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**Lesson Title**: American Prosperity after World War II

**Suggested Grade Level**: 11th or 12th

**Estimated Lesson Time**: 80 minutes

**Abstract:** Students will explore the different causes for American prosperity after World War II. We will be focusing on American consumerism during this time, and the reasons behind this increased consumerism attitude such as advertising, capitalism vs. Communism/Socialism, the Space Race, and the distribution of the GI Bill to returning soldiers. We will examine old newspapers, news reels, and documentaries that deal with American consumerism after World War II. We will then have a group discussion on these topics. Lastly, they will be placed into groups to complete a final project that relates to our topic.

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**Student Prior Knowledge**: Students will be able examine, analyze, and interpret different types of historical data such as newspapers, magazines, essays, articles, or videos. Students will be able express their knowledge in a presentation to the class.

**Standards**: [SS.912.A.7.1: Identify causes for Post-World War II prosperity and its effects on American society.](javascript:PublicPreviewBenchmark(3380))

**Goals**: Students will be able to interpret different historical data to draw conclusions as to why American society after World War II experienced such prosperity. Students will be able to relay this information to the class in a project format such as PowerPoint, making a video, or by writing an essay that will be presented in front of the class.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to examine, and analyze different types of historical data such as newspapers, documentaries, and other types of literature to draw their own conclusions behind the reason for American prosperity after World War II. Then they will present these thoughts and opinions to the class in a project format.

**Resources**:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT_A9PFOY18&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et0GocBFrKo&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ul_ScFuv4yc>

**Procedures**:

1. I will show a PowerPoint lesson addressing the key concepts behind American prosperity after world war II
2. I will show three short documentaries highlighting important concepts such as the GI bill, advertisement ads from the 1950’s, and life in suburbia after the war.
3. We then will have a class discussion addressing these issues where as a class we will analyze how the events that were shown impacted American at that time, and also how it affects us in modern time.
4. The students will be put into groups to discuss their analysis, and will begin deciding how they will present their views to the class.
5. The different groups will show their presentations to the class

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**Assessment**: students will be given a rubric and more detailed instructions as to what is expected from them in their presentation. The students will then be graded on how well they understand the concepts, and how well they were able to relay their information to the class.