



Name of activity:

Discovery Cart

Overview:

This hands-on program gives students the opportunity to experience tools, equipment and artifacts essential to the RISE ABOVE experience. Can be used as a stand-alone presentation or part of a larger education event with different stations.

Goals:

- To educate and inspire youth by creating a tangible connection to American life during World War II
- To provide a deeper understanding and context of the era
- To set the stage for further activities and learning

Required resources:

- Tool chest with tabletop
- Touchable artifacts focused on a key theme
- Information cards for volunteers to describe each artifact and its role

Cost to implement:

- Approximately \$300 for tool chest
- Time to collect donated artifacts

Key talking points:

- Each artifact was designed with a specific purpose
- Every person had an important role to play in the War effort
- It was necessary for everyone to apply their knowledge and intelligence, no matter how large or small the task

Detailed Description:

- Plan about 20 minutes for program
- Gather students around the Discovery Cart for an interactive presentation
- Begin with discussion about life during the 1940s and age-appropriate explanation of World War II and its effect on our country
- Open the drawers of the tool chest, stocked with artifacts, and progress through each one to explain their use and importance
- Use the information cards to help guide the discussion and make key points about the artifact and its role during the times
- Give plenty of opportunities for students to hold, use or try on the artifact
- Encourage a free-flowing conversation to engage the students in the discussion and what they are learning; ask questions about their thoughts and observations
- Help students understand how each item was used to perform or fulfill task, and the importance of each of these tasks to the collective effort