



UNCOMMON VALOR: 1940-1945

A Student Gallery Guide for World War II

1. At the entrance to the World War II gallery, find this **U.S. Navy hospital corpsman**. What do you think was the role of a corpsman?

The Naval corpsman's role was to give immediate medical aid to wounded Marines on the battlefield.



2. Read the **"World at War"** display and watch the video on the circular screen.

a. By late 1941, what countries were part of the Axis powers that controlled or threatened vast portions of the earth?

Italy, Germany, and Japan

Extra Credit! Name the leaders of the Axis powers.

Mussolini, Hitler, and Hirohito

3. Find the two women sitting in their living room. Join them as they listen to President Franklin Roosevelt's famous "date that will live in infamy" speech. Name two of the several islands Japan attacked beginning on **December 7, 1941?**

Pearl Harbor, Malaya, Hong Kong, Wake Island, Guam, Philippines, Midway



Answer Key



4. Find these **Marines of Montford Point!**

a. When did President Roosevelt order the Marine Corps to recruit African Americans?

Spring of 1942

b. What tasks were the majority of African American Marines assigned to work?

Unloading ammunition and supplies for assault Marine units.

c. Why did these Marines call themselves "Montford Point Marines?"

They were named after the segregated camp at New River, North Carolina (Camp Lejeune).

5. Look up and find this **Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat.**

a. What type of plane is the Wildcat?

Carrier based fighter.

b. The Grumman Wildcat served as the

primary fighter of the Marine Corps during the early stages of the Pacific War.



6. Why was the **Battle of Midway** such an important victory for the United States in the Pacific in 1942?

Midway was America's first clear-cut victory in the Pacific.

Answer Key

7. Find this Marine! Why is LtCol Lewis "Chesty" Puller sometimes called, "the most famous combat Marine?"



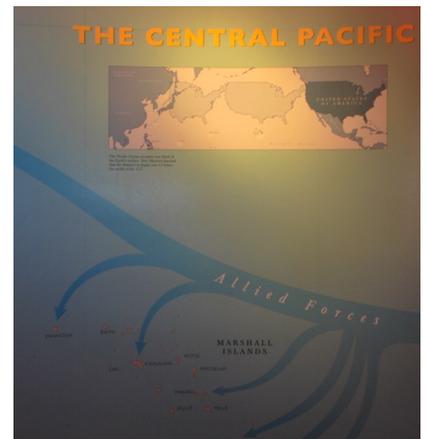
Puller's receipt of 5 Navy crosses—an unsurpassed record— attested to his bravery under fire.



8. This "Be a Marine" **recruiting poster**, from 1943, shows that American women contributed to the war effort in non-combat roles. Name two of the more than 225 different military specialties in which women Marines served?

Truck mechanics, parachute riggers, clerical workers

9. Study this large wall map labeled "**The Central Pacific.**" Explain the American strategy of "island hopping" and how it was vital to victory in the Pacific.



Island hopping was a Navy-Marine Corps strategy of "leap frogging" across the Pacific Ocean, fighting Japanese naval and ground forces each step of the way. The goal of island hopping was to drive the enemy back to Japan.



10. Next to the Marine Theater, find and read **The Homefront** sign. List three things Americans did at home to help win the war.

Planted Victory Gardens, clipped ration coupons, worked in factories, wrote letters to the troops.

Answer Key

Enter the Iwo Jima immersion exhibit to answer question 11.



11. Listen to the Marines receive a briefing for the upcoming landing on the island. How would you have felt if you were one of these Marines?

Answers could include fear, extreme anxiety and/or determination.

12. Find the American flag on display that flew over **Iwo Jima**.

a. Name the photographer who took the famous photograph of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima in 1945?

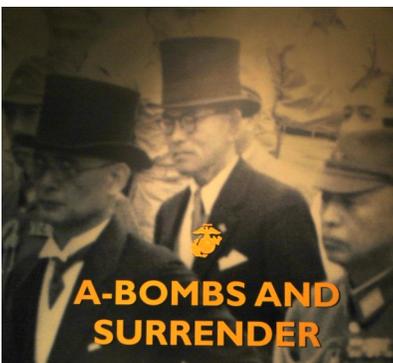
Joe Rosenthal

b. List two possible reasons about why the flag is in its present condition.

The flag is nearly 70 years old, it has been handled and folded over years, and it was flapping in a strong wind on Mt. Suribachi for many days.

13. Find these Marines! How did these **"Code Talkers"** contribute to the mission of the Marine Corps during World War II?

Navajo Indian "Code Talkers" transmitted by radio thousands of urgent, classified (secret) radio messages that the enemy was unable to translate.



14. Read the panels titled **"War's End/Occupation"** and **"A-Bombs and Surrender."**

a. Name the U.S. president who decided to employ the atomic bomb in 1945.

President Truman

b. Name the Japanese emperor who accepted the Allies' unconditioned surrender terms?

Hirohito

Answer Key