

Heartbreak: Comparing Experiences in the Korean War

About This Lesson

Students will be given a short PowerPoint lecture on the basics of the Korean War and will use personal stories/primary accounts to develop an answer to the question of, "How did Korean War affect the soldiers, mentally and/or physically?"

Grade Level

9-12

Time

1-2 45-minute class periods

Resources

-Korean War PP (brief overview/summary of causes, events, and outcomes)

-*Wisconsin Korean War Stories: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Forgotten War*, by Sarah A. Larsen and Jennifer M. Miller

Standards (*Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies*, (Madison: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2018))

-Analyze how the historical context (situation) influences a primary or secondary source.

-Analyze the intended purpose of a specific primary or secondary source.

Evaluate how different groups and individuals contributed to the event or cause and/or effect.

Lesson

1. Begin by giving a brief PowerPoint on the Korean War
2. Either as a class, or individually, read p. 102-104, "Heartbreak," from the *WI Korean War Stories*
3. Randomly assign students a persona story from the chapter (they vary in length from 1 to several paragraphs, so it will be easy to differentiate based on reading abilities)
-Students should jot down or highlight key points from their assigned story
4. Put students in groups of 4 or 5 to share the details of their story with their group
 - a. In their groups, they should brainstorm ideas, concepts, and messages that relate to the question, "How did Korean War affect the soldiers, mentally and/or physically?"
 - b. Discuss the writing format you will use. Choices are:

- i. Poem
 - ii. Speech
 - iii. Sermon
 - iv. Letter to the editor
 - v. Diary entry
 - c. Discuss the audience you will address: who is going to read/hear your opinion?
 - d. ON YOUR OWN, write based on your perspective.
 - e. When everyone is finished, read your piece to the group.
5. Each group will select its most interesting and thoughtful product to share with the class.
6. Closure: Discuss as a large class what was most surprising, intriguing, upsetting, etc. about the soldier's accounts.