

## Lesson Plan

### Terrain and Tactics

**Book:** The Battle of Normandy

**Series:** Major Battles in US History

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students explore how the terrain affects military planning and practice participating in discussions in both small and large groups.

### Supplies

- *The Battle of Normandy*
- *The Battle of Inchon*
- Lists of questions for the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Inchon (attached)
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

### Before the Activity

Read through *The Battle of Normandy* and *The Battle of Inchon* or assign them to the students to read on their own. Make two columns on the whiteboard. Label one column “Normandy.” Label the other column “Inchon.”

### Activity

Both the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Inchon involved military forces that traveled across water to reach their site of attack. Because of this, the leaders of US forces faced specific obstacles related to weather and terrain. They had to create specific plans to overcome these obstacles.

Split the students into groups of three or four. Give each group a list of questions, either about the Battle of Normandy or about the Battle of Inchon. Students should write their answers on a sheet of paper.

Give the students 15 minutes to look for the answers to the questions. Then come back together as a large group to discuss each of the questions. For each question, choose a group to share their answer with the class. Write the answer on the whiteboard under that battle’s column. When you have discussed all the questions as a large group, ask the students to identify similarities and differences between the two battles, the planning that leaders did beforehand, and the complications created by the terrain during each invasion.

## Evaluation

Did the students answer each of the questions (see the attached answer key)? Could they identify similarities and differences between the two battles?

## Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grades 4 and 5 (SL 4.1; SL 5.1).

## The Battle of Normandy

1. Why did US forces choose to invade Normandy?
2. What weather-related obstacles did soldiers encounter during the Normandy invasion?
3. What natural obstacles did soldiers encounter on the beaches?
4. How did the terrain make the invasion difficult after the soldiers took the beaches?
5. What planning did the Allies do before the invasion? How did it help make their invasion a success?

## The Battle of Inchon

1. Why did US forces choose to invade Inchon?
2. What natural obstacles did the invading troops face as they moved toward Inchon?
3. How did they plan to overcome these obstacles?
4. What man-made obstacles did the invading troops face?
5. What planning did the US forces do before the invasion? How did it help make their invasion a success?

## The Battle of Normandy (ANSWER KEY)

1. Why did US forces choose to invade Normandy?  
(A: They thought Normandy was the best way to invade western Europe.)
2. What weather-related obstacles did soldiers encounter during the Normandy invasion?  
(A: Rain and clouds the night of June 4 delayed the invasion a day. Windy and cloudy weather the night before the June 6 invasion caused some bombers to miss their targets of German pillboxes. It also caused some paratroopers to be blown off course and captured.)
3. What natural obstacles did soldiers encounter on the beaches?  
(A: Rough waves caused the Sherman DDs to sink. Strong tides pulled some landing crafts off course. There was not much shelter to shield the soldiers from enemy fire.)
4. How did the terrain make the invasion difficult after the soldiers took the beaches?  
(A: Hedgerows provided hiding places for German soldiers, who shot at invading soldiers.)
5. What planning did the Allies do before the invasion? How did it help make their invasion a success?  
(A: Since the Germans expected the Allies to invade during the day at high tide, the Allies made plans to invade at night. The Allies also kept the location a secret, set up decoy invasions, and gave out fake information.)

## The Battle of Inchon (ANSWER KEY)

1. Why did US forces choose to invade Inchon?

(A: There were only a few North Korean soldiers stationed there, and Inchon was close to South Korea's capital, Seoul.)

2. What natural obstacles did the invading troops face as they moved toward Inchon?

(A: Ships had to steer carefully as the tide rose to avoid muddy land that could get their ships stuck. Landing craft could only reach the beaches at high tide, so soldiers had to wait until the low tide was over before launching the next wave of attacks.)

3. How did they plan to overcome these obstacles?

(A: They planned their invasions to line up with high tide. They also sent small boats out into the harbor to help repair any ships that got stuck in mud.)

4. What man-made obstacles did they face?

(A: The channel to Inchon was full of underwater mines.)

5. What planning did the US forces do before the invasion? How did it help make their invasion a success?

(A: The US leaders knew that North Korea would not be expecting an attack far from the front line or on a city defended by shallow water. The invasion's planners also hired locals to explore the channel and spy on the NKPA.)