



Women and the Manhattan Project: ACTIVITIES

Total Lesson Time: 60 minutes

Lesson Introduction: 10 minutes

Activity 1: Scenario - 10 minutes

Activity 2: Matching Game - 30 minutes

Lesson Conclusion: 10 minutes

| TIME, ACTIVITY, ACTION | SCRIPT OUTLINE <i>(Italics is just a suggested script)</i> |
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| <p>10 MINUTES</p> <p>GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND LESSON INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Have ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of Three Locations • Rosie the Riveter Poster • Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Poster | <p>Introduce yourself and Manhattan Project National Historical Park</p> <p>Establish expectations of class</p> <p>Give the class expectations of the lesson</p> <p>Warm-up question or game</p> <p><i>Today we're going to talk about a few of the people who contributed to the work happening at Hanford, Los Alamos, and Oak Ridge. Show map.</i></p> <p><i>The people we are going to talk about today are different in many ways. They came from different towns, cities, and countries. They were different ages. They had different levels of education. But they all had one thing in common - they were all women, and many were doing work traditionally considered a "man's job."</i></p> <p><i>During the 1940s so many men were enlisting in the military to fight in World War II that there were jobs left open in factories, farms, and even the secret cities of the Manhattan Project. Posters like Rosie the Riveter inspired many women to work outside of the house. Show Rosie the Riveter poster and ask the students what they notice/think of the artwork.</i></p> <p><i>Other women joined the Women's Army Corps and were posted at home or abroad in north Africa, Europe, and Asia. They did various non-combat jobs like radio operator, clerical work, technicians, and more.</i></p> |

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| <p>INTRODUCTION <i>(continued)</i></p> | <p>Share Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) poster and ask the student about their thoughts on it. (Note: It was WAAC in 1942, but a year later the “Auxiliary” was dropped. The women serving had full military benefits.)</p> |
| <p>10 MINUTES</p> <p>ACTIVITY 1 - SCENARIO</p> <p>Have ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift Change at Y-12 Oak Ridge Picture. | <p><i>Now, I want you to imagine that you’re an 18-year-old woman in 1944. You’ve just graduated high school and both your older brothers are in Europe or the Pacific fighting a war. There isn’t much money and you can only buy a certain amount of groceries because of rationing. Can talk about rationing further if you’d like.</i></p> <p><i>Then you hear about this new place called the Clinton Engineer Works. You hear that women can find good paying jobs there. You’re not sure exactly where it is, but you know it’s somewhere in Tennessee, so you sign up, board a train and get whisked off to the secret city of Oak Ridge. Here you will encounter mud, life in barracks, thousands of new young men and women, and a job that you are told you are never allowed to talk about. You have no idea that the purpose of the Clinton Engineer Works is to produce enriched uranium that will be used in an atomic weapon, nicknamed Little Boy, dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in August 1945.</i></p> <p>Share picture of the shift change at Y-12 in Oak Ridge.</p> <p><i>What do you think? Would you sign up for a job where you didn’t know what you were doing, why you were doing it, or even where you were going? Discuss.</i></p> |
| <p>30 MINUTES</p> <p>ACTIVITY 2 - MATCHING GAME</p> <p>Have ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Game | <p><i>Well, I could stand here and tell you so many stories of the women who worked for the Manhattan Project or contributed to nuclear physics, but instead why don’t we play a game.</i></p> <p><i>Here I have pictures of women and short stories about them. We’re going to lay them out and try to make matches. When you’ve got a match, we’ll read about what that woman did.</i></p> <p>Play the game. No more than six student are recommended per game. Have the students read their matches to their groups.</p> |
| <p>10 MINUTES</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> | <p><i>What were some interesting things you learned? What did you find surprising, inspiring, etc.?</i></p> |