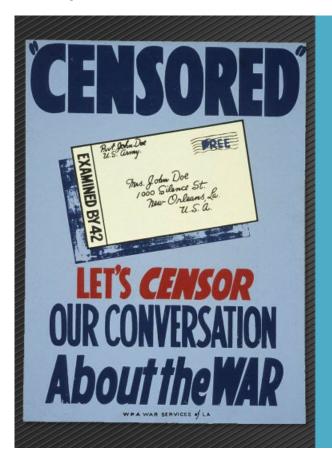**Introduction**

The United States government made efforts to keep morale high on the home front during World War II. Censorship, propaganda, and entertainment were effective ways to keep people's minds off the horrors of war. In this interactivity, click the labels to learn how communication resources were utilized.
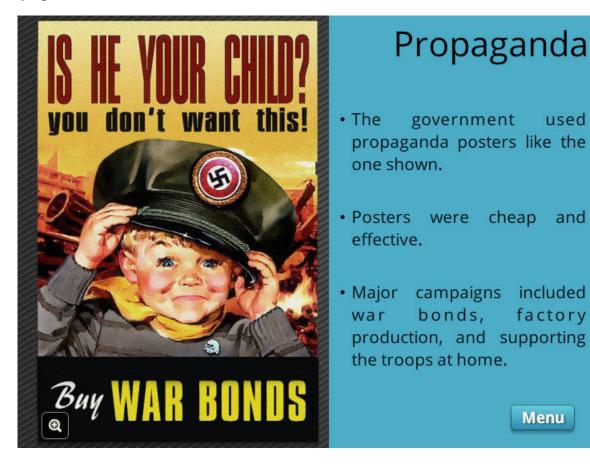
Censorship

First, the government maintained strict censorship over all reporting on the war. Censorship involved monitoring what was written, filmed, or photographed, and preventing unacceptable materials from being published. Another government agency, the Office of War Information, required all news to go through it, thus preventing the public from hearing negative stories about the war. Newspapers and radio stations also received a list of practices to follow when reporting on the war. The government did not allow Americans to see images of dead American soldiers until almost two years into the war.

Propaganda

Secondly, the government instituted a number of public morale and ad campaigns to keep Americans focused on the war effort. You have already seen several examples of one tool the government used in these efforts, the poster. Posters were a cheap and easy way to communicate various messages. Major campaigns focused on selling war bonds, encouraging factory production, and showing how efforts at home supported the troops fighting on the front lines.

Entertainment

Finally, the entertainment industry played a part in maintaining public morale by producing movies, plays, and shows that encouraged patriotism. The movie industry in particular created many short films and cartoons that portrayed positive aspects of the war and made fun of the United States enemies, often through the use of stereotypes. Take a look at the United States propaganda poster. Notice how the Japanese character has a wide toothy grin, similar to that of a monkey. This reflected one of the stereotypes conveyed during World War II, that the Japanese were more like savage monkeys than humans.