



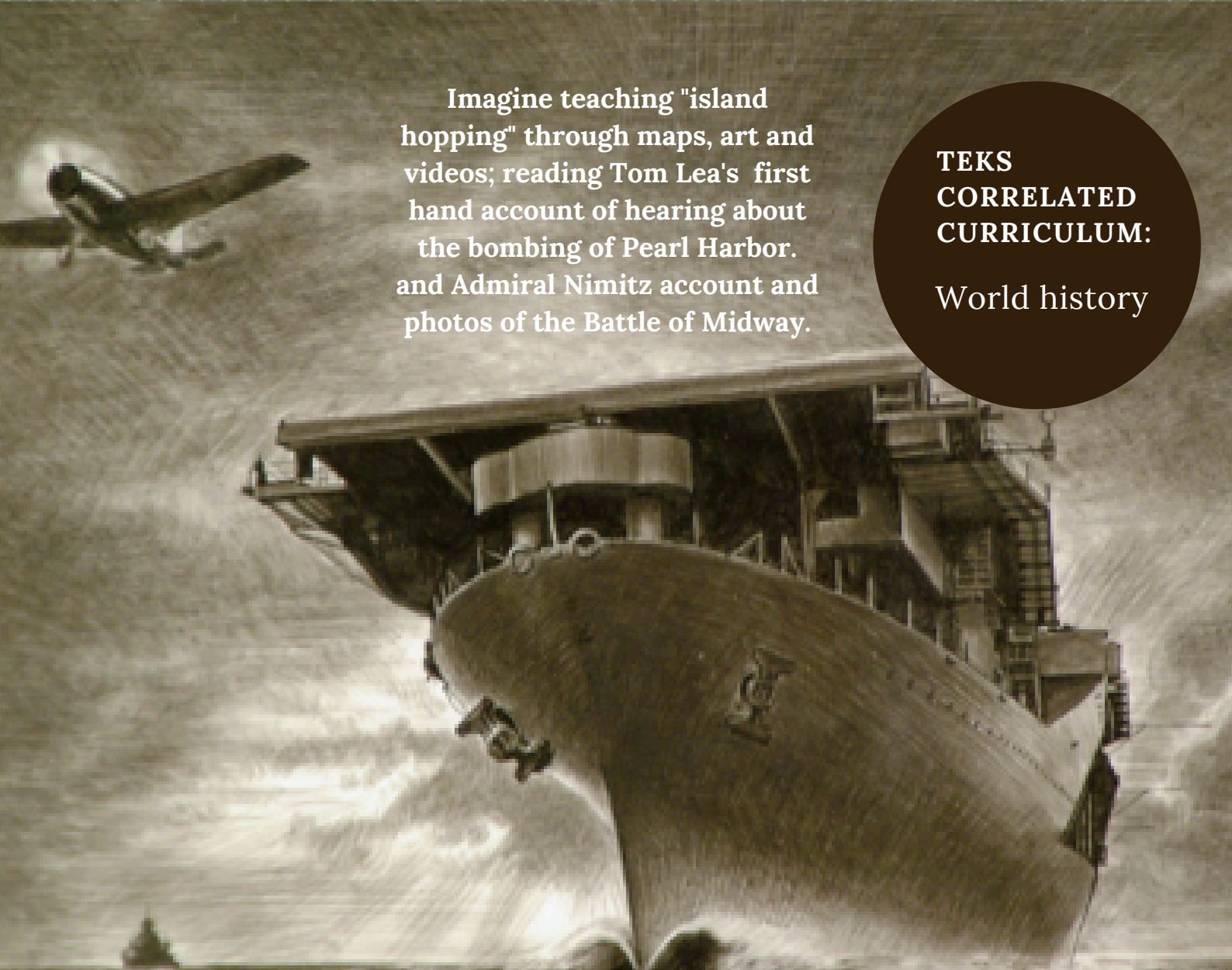
# Uncommon Valor

WWII Though the Eyes of Tom Lea  
and Admiral Nimitz

Imagine teaching "island hopping" through maps, art and videos; reading Tom Lea's first hand account of hearing about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. and Admiral Nimitz account and photos of the Battle of Midway.

TEKS  
CORRELATED  
CURRICULUM:

World history



*"Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Admiral Chester A. Nimitz*

*To This day, you see a man here who is proud - exceedingly proud - that he went out and saw it, and came back home bringing a legible, trustworthy record of what he saw."*

Tom Lea

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## TEKS HIGHLIGHTS: WORLD HISTORY & ART

- WH.29(C) differences between primary and secondary sources for analysis, context, and point of view.
- WH15(A) create and interpret maps, to demonstrate the relationship between geography and historical development of a region.
- WH16(A) locate places of historical significance related to turning points in history
- WH26(B) Analyze how art reflects the history of the cultures in which they are produced.
- Identify how art transcends the cultures to convey universal themes.
- Assess the degree to which American ideals have advanced human rights and democratic ideals.
- Hideki Tojo, Admiral Nimitz, Japanese imperialism, attack on Pearl Harbor, dropping of the atomic bombs

## BLENDED HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES LESSONS ENLIVEN STUDENT'S PASSION FOR HISTORY

“HISTORY CAME ALIVE AS MY STUDENTS INTERACTED WITH THE ART AND USED THEIR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS ON THE PROJECTS,” WORLD HISTORY TEACHER.

Tom Lea had already established himself as a nationally renowned muralist during the Works Project Administration (WPA) winning national competitions for the seven murals he painted. His favorite mural was the Pass of the North, which adorns the Historic Federal Courthouse in his hometown, El Paso.

It was at the dawn of WWII, the United States had not yet entered the war, when Tom Lea received a telegram from the editorial staff of Life Magazine to become an accredited artist-correspondent for WWII. From 1941-1946, Tom Lea became an eye-witness reporter for Life, traveling over 100,000 miles to theaters of war where American forces were involved. Students will learn about these and many other stories from Tom Lea's own words. Using primary source documents, the sacrifices and strategies behind WWII will become real for students as they make the connection between the character qualities of dependability, loyalty, and faith with the heroism and reality of war captured by Tom Lea's art. Using critical thinking skills, students will apply character qualities to their own lives. Lea's sketches, oral history, videos and Life magazine spreads provide diverse primary source documentation for analysis.



## FEATURES OF THE CURRICULUM

- Detailed lesson plans for problem-based instruction and flipping the classroom
- Engaging slide presentations
- Digital handouts
- Research projects
- Dramatic art and videos

