

Classroom Activity

WWII: The Atomic Bomb

LESSON OVERVIEW

Subject: U.S. History

Grade Level: 5th/8th

Learning Goals:

Students will:

- Explore the making of the atomic bomb
- Learn about oral histories
- Investigate the impact nationally and internationally of the atomic bomb

Essential Question: How did the atomic bomb change America?

Procedure:

Materials

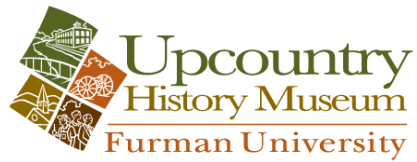
- Oral Histories from the Upcountry History Museum (<https://soundcloud.com/upcountryoralhistory>)
- Access to research materials (library or online, with adult supervision)
- Writing materials

Lesson

- Begin by reviewing what you and your students saw, heard, and learned at the Upcountry History Museum –Furman University. Discuss the ways in which WWII impacted people living in the Upcountry of South Carolina.
- If you have not yet reviewed the end of the war, please do so. Discuss the role of the atomic bomb in ending the war in the Pacific. Explain that the making of the bomb took years, and thousands of people.
- Ask students to review the ways in which we learn about the past (teachers, books, newspapers, photographs, museums). Highlight the importance of oral histories, those firsthand accounts which are recorded of those who experienced a past event.
- Share with students the oral history clips from Sound Cloud of Linda McLendon. Mrs. McLendon lived at Oak Ridge, a government controlled community working on the Manhattan Project, producing materials needed to build an atomic bomb. Mrs. McLendon moved there because of her husband's work.



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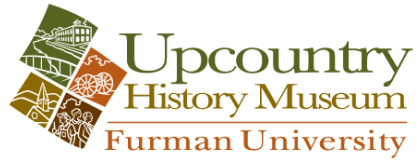


- Based on the short clips from Mrs. McLendon, have students write 3-5 questions they would like to investigate about Oak Ridge or the Manhattan Project (use attached worksheet). Group students into small groups and have each group decide on 5 questions they as a group will investigate. Allow group/student research time, either during class or as a homework assignment, to try to find their own answers to their questions.
- Each group will use their questions and the information they found from either Mrs. McLendon's oral history clips or other resources, to develop a poster about the atomic bomb. Their poster will be designed to look like a magazine cover. It should include at least one large image. It should also include the title of the "articles" which would be featured inside the magazine. The titles should be based off of the information students learned during their research.
- Have each group present their final product to the class. This will lead into discussions about the Cold War, and the nuclear era.

Resources for Research:

- Glossary of Atomic Terms - <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Glossary/Glossary1.shtml>
- Archival Film: Elementary School Atomic News Alert - <https://archive.org/details/AtomicAl1951>
- Archival Film: Survival Under Atomic Attack - <https://archive.org/details/Survival1951>
- Truman Library: The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb - https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/index.php
- PBS: Race for the Superbomb - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/index.html>
- Atomic Bomb Museum - <http://www.atomicbombmuseum.org/>
- Images of atomic bomb era book covers (attached)





Name: _____

Atomic Bomb Worksheet

Directions: Listen closely to the oral history of Mrs. Linda McLendon. Write 3-5 questions you have about the atomic bomb based on what you here in her oral history. Share your questions with your assigned group. As a group, determine which 5 questions you will research for your final project. Use the sites listed below to help in your research.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

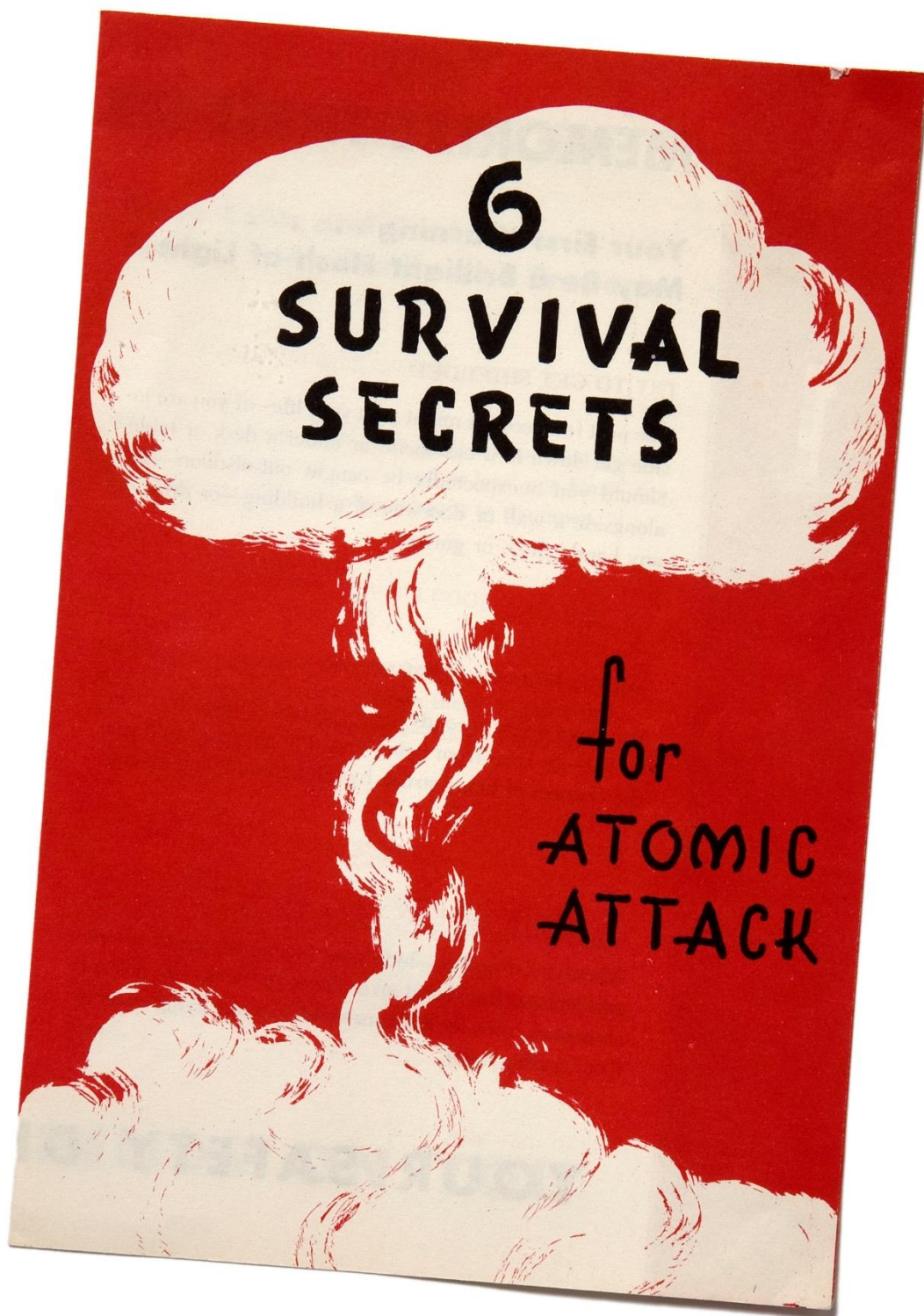
5. _____

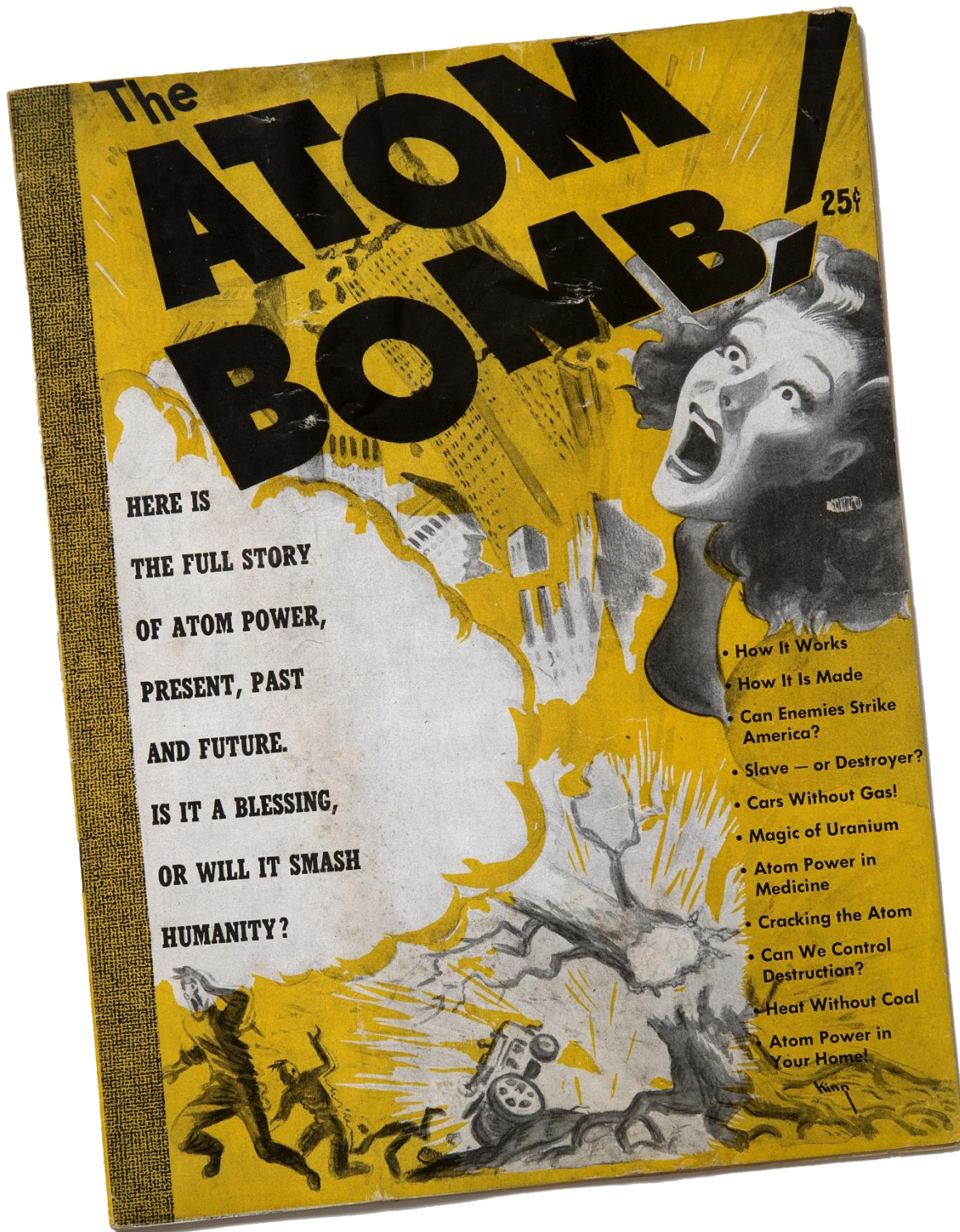
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- Truman Library: The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb - https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/index.php
- PBS: Race for the Superbomb - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/index.html>
- Atomic Bomb Museum - <http://www.atomicbombmuseum.org/>



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A REPORT TO THE PUBLIC ON THE
FULL MEANING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

Edited by DEXTER MASTERS and KATHARINE WAY

ONE WORLD *Or None*

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A SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED BOOK

Whitney House McGraw-Hill

