Wars in American History

Grade Levels 9-12

Objectives:

- Following this activity the student will be able to:
  - Use Connexions to find and research information about a specific topic.
  - Apply that information to a given task.
  - Be able to give a timeline of all of the wars the United States has been involved in since its founding in 1776

Materials:

- Each group needs a computer.
- A poster board
- Art supplies: markers, colored pencils, etc.

Procedures:

1. Before beginning this activity the students should have the following information:
   - Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas in 1492 sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain.
   - Since then, what is now United States territory was fought over by England, France, and Spain, ultimately being left in the hands of England.
   - Due to “taxation without representation” the people in the 13 colonies revolted against the King of England, founding the United States.
   - This starts a chain reaction of wars the U.S. has been involved in, fighting for liberty.

2. Specific Wars to Cover:
   - The American Revolution
   - The War of 1812
   - The Civil War
   - WWI
   - WWII
   - Vietnam War
   - The War in Iraq

3. Split the class up into seven different groups, assigning a specific war to each of the groups.
4. Give each group access to at least one computer. Have them conduct a search on their particular topic using Connexions.

5. After they have a significant amount of knowledge on their war, have them put together a poster board with facts and information on it.

6. When each group is done creating their poster, have them present in front of the class what they found (in chronological order according to the war).

7. Lastly, create a short quiz regarding the order of the wars that took place in American history. After completing this, it will give the students a jump start into the learning the details of what they will learn throughout the semester.