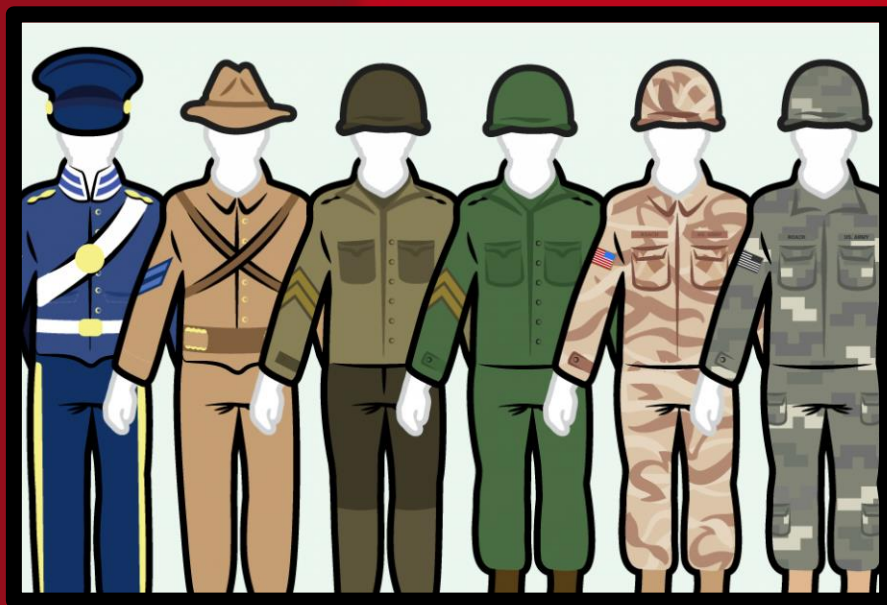


Military Uniforms over the Years

Lesson Plan

4th – 6th Grades



An Educational Outreach Program of the

**Nodaway County Historical
Society and Museum**

Military Uniforms throughout the Years

Grades: 4th – 6th Grades

Introduction:

Think about all the wars that we have been involved in over the last 120 years. Wars happen for a few reasons such as different political beliefs, to obtain land, to protect their way of life, or even to help someone else's way of life. What are things that have changed during the wars? You know the main things that have changed such as weapons and technology but something that may not be as obvious is the uniforms. We will be cover wars that go over 100 years and notice all the changes between the uniforms.

Missouri Learning Standard:

- 3a. Knowledge of continuity and change in the history of Missouri and the United States

Lesson Objectives:

- I can tell the importance of military uniforms in the United States.
- I can explain why uniforms have evolved over time.
- I can differentiate between dress and service uniforms.
- I can identify the uniforms from different wars and branches of the military.

Background Information:

Spanish American War: (April 1898 - August 1898)

In February 1895, Cuba was fighting for their independence from Spain. In the United States, newspapers were releasing stories on Spain's cruelty towards the Cubans. Americans were angered by these stories and wanted the U.S. to step in and fight. When the U.S.S. Maine sank off the coast of Havana in February 15, 1898, the American people blamed Spain, although the cause was not known. On April 11, 1898, President William McKinley asked Congress to declare war on Spain. On April 20, 1898, Congress passed the Teller Amendment stating that the United States would not always have a presence within Cuba. Spain declared war against the United States on April 24, 1898. The United States quickly defeated the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay in the Philippines, another Spanish colony in the Pacific Ocean, on May 1, 1898. 400 Spanish sailors were killed, and only 6 Americans were wounded. On July 1, 1898, Teddy Roosevelt led the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill in Cuba. This was another victory for the United States.

On August 12, 1898, Spain and the United States sign a cease-fire agreement. The war ended when this agreement was signed, but the Cubans only received marginal independence. While free from Spain, the United States kept military troops in Cuba and remained involved in Cuba's economy and government until the Cuban Revolution in the 1950s.

World War I: (July 28th, 1914 - November 11th, 1918)

On June 28th, 1914, Francis Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia that same day as they blamed Serbia for causing the attack. After this, it was a domino effect as many countries were pulled into the war because of pre-existing treaties. The main Allied Powers eventually included: France, Britain, Russia, Italy, United States, Romania, Greece, Serbia, and Japan. The countries that were Central Powers included: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria. In World War I, trench warfare took over the Western Front. This was the main way of fighting in World War I. Submarine warfare also played a huge role in this war. On February 1, 1917, Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare began, and this is part of what led the United States to join the war. The United States officially joined the war on April 6th, 1917, when we declared war on Germany. The war came to an end on November 11, 1918, when Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies. On June 28th, 1918, the Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Germans.

World War II: (September 1st 1939 - September 2nd, 1945)

After Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles by building up the German military and later invading Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The U.S. did not join the war immediately, but President Franklin D. Roosevelt increased defense spending by \$16 billion and enacted the first peacetime draft to get ready. United States declared war on Germany on December 11th, 1941, hours after declaring war on Japan following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The Axis powers included Germany, Italy, and Japan, and they declared war on the United States. The U.S., Britain, China, and the Soviet Union made up the main Allied Powers. Winston Churchill who was the prime minister of Great Britain met with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in North Africa to make plans to invade Axis-held Europe. On January 31st, 1943, Soviet Russia began to push the German armies back out of the Soviet Union while the British and American troops came up through North Africa and Italy. Then the Allied forces prepared for an even larger invasion from Western Europe. Allied troops left England for Normandy, France on June 6th, 1944 – known as D-Day – in order to get into France and free it from the Germans. In April 28th, 1945, the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini was killed by an uprising of Italian insurgents and 3 days later on May 1st, 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide in Germany as Russian troops were about to capture him. The next day, May 2nd, 1945, Germany surrendered. After the end of the European part of the war, the U.S. focused on Japan all of its attention on Japan in the East. The U.S. decided to drop an atomic bomb, the first one ever dropped on August 6th, 1945, on Hiroshima. It instantly killed 75,000 people

and injured 100,000 more. On August 9th, 1945. The U.S. dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki. On September 2nd, 1945, the Japanese formally surrendered on the U.S. battleship Missouri, thus ending World War II.

Korean War: (June 1950 - March 1953)

On March 12th, 1946, President Harry S. Truman gave a speech where he outlined what has become known as the “Truman Doctrine” where he pledged American assistance to any nation in the world threatened by communism. The U.S. and the Soviets had helped install governments in North and South Korea that were friendly to their own countries and their own forms of government. On June 24th, 1950, communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, supported this and believed that there would be little intervention from the U.S. if the North tried to take South Korea, but he was wrong. Three days after the invasion, Truman announced that the United States and United Nations were going to provide support to South Korea against communist North Korea. South Korea made a push with the help of the U.S. and U.N. and quickly retook the capital of Seoul. On November 4th, 1950, as the U.S. fighting coalition crossed into North Korea and went closer and closer to the Chinese border, fellow communist-led China joined the fight and supported North Korea. They pushed the American forces back to the 38th parallel, which divided the North and South. After years of fighting at roughly this same location, the North and South Korea created the demilitarized zone on the 38th parallel. They could not agree on a peace treaty, but this effectively ended the war on July 27th, 1953.

Operation Enduring Freedom: (October 2001 - December 2014)

Operation Enduring Freedom began with one of the saddest days in American history when terrorists attacked and destroyed the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. It wasn't long until President George W. Bush declared “war on terror,” which included the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Other countries contributed troops to the military endeavor, and the Taliban eventually lost its last major strong hold and, in turn, their hold on Afghanistan. Afghanistan had its first democratic election and elected Hamid Karzai as president. After George W. Bush's presidency ended, Barrack Obama approved a troop increase in 2008 in Afghanistan to keep the Taliban and al Qaeda from trying to take over major cities. One of biggest points of the conflict was when the Taliban leader Osama bin Laden was found and killed in Pakistan. He had avoided troops and bombings until he was tracked down and killed in a secret night mission. On December 28th, 2014, the United States and NATO ended the combat mission in Afghanistan. President Obama said, “We are safer, and our nation is more secure” because of the war on terror and the service members who served.

Artifacts in the museum display:

Uniforms from the wars:

- Spanish American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Gulf War (Desert Storm)

Activities that teachers do with students before visiting the museum:

The teacher could have the students make a timeline that has main points from the different wars. Each student will get an event on a piece of paper that they will read and then have line up in the correct order. There will be five events for each war. The timeline events are listed at the end of this document.

Activities that teachers do with the students at the museum:

The students will have time to look at all the uniforms and memorabilia from the wars when they get to the museum. Then they will pick a war out of a bowl and focus their observations on items and people from that war. Answer the following questions:

- List 3 artifacts or objects they see from that war.
- Which object do you think is the most interesting and why?
- Identify at least 1 person associated with this war. What is something interesting about that person and what they did?
- Describe one of the uniforms from your war. Why did you choose that uniform?
- Compare the uniform(s) from your war to the other uniforms you see on display. What is similar and different about it and the other wars' uniforms?

After they take notes on what they notice about the people, objects, and uniforms from their war, they will imagine that they are in the soldiers' shoes. The students will write a letter home as if they are serving in that war. Answer the following questions: where are you are, what kind of uniform you are wearing, what they like the most and the least about the uniform.

Assessment/Follow-up back at the school:

Individually, the students will design a uniform for 100 years in the future. They will be given a location for the war and need to design a uniform that fits that location's environment and temperature. They will write a paper about what their uniform has included and why they changed or added something. Once finished, they class will be broken into small groups to talk about each of their individual designs. The students will work individually to draw their uniforms. To complete the lesson, everyone will hang their drawings around the room, and the class will walk around to look at all the designs.

Teacher Date Checklist: Timeline Activity

Spanish American War

- The U.S.S. Maine is sunk off the coast of Havana on February 15, 1898.
- Congress passes the Teller Amendment on April 20, 1898.
- Spain declares war against the United States on April 24, 1898.
- The Spanish Pacific fleet is destroyed in the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898.
- Teddy Roosevelt leads the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898.
- Spain and the U.S. sign a cease-fire agreement on August 12, 1898.

World War I

- Francis Ferdinand assassinated at Sarajevo on June 28, 1914.
- The “Lusitania” was sunk by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915.
- Germany’s unrestricted submarine warfare campaign starts February 1, 1917.
- USA declared war on Germany April 6, 1917.
- Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Germans June 28, 1919.

World War II

- Germany invades Poland. World War II begins on September 1, 1939.
- Germany uses quick strikes called blitzkrieg, meaning lightning war, to take over much of Western Europe, including the Netherlands, Belgium, and northern France on May 10, 1940.
- Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the Axis Alliance on September 22, 1940.
- The Japanese attack the U.S. Navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day the U.S. enters World War II on the side of the Allies on December 7, 1941.
- D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans on June 6, 1944.
- The United States drops the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated on August 6, 1945.

Korean War

- North Korea Invades South Korea June 24, 1950. They crossed the 38th parallel which was the border between the North and South
- President Harry S. Truman wins agreement from United Nations to support South Korea with air and naval support on June 27, 1950.
- November 4, 1950 China enter the war to support North Korea and pushes U.N. forces back across the border and then take Seoul, the capital of South Korea.
- Formal peace treaty is never signed but the DMZ (demilitarized zone) is created along the 38th parallel on July 27, 1953.

Operation Enduring Freedom

- It was in response to the terror attacks on September 11, 2001.
- President George W. Bush announced War on Terror on September 20, 2001.
- December 7, 2004 Afghanistan has its first democratic election and elect their first president Hamid Karzai.
- President Barack Obama approves of troop increase to serve in Afghanistan.
- May 2, 2011 al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is killed.
- December 28, 2014 the United States and NATO end the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Cut out the significant events below for the timeline project

The U.S.S. Maine is sunk off the coast of Havana.

Congress passes the Teller Amendment.

Spain declares war against the United States.

The Spanish Pacific fleet is destroyed in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Teddy Roosevelt leads the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill.

Spain and the U.S. sign a cease-fire agreement.

Francis Ferdinand assassinated at Sarajevo.

The “Lusitania” was sunk by a German U-boat.

Germany’s unrestricted submarine warfare campaign starts.

USA declared war on Germany.

Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War One.

The Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Germans.

Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.

Germany uses quick strikes called blitzkrieg, meaning lightning war, to take over much of

Western Europe including the Netherlands, Belgium, and northern France.

Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the Axis Alliance.

The Japanese attack the U.S. Navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day the U.S. enters World War II on the side of the Allies.

D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.

The United States drops the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated.

North Korea invades South Korea.

United States convince the United Nations to support South Korea in the War.

China enters the war to support North Korea and take South Korea's capital.

Demilitarized Zone is created along the 38th parallel.

Terrorist attack the Twin Towers in New York.

U.S. declares "War on Terror."

Afghanistan has its first Democratic Election.

Osama bin Laden is killed by Seal Team 6.

United States and NATO end combat in Afghanistan.