

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## General Douglas MacArthur in Japan

### Purpose:

Examine the role of General Douglas MacArthur in the United States occupation of Japan

### Target Grade Level: 9

### Essential Questions:

1. What type of qualifications would a person need to be placed in charge of the American occupation of Japan?
2. Why should the person in charge of the occupation forces be acquainted with the history and culture of the conquered country?
3. What advice would you give General MacArthur upon occupying Japan?

### Rationale:

Students evaluate the credibility of General MacArthur to lead the occupation of Japan.

### Materials:

- Job Description Form
- *The Riddle of MacArthur* by John Gunther, New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1951)  
Available at your local library or The Institute for Japanese Studies, [japan@osu.edu](mailto:japan@osu.edu), 614-292-3345.

### Activities:

1. Students work on Job Description Form for person placed in charge of the American occupation of 2,200 Americans who were going to occupy a country of 83 million people.
2. Discussion and feedback from the class written on blackboard.

Oral reading by students in *The Riddle of MacArthur*, students will note

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why Gunther referred to MacArthur as “Caesar of the Pacific”, why he entered Tokyo without a show of force and rarely left Tokyo, working long hours, ordered the troops not to eat the local food and didn't socialize with Japanese people.

3. Students discover personal characteristics like age, “southern gentleman”, number one in West Point class and MacArthur was optimistic about the future.

#### Assessment:

Homework: Essay question- Should a democratic country have given one person control of the occupation in Japan and was General MacArthur a good selection, why or why not?

#### Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 11

Analyze the consequences of World War II.

*This lesson was originally developed by Dr. Betty Barclay Franks, teacher, Maples Heights City Schools, Ohio for the publication Learning About Our World: Japan. These lessons were revised for this publication by Teresa A. Bica, Supervisor of Elementary Student Teachers at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*