



The U.S. & The World: SS.7.CG.4.3
International Conflicts
VIDEO #1 SCRIPT

Name: _____

Date: _____



Declaring War (World War One and World War Two)

1. Sometimes conflicts arise between the United States and other nations that have to be dealt with, and there are many different ways we can approach these conflicts.
2. For example, we can use peacekeeping operations, humanitarian action, military action, declaring war, or using diplomacy, and in this video, we're going to look at declaring war.
3. After watching the video, you will be able to:
 - Understand one method used by the United States to deal with international conflicts;
 - Identify specific examples of international conflicts in which the United States has been involved; and
 - Explain why the United States became involved in each conflict and how that conflict was resolved.
4. It's pretty important for you to be sure to view the other videos in this module to really get a sense of how the United States has approached international conflict. But for this video, we're going to look at two particular conflicts, World War One and World War Two and the idea of declaring war as a way to approach international conflict.
5. The United States Constitution gives specific powers to Congress and the president when it comes to dealing with other nations. Article I of the Constitution outlines the powers of the legislative branch and gives Congress the power to declare war, the power to approve spending for the military, and the power to raise an army and navy.
6. Congress has only used its power to declare war five times in United States history. Two of these wars were World War I and World War II. And we're going to take a look at those specific examples of international conflicts and how we deal with them. To do that, let's go all the way back to 1914 and look at our first example, World War One.
7. World War I 1914-1918
World War One involved many countries and took place from 1914-1918. It was fought between the Central Powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria versus the Allied Powers – Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States joined in 1917. Italy was also involved but that's a bit complicated.

8. At the start of the war, the United States took a neutral position. It did not want to get involved or take sides on the war. It used diplomacy, which you'll learn about in another video, to try and maintain relationships with the Central Powers and the Allied Powers.
9. We couldn't be neutral forever though, and the US became involved in the war when Germany attacked and sank hundreds of Allied Powers' ships in the Atlantic Ocean. One of these ships was the British cruise ship Lusitania that had over 1,198 passengers. Many passengers died, including 128 Americans.
10. Germany also sent a telegram to Mexico stating that they should work together to attack the United States. British spies discovered Germany's communication with Mexico and the telegram became known as the Zimmerman Telegram. And obviously this did not make the United States happy.
11. After both of these incidents, the U.S. Congress officially declared war against the Central Powers in 1917. In late 1918, the Central Powers agreed to stop fighting and the Allied Powers – including the United States – won the war.
12. Let's check in. Try to answer each of the following questions in your own words.
13. Why did the United States become involved in World War One?
14. ANSWER TO QUESTION
15. What method or methods did the United States use to deal with the conflict in World War One?
16. ANSWER TO QUESTION
17. What was the outcome of World War One?
18. ANSWER TO QUESTION
19. A couple decades after World War One, the United States had to declare war again in World War Two. So let's spend a few minutes and take a look at why the US became involved in World War Two, what methods it used to deal with the conflict, and the outcome.
20. World War II 1937-1945
World War II began in Asia in 1937 when Japan invaded China and in Europe in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. For the United States, it began in 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. And as you can see on the map, it was truly a global war. So many countries were involved.
21. Similar to World War I, many of the world's largest and most powerful countries divided into two sides. For World War II, there were the Allied Powers made up of the Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, and the Axis Powers consisting of Germany, Japan and Italy.
22. The United States was neutral during the early years of the war. Japan though wanted to make sure the US was weak and could not prevent them from taking over land in Asia. In December 1941, Japanese airplanes attacked a U.S. Navy base stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii which was a U.S. territory at the time.

23. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, the U. S. Congress declared war against the Axis Powers. The war lasted until 1945. This was actually the last time the United States actually declared war on another country.
24. In 1945, Germany and Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, ending the war in Europe. The war in the Pacific did not end until after the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan — the only time such bombs were ever used in war. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945.
25. Alright, we've learned a lot, so let's check in. Just like we did with World War One, let's try to answer each of the following questions in our own words.
26. Why did the United States become involved in World War Two?
27. ANSWER TO QUESTION
28. What method or methods did the US use to deal with the conflict of World War Two?
29. ANSWER TO QUESTION
30. What was the outcome of World War Two?
31. ANSWER TO QUESTION
32. In this video, we learned about one way the US has dealt with international conflict: officially declaring war through Congress as it did in World War One and World War Two. But remember, that's not the only way. Let's set the stage for how the US has dealt with international conflict since World War Two.
33. After World War II, the United States and Soviet Union became the world's two most powerful countries, also called superpowers. The US and the Soviet Union had fundamentally different ideas about governments and the role of governments in peoples' lives. The US was democratic and capitalist, and the Soviets were communist and authoritarian.
34. These differing views of society led to the United States and the Soviet Union facing off against each other around the world. It was democracy versus communism, and the United States would take both military action and use diplomatic methods as ways to address this international conflict without actually declaring war, as they did in World War One and World War Two.
35. If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out the other approaches to international conflict covered in this module. Video Two (military action against communism): Korea, Vietnam, and the Bay of Pigs. Video Three (military action in the Middle East): Gulf War One and Gulf War Two. And Video Four (diplomatic action): Cuban Missile Crisis and the Iran Hostage Crisis.