

# Not Too Far Distant -Image Analysis Lesson Plan

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students examine images of the US Armed Forces 42nd Division's ("Rainbow Division") journey through Europe. Students use an analysis guide to dig deeper into the images to understand the accomplishments of the Rainbow Division. (To be paired with the play Not Too Far Distant by Becky Boesen.)

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze historical images by examining World War II images related to the Rainbow Division's march through Europe.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

- WWII (1939-1945) involved nearly every major country in the world. There were two sides, the Allies (the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union) and the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).
- This war mainly took place in Europe and the Pacific. Starting in 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States sent soldiers, including those drafted, overseas to assist in the war effort.

### Nebraska State Education Standards

SS 7.4.4  
SS 8.4.2  
SS HS.4.1.b (US)  
SS HS.4.1.c (US)  
SS HS.4.4.b (US)

### Lesson Details

#### Time Requirement:

30 minutes

#### Grade Level:

7th - 12th grade

#### Materials:

- [WWII Poster](#) (or similar image)
- Document I
- Image Analysis Guide

## LESSON STRUCTURE

### Lesson Introduction

1) Take a poll. Ask students if they would rather read information or look at an image or video to find information. Display this information to the class by making a chart or showing tally marks on the board.

2) Discuss. Ask students why someone might prefer gathering information from an image. *Recommended time: 3-5 minutes*

### Procedure

1) Practice analyzing an image:

- a) Display this [WWII poster](#) (or a similar image).
- b) Using the Image Analysis Guide, discuss the WWII poster as a whole group.

2) Analyze an image. Have students work individually or in small groups to observe the image in Document I and complete the Image Analysis Guide. *Recommended time: 15-20 minutes*

3) Modifications. Use these images and the documents from other lesson plans to create a Gallery Walk or Station activity based on Not Too Far Distant.

### Exit Ticket

Have students respond to the prompt: "Historians often look at images to tell stories about the past. What story will future historians tell based on the images and videos we create today?"

# Document I: Rainbow Division Map, 1945



Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum collection, gift of the Gregg and Michelle Philipson Collection and Archive



Scan the QR code or click on the image to see a larger version.

# Image Analysis Guide

## Image Analysis Process

Observe the image

### Step 1: Observe the image

Find information about the image or artwork itself.

Make sense of the image

### Step 2: Make sense of the image

Think about the people creating or viewing this image.

Use the image as historical evidence.

### Step 3: Use the image as historical evidence

Connect what is shown in the image to what is happening in the world at the time.

Observe the image

### Step 1: Observe the image

1) Quickly look at the image. What do you notice first?

3) What visuals, colors, or symbols are used in the image?

2) What words or messages are on the image (if any)?

Make sense of the image

### Step 2: Make sense of the image

1) What is the topic of this image?

2) What was the author's intention for creating this image? Why did they create this image?

# Image Analysis Guide

Make sense of the image

## Step 2: Make sense of the image

3) What else was happening at the time this was created? How do those events help you understand why it was created?

4) What does this image teach you about the experiences of American soldiers during WWII?

Use the image as  
historical evidence.

## Step 3: Use the image as historical evidence

1) What evidence does the author present that you should “fact check” (verify as true)?

3) What perspectives do you bring to this topic and source? How does your identity and the time in which you live affect your perspective?

2) What message was the author trying to send about the Rainbow Division? What does this tell us about the creator’s perspective?