

# World War II Turning Points in the Pacific: Philippine Campaign - Battle of Leyte Gulf

*EMU TPS Workshop August 8 - 10, 2011*

## Lesson Overview:

*The war in the Pacific did not begin well for the United States, but the end of 1942 saw the beginning of change. Using primary sources, students will explore the largest naval battle in history to evaluate the significance of retaking the Philippines in historical terms and in personal impact on the US service personnel involved.*

## Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Draw upon prior knowledge from previous World War II lessons on Pacific Theater
- Analyze the effect of Japanese occupation on the Philippines 1942-44
- Identify key events relating to MacArthur's return to the Philippines
- Evaluate documents and photographs from the American Memory collections
- Draw upon primary and secondary sources to synthesize the significance of the Battle of Leyte Gulf to the eventual victory of the US in the Pacific

## Standards:

### U.S. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

#### USHG ERA 7 – THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II (1920-1945)

##### 7.2 World War II

*Examine the causes and course of World War II, and the effects of the war on United States society and culture, including*

*the consequences for United States involvement in world affairs.*

7.2.1 **Causes of WWII** – Analyze the factors contributing to World War II in Europe and in the Pacific region, and America's entry into war including

- the political and economic disputes over territory (e.g., failure of Versailles Treaty, League of Nations, Munich Agreement)(*National Geography Standard 13, p. 210*)
- the differences in the civic and political values of the United States and those of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan
- United States neutrality

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• the bombing of Pearl Harbor (*National Geography Standard 13, p. 210*)  
(*Lesson HSCE*)

7.2.2 U.S. and the Course of WWII – Evaluate the role of the U.S. in fighting the war militarily, diplomatically and technologically across the world (e.g., Germany First strategy, Big Three Alliance and the development of atomic weapons).

**Time Required:**

2 days

**Recommended Grade Level(s):**

9-12

**Topic(s):**

US History, World History: World War II, Philippine Campaign

**Era:**

World War II, 1939-1945

**Preparation:**

**Materials:**

Writing Prompt Template attached (other formats may be used)

Photo Analysis Worksheet (two options are given below)

[http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo\\_analysis\\_worksheet.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html>

Research Questions - worksheet included in this lesson

**Resources:**

See Resource Table

Computer access:

<http://militaryhistory.about.com> Type *Battle of Leyte Gulf* into the Search box and click on the first option. This article is repeated several times so you have multiple choices which will help students answer the related questions.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/victory/>

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/themes.html>

Search for POWs in Japan, *Henry John Wilayto, Richard Henry Peterson, Aaron Clyde Hopper, William S. Allen.*

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## Procedure:

**Activities:** Use this activity to introduce the turning point in the Pacific that led to the retaking of the Philippines and its relation to the ending of the war.

1. Begin by having students use the Photo Analysis Worksheet to analyze the photograph of MacArthur coming ashore on Leyte. **Do NOT identify the photograph for students in any way at this point.**
2. Engage students in a class discussion of the photograph based on their observations and prior World War II knowledge.
3. Students should use available resources to complete the following questions:
  - a. What are 3 significant events which occurred during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines from 1942 to 1944?
  - b. Based on the photographs provided and any documentation you find concerning Bataan, what are 3 things experienced by the American soldiers?
  - c. Compare and contrast the photos showing the arrival of troops on Morotai and the arrival of commanders on Leyte.
  - d. Research the Battle of Leyte Gulf. What tactic did the Japanese first use at Leyte? How did it impact American naval personnel?
    1. Find the number of ships lost by both the Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States/Allied Navy, then find the number killed and wounded for each side during this battle.
4. Students should synthesize this information to complete the writing prompt: "Why could the Battle of Leyte Gulf be considered a major turning point in the war against Japan?"

## Extension Activities:

Students could also:

1. complete a mapping activity of Allied progress in the Battle for the Philippines
2. write letters home from the soldier/sailor in the Philippines
3. journal the day MacArthur withdrew from the perspective of the soldier left behind and again for the date of his return





## Evaluation:

Compilation of photo analysis, research worksheet, letters, journals, and writing prompt synthesis, according to teacher discretion. Include in summative assessment.

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## Library of Congress - Resource Table

IMAGES	DESCRIPTION	CITATION	PERMANENT URL
	<p><b>General Douglas MacArthur and aides wading ashore on Leyte, Philippine Islands</b></p>	<p>Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA LC-USZ62-64852 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98506936/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98506936/</a></p>
	<p><b>Near end of death march in Philippines</b></p>	<p>Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA Associated Press photograph from US Army.  No. 18059C.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699977/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699977/</a></p>
	<p><b>'Death March starts'</b></p>	<p>Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA Associated Press photograph from US Army.No. 18057C</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699980/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699980/</a></p>
	<p><b>Yank infantry invades Morotai Island</b></p>	<p>Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA U.S. Navy Photo SF 32870</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005689609/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005689609/</a></p>

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### World War II Pacific Theater Research Questionnaire:

Individually or with a partner, use the given websites to research answers for each of the following questions. You will be using this information in your written assessment.

1. What are 3 significant events which occurred during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines from 1942 to 1944?
2. Based on the photographs provided and any documentation you find concerning Bataan, what are 3 things experienced by the American soldiers?
3. Compare and contrast the photos showing the arrival of troops on Morotai and the arrival of commanders on Leyte.
4. Research the Battle of Leyte Gulf. What tactic did the Japanese first use at Leyte? How did it impact American naval personnel?
5. Find the number of ships lost by both the Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States/Allied Navy, then find the number killed and wounded for each side during this battle.

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## Writing Prompt Template

Insert Name

Insert class (teacher Name) & date

Insert Text Prompt here, if Required...

Insert Photo Here

Paragraph #1/Introduction

Paragraph #2

Paragraph #3

Paragraph #4

Paragraph #5