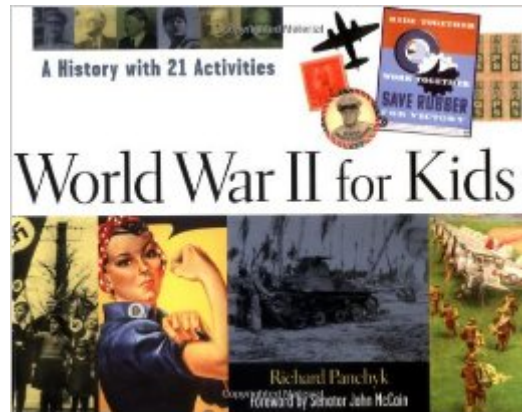


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# World War II For Kids: A History With 21 Activities (For Kids Series)



## Synopsis

Now more than ever, kids want to know about our country's great struggles during World War II. This book is packed with information that kids will find fascinating, from Hitler's rise to power in 1933 to the surrender of the Japanese in 1945. Much more than an ordinary history book, it is filled with excerpts from actual wartime letters written to and by American and German troops, personal anecdotes from people who lived through the war in the United States, Germany, Britain, Russia, Hungary, and Japan, and gripping stories from Holocaust survivors—all add a humanizing global perspective to the war. This collection of 21 activities shows kids how it felt to live through this monumental period in history. They will play a rationing game or try the butter extender recipe to understand the everyday sacrifices made by wartime families. They will try their hands at military strategy in coastal defense, break a code, and play a latitude and longitude tracking game. Whether growing a victory garden or staging an adventure radio program, kids will appreciate the hardships and joys experienced on the home front.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

"World War II for Kids: A History with 21 Activities" really has three key components. First, there is a history of World War II from Hitler's rise to power in 1933 to the surrender of the Japanese in 1945. Second, Richard Panchyk provides excerpts from actual wartime letters written to and by troops on

both sides along with personal anecdotes from people who lived through the war. Finally, there are 21 activities that can show young readers how it felt to live through World War II, both on the battlefield and on the Home Front. Actually, the first function is the least impressive part of "World War II for Kids," although Panchyk provides a solid history of the war. It is just that the personal writings and recollections, along with the activities, are where Panchyk goes beyond what you would find in your standard American history textbook, which is why this is an excellent supplemental volume. Teachers can certainly use the activities and quote from the letters found in this volume to give students more of a sense of what it was like to live during that time. The 21 activities are fairly interesting and cover a variety of subjects. Some are fairly complex, such as substituting a potato for an incendiary bomb and following the instructions on how to extinguish it, or staging a radio adventure program, while others are relatively simple, such as drawing a recruiting poster. There is an exercise in code breaking, learning how to camouflage, making a ration kit, going on a reconnaissance mission, figuring out a coastal defense, the physics of dropping bombs, and a game that helps demonstrate the difference between mortar and howitzer fire versus anti-tank and anti-aircraft fire. There are also "Home Front" activities like making a bandage, putting together a care package, growing a Victory Garden, sending V-Mail, and extending butter, as well as a couple of activities having to do with the Holocaust by making a Jewish star and trying to find good hiding places in your home for the student and an adult helper. Obviously some of these activities are going to be more practical and more beneficial than others, but Panchyk has made an attempt to come up with different ways of giving his young readers an idea of what it was like for kids and adults during World War II. Again, while young readers can certainly read this book and try the activities on their own, "World War II for Kids" is even better suited as a resource for teachers to use when teaching the pivotal events of World War II. Comparing what life was like for their grandparents during that war as opposed to the rather limited impact on their lives today during the war on terrorism could be quite an eye opener for young readers.

My 7 year old son is a WWII fanatic and loves this book. It discusses not only events in the war itself, but also the impact of the war on life in the U.S. The activities encourage kids to think about far-reaching effects of war, not just the exciting battles.

This was a Christmas present for a friend's son. He is into military and his favorite war is WW2. He was not able to keep his head out of the book once he opened it. He was reading while walking out the door when it was time to go home. It's a great book. Extremely informative and the activities give

kids a better understanding.

The book was informational but I wouldn't consider it for kids. My son is 8 and loves anything military and wars. This book was very little pictures and mostly informational text. I would say this would be better for a child around 12 years of age

This book generally delivers on its purpose, which is to introduce young readers to the important topic of World War II. In my estimation, if your child isn't already interested, this book may not necessarily awaken him or her (Ambrose's "The Good Fight" is better), but for your interested son or daughter, ages 8 to 13 or so, this is a useful resource. As a history it is pretty light, but it is not a bad overview, and provides some great insight into the Home Front and other non-traditional perspectives on the War. There are a few WW-II themed crafts and activity ideas, all of which are pointless and the very type of things that children and their parents ignore the world over.

I bought this book so that I could have my high school history do the activities, which they did. It turned out great and the kids got into the projects assigned to them.

Olive drab print, gray and white photos, and very small font made this book unappealing to my middle school kids. There is lots of great information here but the writing style isn't engaging for kids at all. The text is more for adults or high-schoolers while most of the activities are designed for much younger kids. Based on the book's description I was expecting a lot more activities, as well. After gathering resources for a WWII unit study, I would recommend *What Was Pearl Harbor?* and the *Who Was* series (Franklin Roosevelt, Anne Frank, etc.) and *A History of Us: War, Peace, and All That Jazz* over this book.

This was a comprehensive book but it contains way too much text for the average child. It said it is for ages 9 and up but I'd say it's more for 12 and up. It seems to me to be more appropriate for adult TEACHERS to use as a supplemental guide when teaching WWII. There are some interesting activities included.

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