Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

8.01 Notes Outline

**“Life on the Home Front”**Complete the 8.01 Notes Outline as you review the lesson.

Explore 1:

Who are the two main characters in the cartoon?

What is the primary message of the cartoon?

I. War Efforts

U.S. War Efforts

Many of the same efforts used in World War I were utilized during WWII to raise money, reorganize industry, and boost morale.      were sold to raise money for the war effort. Everything revolved around "V" for victory over the axis powers.

Wartime Popular Culture

Modern war required industrialization and the United States was up to the task.  Companies re-equipped their factories to make military goods for the Allies.

was high. Americans were eager to defend the attack on our country. The Great Depression was over! Nearly 19 million jobs were created due to wartime production.

The wartime economy expanded and the     began along with major population shifts to areas where war industry jobs were plentiful.

Books and Movies

Themes of patriotism and confidence were found throughout popular culture and entertainment. A huge new market was developed for small-size paperback books by       during WWII. The       helped save materials and were small enough for soldiers to fit in their pockets on the battlefield.

In addition, 60% of the population went to the movies every week to watch movies that often had themes of patriotism and hope. *Casablanca* was one of the most famous movies.

showing brave soldiers in action and proud Americans supporting the war effort at home were played before each movie to boost patriotism.

Movie stars also found many ways to support the war effort.

Baseball

During the war, 4,000 of the 5,700 major and minor league baseball players were serving in the armed forces. Someone had to play baseball because Americans still flocked to the games for their favorite past-time.

The       (Baseball League) gave women the opportunity to play ball professionally for the first time during WWII.

Popular Music

Music was another form of entertainment that supported the war effort. Popular songs encouraged hope and patriotism.

Enlisting Public Support

War is never easy no matter how much a country is unified. When nearly citizen knows someone who was serving, wounded, or killed overseas, it can be tough to keep morale high. Therefore, the government set up programs to help keep morale high.

In June of 1942, the       was started to work with the media to create patriotic posters and ads. Its purpose was to maintain morale, patriotism, and participation in the war effort.

The Office of War Information also tried to keep American morale high by utilizing pro-war propaganda.

Shortages and Controls

Citizens on the home front supplied the fighting forces with an awesome array of ships, trucks, tanks, planes, and guns. At the same time, they endured shortages and government controls on scarce items to assure the soldiers had plenty.

The      (OPA)began       in 1941. Ration books with coupons were given to families for products in       like gas, rubber, meat, coffee, and sugar.

Victory Gardens

Americans adapted to rationing by growing food at home. These home gardens known as     produced 1/3 of the country's fresh vegetables. The idea of victory gardens started during WWI, although the WWII victory gardens had a much bigger impact.

Scrap Drives

With rubber, metal, and silk in high demand, Americans, including children, donated these products to the U.S. Scrap metal campaigns or      . Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops also participated, giving children an important role to play in the war effort.

Women and the War

In a very real sense, the outcome of the war in Europe and Asia depended on America's ability to produce sufficient arms and ammunition. The federal government thus assumed extensive authority over the economy.

With 16 million Americans serving in the military, the job of manufacturing the supplies for war fell in large part to the wives, mothers, and sisters of the soldiers.

was a fictional young woman portrayed in posters and recruitment films to encourage women to work in a defense plant.

The image of Rosie the Riveter became the most recognizable symbol of women who worked in the defense industries during World War II.

In 1936, 82% of the people polled believed that married women shouldn't work. Things changed considerably for women during the war. At one point in the war, women made up 35% of the total civilian workforce.

Though WWII created opportunities for women, they faced problems in the workforce including: lower wages than men, no seniority, responsibilities at home, and post-war jobs reserved for the returning soldiers.

II. Sweet Home

Alabama’s Role in World War II

The state of Alabama had significant contributions throughout the war. Alabama manufacturing plants produced needed aluminum, textiles, and forestry products. The port of Mobile became a hub for the transportation of military goods. African-American pilots were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. In addition, Aliceville, Alabama became home to a POW camp that housed as many as 6,000 German prisoners of war.

Military Bases

Federal dollars poured into Alabama through various army training bases and air fields.

included Maxwell and Gunter Air Bases in Montgomery, Craig Field in Selma, Brookley Field in Mobile, and Fort Rucker in Ozark/Enterprise.

included Fort McClellan, Anniston Ordnance Works in Anniston, and Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

Manufacturing in Alabama

in the     area, particularly United States Steel, received millions of dollars in contracts for defense-related products such as bombs, helmets, and steel for ship-building. Alabama also played a critical role in the production of aluminum, which is the ideal material for military aircraft because it is both strong and light. Alcoa Aluminum had a plant in Mobile and Reynolds Metals had a facility in the Tennessee Valley. In addition, Alabama's textile mills spun and wove furiously to produce fabric for uniforms, while its timber industry boomed as a result of wartime demand for construction and paper products.

The Port of Mobile

Alabama played a crucial role in the war at sea.       was the home port for two important       that won contracts to build desperately needed merchant vessels and warships. Alabama Drydocks and Shipbuilding (ADDSCO) built freighters and tankers. Gulf Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Waterman Shipping, constructed destroyers and minesweepers. Waterman Steamship Company freighters transported valuable wartime cargo throughout the world. More than any other Alabama city, Mobile boomed as a result of wartime production. At the height of the war, the two shipyards and Brookley Field employed nearly 60,000 people.

P.O.W. Camp in Aliceville

Soldiers from Rommel's Afrika Corps, captured in Tunisia, were transported across the Atlantic to various prisoner of war or       in the States. One such camp was in Aliceville, Alabama. It must have been a strange sight for Aliceville residents to see uniformed Nazis being marched down the streets. At its height, the camp housed nearly 6,000      . In a strange twist, many of the German prisoners in the postwar years decided to return to live in America.

F. Tuskegee Airmen

Despite segregation in the military, African-Americans were determined that the war in Europe could change the landscape at home.

The Army air force created the 99th Pursuit Squadron, also known as the      , which was an African-American pilot unit trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. The squadron played a vital role during the Battle of Anzio during the Italian campaign.

The men of the 99th Squadron were just some of the 996       who graduated from the Tuskegee Army Airfield from 1941-1946.