



Honoring the Past,  
Inspiring the Future

## Picture Pearl Harbor: Beginning, Middle and End

### Overview

Students develop their visual literacy by analyzing photographs depicting December 7, 1941. After in-depth analysis students will arrange a collection of photos in chronological order.

### Recommended Grade Range

Grades 3 to 5

### Prerequisites

This lesson should follow previous discussions and lessons about World War II and the events connected to the Pearl Harbor attack.

### Objectives

- Students will analyze a photograph, making observations about its content
- Students will use these observations to make inferences and draw conclusions
- Students will use their historical imagination and their knowledge of World War II to arrange the photos in a chronological order

### Content Standards

Connections to Common Core:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.9

Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Connections to C3 Framework:

D2.His.1.3-5. Create and use a chronological sequence of related events to compare developments that happened at the same time

D2.His.12.3-5. Generate questions about multiple historical sources and their relationships to particular historical events and developments.

### Estimated Time

90 minutes (Optional two 45 minute lessons)

### Materials Required

Photocopies of images

- [Captured Japanese photograph taken aboard a Japanese carrier](#) before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941. 80-G-30549. National Archives Identifier: [520599](#)
- ["USS SHAW exploding during the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor."](#) December 7, 1941. 80-G-16871. National Archives Identifier: [520590](#)



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- "[Pearl Harbor](#), T.H. taken by surprise, during the Japanese aerial attack. USS WEST VIRGINIA aflame." December 7, 1941. 80-G-19947. National Archives Identifier: [520594](#)
- 74-20:1240 | Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum. Hanger and plane destroyed during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Computer and projector to show examples of photos to entire class

Copies of Worksheet

### **Lesson Plan**

Observe:

On a projector or overhead, show students a photo from the online collection. Ask them to use their visual thinking strategies by verbally answering the following questions:

- What's going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

Describe:

The teacher should now model an in-depth analysis of the photo by completing Sections A and B on the Photograph Analysis Work Sheet.

- To encourage closer observation of the photos, students can divide the photo into four sections and look at one section at a time.
- Arrange students in groups of four. Give each student in the group one of the four photos for the activity. Individually students should complete Sections A and B for their photo.
  - This could be done in pairs as well.

Interpret:

- Review the meaning of inference and that good inferences are supported with evidence.
- Return to the sample photo on the projector. Ask students to help you make 3 to 5 inferences about this photograph. Ask them to identify evidence in the photo to support their inference.
- Ask students to use the worksheet to make inferences and find evidence to support their inference with their own photo.

Connect:

- Have the students discuss and describe their photo to the rest of the group.
- As a group infer what the collection of photos have in common.
- Ask students to arrange their photos in chronological order and write down the order on a sheet of paper

Conclusion:

- As a class discussion examine each group's timeline. Explore reasons for difference in chronological arrangement.

### **Extension Activities**

- As a group students can conduct further research on Pearl Harbor and write a news article about the event using the photos as illustrations
- Students can imagine they are a person in the photo and write an 'eye witness' account of the scene of the photo.



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## Photograph Analysis Worksheet

### Step 1: Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Think about the following questions:  
-What's going on in this picture?  
-What do you see that makes you say that?

B. Use the Chart below to list people, objects and activities in the photograph

People	Objects	Activities

### Step 2: Inference

Based on what you have observed above list three things you can infer from this photograph and evidence to support your inference.

Inference	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	



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Captured Japanese photograph taken aboard a Japanese carrier before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941. 80-G-30549. National Archives Identifier: 520599