

The Arsenal of Democracy: St. Juliens Creek Annex Hampton Roads Naval Museum Lesson Plan



St. Juliens Creek Annex was a major U.S. Navy munitions center in both World War I and II. During World War I, it produced the majority of the naval mines used by the U.S. Navy in the Atlantic operations area. By the beginning of World War II, it had become a central part of the Navy's logistic infrastructure in the Virginia Hampton Roads area. The following lesson plan will guide students toward a better understanding of St. Juliens Annex's importance to the Navy, the local community and our victories in both World Wars.

LESSON PLAN TITLE: Arsenal of Democracy: St. Juliens Creek Annex

BASED ON: Historical Research

GRADE: 9 - 11

SUBJECT: United States History

SOLS: This lesson plan can be used to fulfill a host of Virginia Department of Education Standard of Learning including: USII.1-2-4-6-7-8, WHII.9-11, VUS. 1-8-9-10-11.

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON PLAN:

In this lesson, students will evaluate the contributions and development of the U.S. Navy munitions production at St. Juliens Creek Annex during World War I and World War II.

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOWANCE:

Two 40-minute class periods for students to work with enclosed and other available materials to evaluate St. Juliens Creek Annex role in World War I and World War II. Additional, out-of-class time to consult relevant web sites to complete their research and to write their essays.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Learn about the events surrounding St. Juliens role in the U.S. Navy's participation in World War I and World War II.
2. Assess the importance of St. Juliens Creek Annex in relation to the Navy's growth here in Hampton Roads.
3. Evaluate the impact St. Juliens Creek Annex had on local Hampton Roads economy including demographic factors.

RESOURCES/MATERIALS:

- Access to the internet (at home, in the classroom, or in the school media center or computer lab).
- Computer word processing access to write a short essay (at home, or in school media center or Computer lab).

ACTIVITIES/PROCEDURES

Ask students to brainstorm in their journals in response to these questions:

What role did St. Juliens Creek Annex play in World War I and World War II?

How did St. Juliens Creek influence the growth of the Navy's presence in Hampton Roads?

Explain how St. Juliens Creek Annex impacted the local economy including the demographic and ethnic profile of the workers employed at St. J's.

Take a few minutes to discuss student responses before moving on to the rest of the lesson. Chances are, students will not know much about St. Juliens Creek or World

War I; in that case, use their lack of knowledge to stimulate a discussion America's naval role in World War and the importance of logistic centers.

Create an outline of the history of St. Juliens during World War I through World War II. This outline should include:

- a. When St. Juliens was established.
- b. St. Juliens role in munitions manufacture in World War I and World War II.
- c. The Navy's use of these munitions in World War I (Atlantic mine barrage and World War II).
- d. How the development of St. Juliens fit in with the other Navy facilities in Hampton Roads.
- e. What economic impact St. Juliens had on the local economy.
- f. What was the demographic and ethnic profile of the people who worked at St. Juliens?
- g. Why is question f. an important factor in local economic and race relations in the World War I and II eras in Hampton Roads?

h. St. Juliens long term impact on the Navy's growth in Hampton Roads.

After students have developed this outline in class, have them reflect on St. Juliens role in the Navy's history here in Hampton Roads (either in discussion or in writing). To get them started, you might ask them: What did they make at St. Juliens? Who worked at St. Juliens? Did St. Juliens help win World War I? Was St. Juliens needed in later conflicts (World War II or today)?

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Write St. Juliens functions and points of value to the Navy and local economy (use as many of the jobs as you wish) on slips of paper.

Make as many slips of paper as you have students. Place the slips of paper in a basket or bin of some kind, and have each student pick one slip of paper. That slip of paper will provide each student with a homework assignment—to find additional information about that use function or impact. Now, provide the students with a set of questions that they are to answer about the topic they chose:

- i. Why was this topic important?
- j. How did St. Juliens influence the Navy's operations?
- k. How did St. Juliens affect the local area?
- l. How did St. Juliens affect the outcome of World War I and World War II?
- m. How did the demographic and ethnic profile of the workers at St. Juliens affect race relations in Hampton Roads during the World War I and II eras?
- n. What significant contributions did St. Juliens make during World I and World War II?
- o. Did the Navy need St. Juliens after World War II?

In class the next day, divide the students into groups —groups should be assigned one of the a - g topics from the Homework Assignment.

Have each make a summary verbal report on their research relating to the lesson objectives (refer to objectives above). Discuss their observations in class.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:

Have the students write an essay on the objective topics posed at the beginning of this lesson:

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on their class participation, their research, and their homework essay.

WEB SITES AND ONLINE RESEARCH :

Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Interpretive Center web resource, "Arsenal of Democracy: St. Juliens Creek Annex." Read at <http://www.hrm.navy.mil/daybooks/volume10issue1.pdf>.

Information on the Naval Historical Center's web site will provide more information on the Navy's role in World War I, World War II and St. Juliens Creek Annex's overall mission at <http://www.history.navy.mil>.

