or ruling power. The Shogunate peacefully ruled Japan for over two centuries. During this time, they established a **posture of seclusion** and only traded with the East Asian nations of China and Korea. Meanwhile, they prohibited trade with Western nations and prohibited Christianity.

The Tokugawa Period primed Japan for rapid modernization and its entry onto the world stage in the 19th century. When Japan emerged as a powerful nation, it set about to expand its empire and become the region's dominant power. Seeking to expand its influence, Japan entered World War II and allied itself with the Axis Powers. After Japan lost the war in the Pacific, the United States led the occupation of the nation and reshaped its politics. The democratic influence the U.S. instilled can still be seen today. In addition, Japan continues to be an economic powerhouse and maintains strong alliances with many nations around the globe.

Japan's History with Okinawa

The **Ryukyu Kingdom**, located in the Ryukyu island chain, came into existence around the 14th century. It enjoyed many years of relative peace and economic stability. The kingdom's close proximity to China resulted in strong trade ties between the two societies, and the Ryukyu Kingdom became a tributary state, or a subordinate state, to a more powerful one: China's Ming Dynasty. Under this status, the Ryukyu Kingdom was essentially an independent nation since China did not interfere with its affairs. By the 16th century, the Ryukyu Kingdom united all the islands under a monarchy, centralized at Shuri Castle on the island of Okinawa.

In 1609, the Satsuma domain invaded Ryukyu and took control of the monarchy. Satsuma took an active role in the northern Ryukyu Islands and allowed the southern islands to continue its trade with China. Then, during the Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century

Japan sought to expand its borders and secure areas to protect itself from colonization. With these goals in mind, Japan forced the **annexation** of the Ryukyu Kingdom in 1879. This former kingdom would become the Okinawa prefecture. Once part of Japan, the government implemented **assimilation** policies that aimed to force Okinawans to give up their culture and become more "Japanese." The military use of the islands in the prefecture also contributed to tensions that followed from the Satsuma invasion, annexation, and the controversial assimilation policies. This tension still exists today, and Japan's allowances to the United States only exacerbate them. The U.S. stations the majority of its military presence in Japan on Okinawa itself, another foreign presence in an area with a proud history of independence.



ANCIENT CASTLE OF NA-GA-GUS-KO, LEW CHEW
Ancient castle of Na-Ga-Gus-Ko, Lew Chew (Okinawa). Image from: Narrative of the expedition of an American squadron to the China Seas and Japan in 1852, 1853, and 1854, under M.C. Perry.

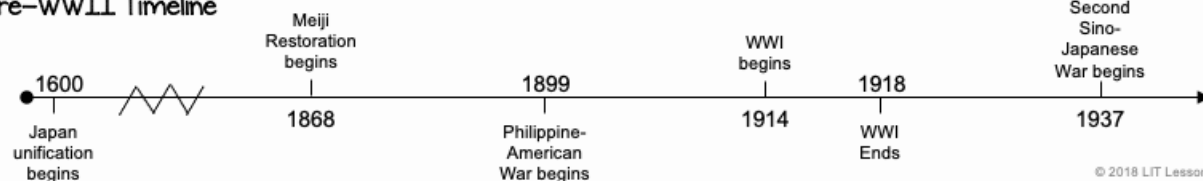
➤ Extensive Overview of Pacific Theater

➤ Common Core-Aligned

➤ Informational Texts and History Standards

➤ Critical Thinking Opportunities

Pre-WWII Timeline



INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

1a Nonfiction Text Analysis Name: _____		Overview of Japan and Okinawa	
Nonfiction Text Features		Directions: Fill out the following organizer, identifying the key features of the informational text.	
Feature 1: Map		Feature 2: Subheading 3	
What is it? Name/describe the feature.		What is it? Name/describe the feature.	
How does this feature contribute to your understanding of the whole article?		How does this feature contribute to your understanding of the whole article?	
Vocabulary & Terms		Directions: Define the key vocabulary words and terms below by using context clues from the text.	
prefecture			
assimilation			
annexation			
Tokugawa Ieyasu			
Ryukyu Kingdom			
Main Idea & Key Details		Directions: Fill out the graphic organizer below in order to determine the main idea of the text.	
Title: _____			
Key Detail 1:	Key Detail 2:	Key Detail 3:	
Main Idea: What is the article mostly about?			

➤ Comprehension & Analysis Questions

➤ Format A – Text Features, Main Idea

➤ Format B – Analysis Questions

➤ Depth of Knowledge Prompts

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

1b Nonfiction Text Analysis Overview of Japan and Okinawa
Name: _____

1. Describe Japan's climate. Why does it vary so much throughout the nation? Why might that be significant in terms of World War II? Support with textual evidence.

2. What does the phrase "posture of seclusion" mean as used in the text? Why might Japan have taken this stance at this point in history? Support with evidence from the text.

3. How did the Tokugawa Shogunate change Japan? Why were these changes significant? Explain and support with evidence from the text.

4. How do we see the theme of expansion in the article? What motivated Japan to expand throughout its history? Support with evidence from the text.

5. Why did Japan annex the Ryukyu Kingdom? What motivated the nation to forcefully acquire this land? Support with textual evidence.

6. Describe Japan's relationship with the Okinawa, one of its prefectures. Why does tension exist between the nation and one of its districts? Explain and support with textual evidence.

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- 2 Formats to Allow for Differentiation
- Use for Centers or Rotation Model
- Pair with Novel – Cross-text Connections
- Answer Key & Google Slides™ Links

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

TOPICS

- Addressing Offensive Language (Anticipation Activity)
- Timeline & Map
- Political Cartoons & U.S. Expansionism
- War Ships & War Games
- The Infamy Speech
- The Pacific War in Color
- Breaking an Unbreakable Code
- Image Study of the Atomic Bombings
- Internment – Orders & Apologies
- Essay Choice Board
- Project – Diving Deeper Into the Pacific Theater

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Extension Activity 2 Name: _____ Timeline & Map

Directions: As you read about Japan's history, World War II, and events around the globe, use the timeline below to keep track of when events occurred. The timeline can be used as a tool to compare events and determine how important moments in history connect and relate.

Pre-WWII

1600 – Japan unification begins

Meiji Restoration begins – 1868

1899 – Philippine-American War begins

WWI begins – 1914

1918 – WWI Ends

Second Sino-Japanese War begins – 1937

1939 – WWII begins

WWII

Attack on Pearl Harbor – 1941

1942 – Battle of Midway

Battle of Guadalcanal – 1942

1945 – Battle of Iwo Jima

Battle of Okinawa – 1945

1945 – Atomic Bombings

WWII ends – 1945

Post-WWII

1952 – U.S. occupation of Japan ends

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➤ 9 Extension Activities

➤ Variety of Materials – Speech, Images

➤ Engage with Different Activities

➤ Comprehension & Analysis Questions

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Extension Activity 4

Name: _____

War Ships & War Games

Learning about World War II Ships

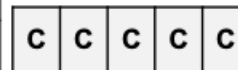
Fighting in the Pacific Theater of World War II took place across a huge area, mainly due to the enormity of the Pacific Ocean and the long distances between land. As a result, naval forces were a vital part of military strategy. As we read more about WWII and the Pacific Theater, you will frequently encounter types of ships. In order to learn about a few naval vessels, let's play a game!

- **Overview:** Everyone will have their own "Warship" game board, including the teacher. You will fill out your game board with your own "ships." Everyone's ship placement on the game board will be different. (Ships may not be placed diagonally – only vertically and horizontally.)
 - Then, the teacher will ask the class questions (about WWII, your readings, your work, etc.). If the question is answered correctly, the student will select which square to shoot to hit a ship. If the "hit" lands on a ship, the square will be marked with an **X**. If the shot lands in the water, the square will be marked with an **O**.
 - Now, if the question is answered incorrectly, the teacher will call out a square and every student must mark their board with either a "hit" (**X**) or a "miss" (**O**) depending on the location of the ships on every individual board.
 - When an entire ship is "hit" and "sunk" (students or teacher), you will learn more about the ship, take notes, and then continue the game until all five ships are "sunk."

	W	A	R	S	H	I	P
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

Game Key

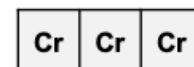
Carrier = 5 squares



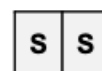
Battleship = 4 squares



Cruiser = 3 squares



Submarine = 2 squares



Destroyer = 2 squares



X = Hit on ship

O = Miss (hit water)

- Allows for Differentiation
- Standards-aligned – Informational & History Texts
- Pair with Nonfiction Readings
- Make Connections Between Texts

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Extension Activity 7	Name: _____	Breaking an Unbreakable Code
Navajo Code Talkers		
<p>The code talkers of World War II were essential to military success, especially in the Pacific Theater. Let's learn more about the code talkers. Each section has a code. The code spells out a word or phrase. Once you decode the word or phrase, conduct short research on the topic and its relationship to Navajo code talkers. Take notes about what you learn.</p>		
Tkin-Tsah-Be-Tkin-Wol-la-chee-A-chin Shush-Tlo-chin-Be-la-sana-Gah-Be-Tkin-Tsah-Klizzie Dibeh-Moasi-Cha-Tlo-chin-Tlo-chin-Ah-jad (3 words)		
Code Translation: _____		
What is it? What was its purpose?		
How does it relate to Native Americans and code talkers?		
What other interesting information did you learn?		
Moasi-Wol-la-chee-Gah-Nash-doie-tso Ah-tad-Ne-ahs-jah-Ah-losz-Be-tas-tni-Be-la-sana-A-chin (2 words)		
Code Translation: _____		
Who was this person?		
How does it relate to Native Americans and code talkers?		
What other interesting information did you learn?		
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- Foster Rich Discussion
- Comprehensive Examination of History
- Prompts Require Evidence-based Responses
- Cross-curricular Learning


EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Extension Activity 8 Name: _____ Image Study of the Atomic Bombings

Hiroshima & Nagasaki


Directions: Observe the image carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-113495



Hiroshima Pre-Strike

Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-113494



Hiroshima Post-Strike

1. What do you notice in the image? What sticks out to you?

2. What is going on in the image? What makes you say that?

3. How does this image contribute to the narrative of Japan being a victim in WWII?

4. How does this image contribute to President Truman's desire to project power at the war's end?

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➤ Final Project

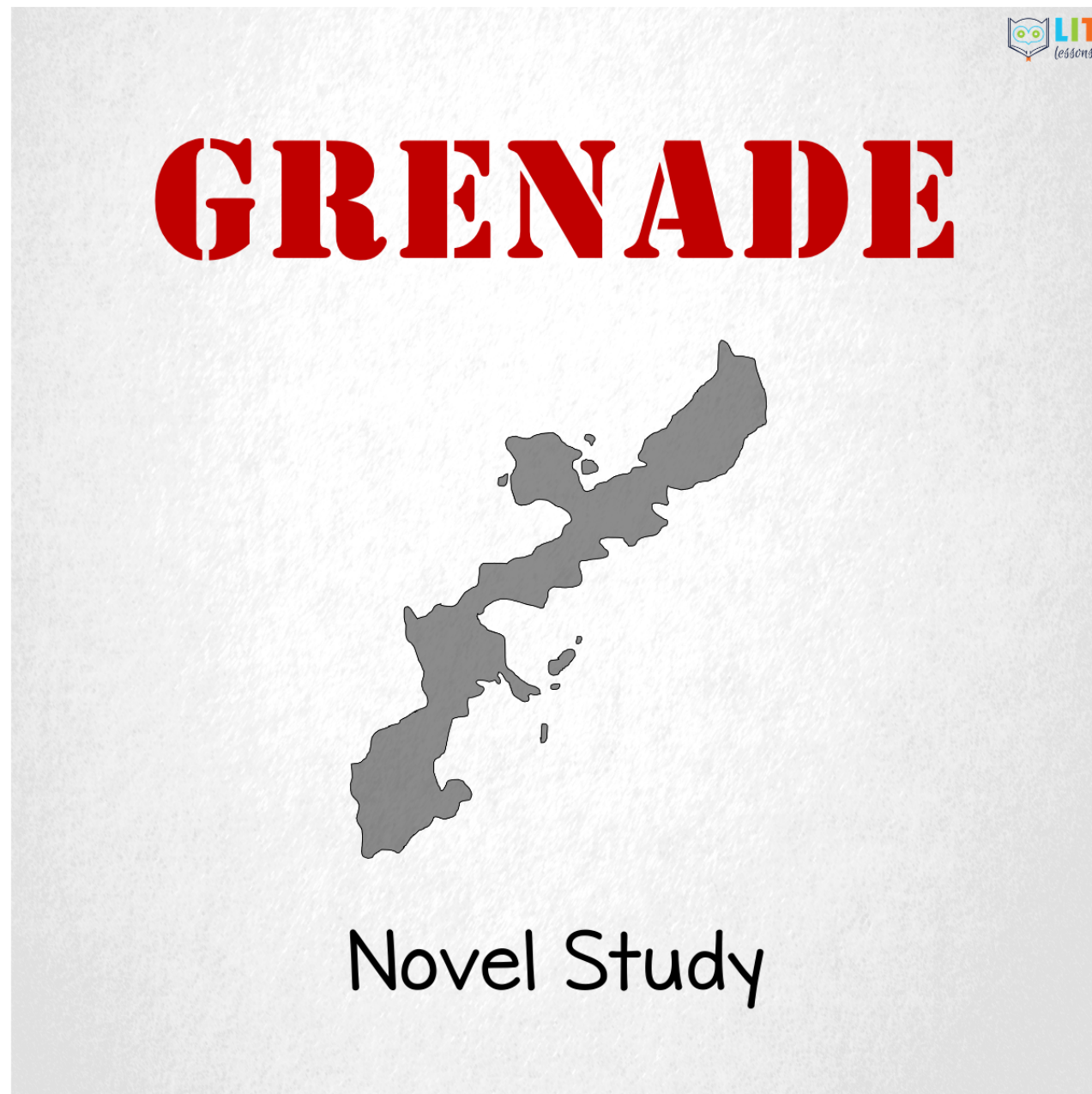
➤ Scaffold Learning with Graphic Organizers

➤ Google Slides™ Links for Google Drive™

➤ Answer Keys for Applicable Resources

BUNDLE & SAVE!

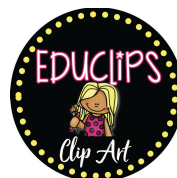
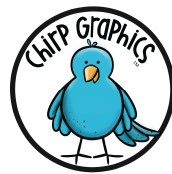
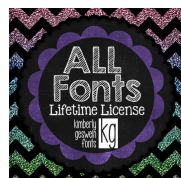
This resource is part of a comprehensive unit on *Grenade*! Click the cover below to preview all the resources available.



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