

## Lesson 9: Crossing the Rhine



### Essential Questions:

- Why was crossing the Rhine River so important to the Allies?

**Overview:** During World War II, the Rhine River was a significant military barrier that separated the Allied forces in the west from the German forces in the east. The Allies made several attempts to cross the Rhine, including Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge, but it wasn't until March 1945 that they were finally able to establish a successful bridgehead on the eastern side of the river. This was achieved through a combination of air drops, amphibious assaults, and bridges built under heavy enemy fire. The crossing of the Rhine was a major turning point in the war, as it allowed the Allies to penetrate deep into the heart of Germany and pave the way for the eventual defeat of the Nazi regime.

### Materials:

Reader Board  
A34 Comet



### Procedure:

Discuss the significance of the Rhine River as a military barrier during World War II. Explain that it was a major obstacle for the Allied forces. Discuss the impact of the crossing of the Rhine on the course of the war. Explain that it allowed the Allies to penetrate deep into the heart of Germany and pave the way for the eventual defeat of the Nazi regime. Explain how the Allies were finally able to establish a successful bridgehead on the eastern side of the river in March 1945. This was achieved through a combination of air drops, amphibious assaults, and bridges built under heavy enemy fire.

### Reader boards

Review the geography of Europe, including the location of the Rhine River and the countries it runs through. Ask students what they know about the Rhine River and its role in World War II.

A34 Comet MK1A (and reader boards)

This particular tank is unique in the fact that we know a lot of about the story of this tank during WW2 due to the research and stories passed on by family members of the crew in the final months of WW2.

Encourage students to consider the challenges faced by the Allied forces and the impact of the crossing on the course of the war.