



# Economic and Industrial Growth during World War II

**Objective:** Students will understand the economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia during World War II.

## **GRADE LEVEL**

Eighth Grade

## **TIME REQUIRED**

Two to three class periods

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. How did the chemical industry of West Virginia grow as a result of World War II?
2. How did the steel industry of West Virginia grow as a result of World War II?
3. How did the coal industry of West Virginia grow as a result of World War II?
4. What was the economic impact upon the state as a result of the growth of the chemical industry?
5. What was the economic impact upon the state as a result of the growth of the steel industry?
6. What was the economic impact upon the state as a result of the growth of the coal industry?

## **STRATEGIC VOCABULARY**

chemical  
steel  
coal

## **LESSON ACTIVITIES**

1. Open the class session with a general discussion of World War II and the impact of the attack of Pearl Harbor on the country. Include in this discussion the chemical, coal, and steel industries and the response of our citizens to this national crisis. This article may provide useful information:
  - World War II: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1353>
2. Before beginning this portion of the activity, secure a computer for each student. (You may use a small number of computers and rotate students through this activity).
3. Assign one of the areas—chemical, coal, or steel—to each of the students.
4. Students are to research their topic by viewing/reading the following articles:
  - Chemical industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1124>
  - Chemical industry/synthetic rubber: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/677>
  - Chemical industry/DuPont Belle Works: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1985>



- Chemical industry/Dow Chemical Company <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1950>
- Coal industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1349>
- Coal industry/United Mine Workers: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/835>
- Steel industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/586>
- Steel industry/Weirton Steel: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/973>
- Steel industry/Wheeling-Pitt: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1223>

Additional information can be found at <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/> and at other sites on the web.

5. While researching their topic, the students should take notes in preparation for creating their tri-fold brochure.
6. Students are to create a tri-fold brochure for their assigned topic—chemical, coal, or steel. When creating this tri-fold, students should focus on summarizing the significant aspects of the economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia during World War II. Also, when possible, pictures/maps should be included in an effort to convey the growth of these industries. All tri-fold brochures should be printed and posted around the classroom or in the hallway for other students to view once the assignment has been completed. As an alternative to the tri-fold, some students may complete a “Wanted” poster for each of these areas.
7. Once the tri-folds have been completed, allow the students to group themselves by topic to briefly discuss the topic—chemical, coal, or steel—and the significant economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia.
8. After the discussion period, select one student from each group to present this information to the rest of the students—maximum of three students.
9. During this time, students should complete the attached graphic organizer in an effort to better grasp the impact of World War II on the other industries not covered by their tri-fold brochure. Teacher may also want to enhance the presentation by sharing additional information not mentioned by the students.
10. Ticket Out The Door: Students will briefly list/describe how these industries affected the economy of West Virginia.

## **WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- SS.8.25: Demonstrate an understanding of West Virginia’s development during the mid-twentieth century.
- Summarize the significant aspects of the economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia during World War II (e.g., chemical industry, steel industry and coal industry).
  - Evaluate the sequence and analyze the impact of contemporary social, economic and technological developments on people and culture in West Virginia.
  - Identify the labor/management strategies that have affected West Virginia’s economy (e.g., strikes, boycotts, yellow-dog contracts, injunctions and lock-outs).
  - Explain the economic, social, and political impact of twentieth century events on West Virginia (e.g., school integration, Civil Rights Movement, Cold War and Vietnam).





## ***Economic/Industrial Growth During World War II***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>	<b>Industrial Growth Experienced</b>
<b>Chemical</b>		
<b>Coal</b>		
<b>Steel</b>		









