

# LESSON PLAN

# Did You Get All That

## Good Note Taking



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### SUMMARY

During WWII, Fort Des Moines hosted the first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs), later the Women's Army Corps (WACs), in United States history. The War Department chose Oveta Culp Hobby to run the camp there because of her background and previous experience. Recruiting presented an interesting problem as they were asking women to step outside the roles traditionally assigned to them. These women faced all kinds of discrimination but despite that some chose to make a career out of the Army. This program will use a short video about the WACs at Fort Des Moines help students improve their note taking skills.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1 Students will learn about Fort Des Moines and the WAC training camp held there during WWII.
- 2 Students will improve their note taking skills while watching a short video about the camp.

### TIME

15 minutes



### KEY TEACHING POINTS

- 1 The War Department decided to train women during WWII.
- 2 Fort Des Moines was chosen as the site of the first training camp.
- 3 Oveta Culp Hobby was chosen to run Women's Army Corp.
- 4 Recruiting was a challenge.
- 5 Women of all races and ethnicities joined.
- 6 They faced all sorts of discrimination but overcame it and many went on to have very successful military careers.
- 7 Note taking is a valuable skill to have.

### RESOURCES

- Video – Fort Des Moines Women in War

## PROGRAM



Start the program by explaining that the students will be practicing their note taking skills while watching a short video (5 ½ minutes) on the WACs at Fort Des Moines during WWII. Review good note taking skills including what kind of information students should be looking out for – name of video, who, what, where, when, why, other unique information.

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### **Video**

Now play the first 1:57 of the video about women in war and have students try to take notes. Give them a moment or two to finish putting down their thoughts.

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### **Discussion**

Once students are finished writing, ask them questions about the notes they took – what information did they write down, why, what information did they exclude, why, was there anything they should have written down but didn't. Remind students that when taking notes they do not have to write in full sentences and they can use abbreviations to help write faster.

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### **Video**

After the discussion, play the rest of the video (3:21) and have the students try once more to take good notes. When the video is over, again allow them a few moments to write down any final notes.

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### **Discussion**

Then repeat the conversation with the students about what they did and did not write down while watching the video. Hopefully, this time they will have done at least a little bit better.

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### **Put it all together**

There should be a few minutes at the end to recap everything discussed during the program including good note taking skills as well as the WACs at Fort Des Moines during WWII.