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Grade level: 9-12 Special Education

Primary Source Citation: "Bicycle" International Aircraft Silhouettes Spotter Cards, The U.S. Playing Card Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1943. Reprinted in "World War II Aircraft Spotter Cards," Ames Historical Society.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the images while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. What are these?
2. What is different about these than ordinary playing cards?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Why would they make cards with military airplanes on them?
2. Who do you think would buy these cards?
3. When do you think these cards were sold?

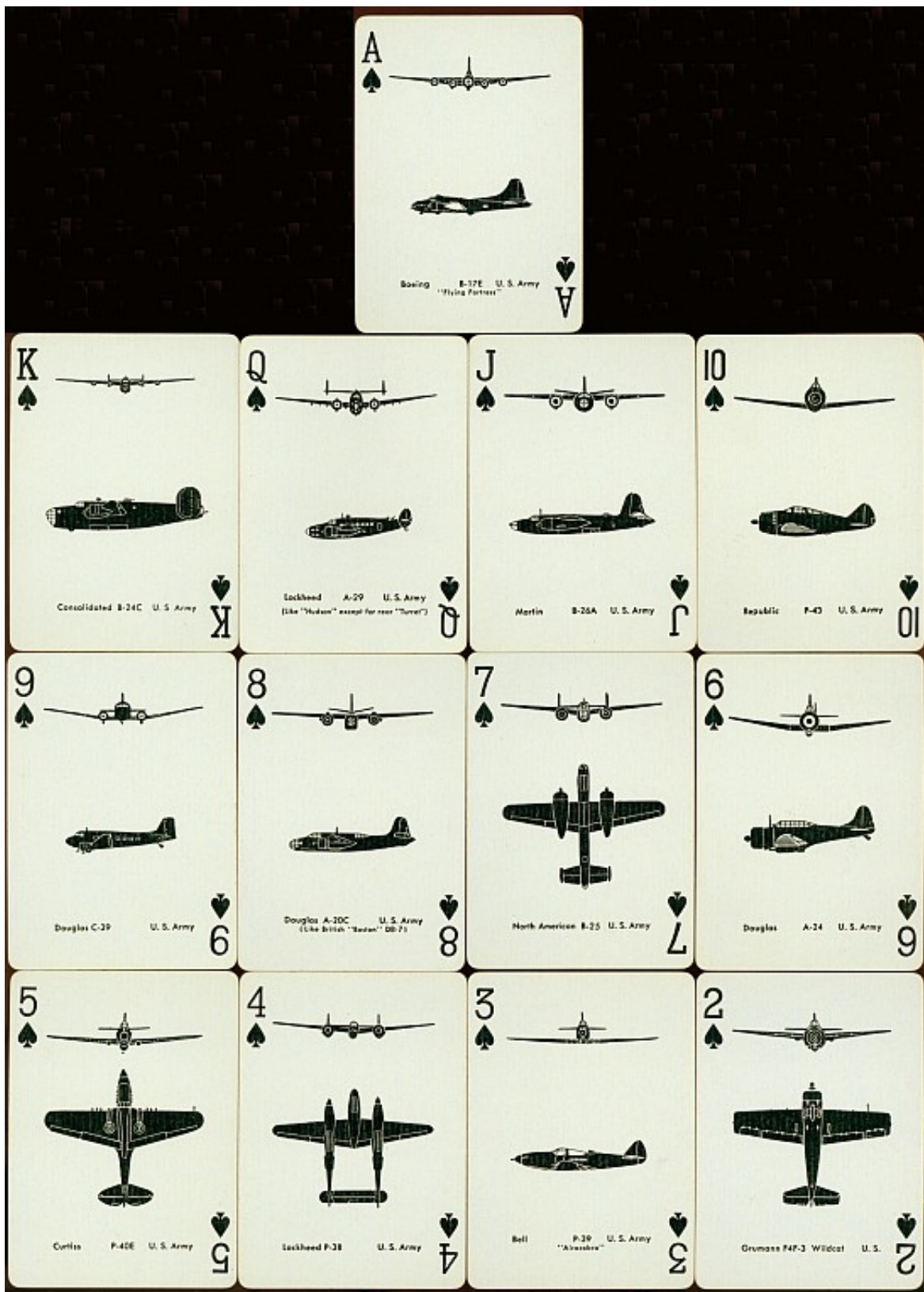
Level III: Analysis

1. What does this item tell you about this period of history in the United States?
2. The U.S. military is fighting overseas today. Is there a product like this for the conflicts we are in today?
3. Why would it be more difficult to make cards like this for current conflicts?

World War II Aircraft Spotter Cards



Everyone could be part of the Civil Defense effort while playing card games by learning and memorizing the shape of both friendly and enemy aircraft.



American aircraft

American aircraft pictured on the
above spotter cards:

Boeing B-17E Flying Fortress,

AMERICA'S WAR PLANES				
Number of Engines	Army	Navy	Manufacturer	Airplane
HEAVY BOMBERS				
Four	B-17		Boeing	Flying Fortress
Four	B-24	PB4Y	Consolidated	Liberator
MEDIUM BOMBERS				
Two	B-25	PBJ	North American	Mitchell
Two	B-26		Martin	Marauder
Two	B-34	PV	Vega	Ventura
LIGHT BOMBERS				
Two	A-20	BD	Douglas	Havoc (Attack)
One	A-24	SBD	Douglas	Dauntless (Dive)
Two	A-28	PBO	Lockheed	Hudson (Patrol)
One		TBD	Douglas	Devastator (Torpedo)
One		TBF	Grumman	Avenger (Torpedo)
PATROL BOMBERS (Flying Boats)				
Two	OA-10	PBY	Consolidated	Catalina
Four		PB2Y	Consolidated	Coronado
Two		PBM	Martin	Mariner
FIGHTERS				
Two	P-38		Lockheed	Lightning
One	P-39		Bell	Airacobra
One	P-40		Curtiss	Warhawk
One	P-47		Republic	Thunderbolt
One	P-51		North American	Mustang
One		F4F	Grumman	Wildcat
One		F4U	Chance Vought	Corsair
OBSERVATION SCOUTS (Seaplanes)				
One		OS2U	Chance Vought	Kingfisher
TRANSPORTS				
Two	C-46	R5C	Curtiss	Commando
Two	C-47	R4D1	Douglas	Skytrain
Two	C-53	R4D3	Douglas	Skytrooper
Four	C-54	R5D	Douglas	Skymaster
Two	C-56	R50	Lockheed	Lodestar
Four	C-87		Consolidated	Liberator Express

Consolidated B-24C, Lockheed A-29 and P-38, Martin B-26A, Republic P-43, Douglas C-39 and A-20C and A-24, North American B-25, Curtiss P-40E, Bell P-39 Airacobra, Grumman F4F-3 Wildcat

The image at left lists WWII American War Planes



British aircraft

Short Sterling, Armstrong Sunderland and Whitley, Martin Baltimore, Lockheed Hudson, Bristol Beaufort and Blenheim, Vickers-Armstrong Wellington, Supermarine Spitfire, Hawker Hurricane, North American Mustang, Fairey Battle and Swordfish

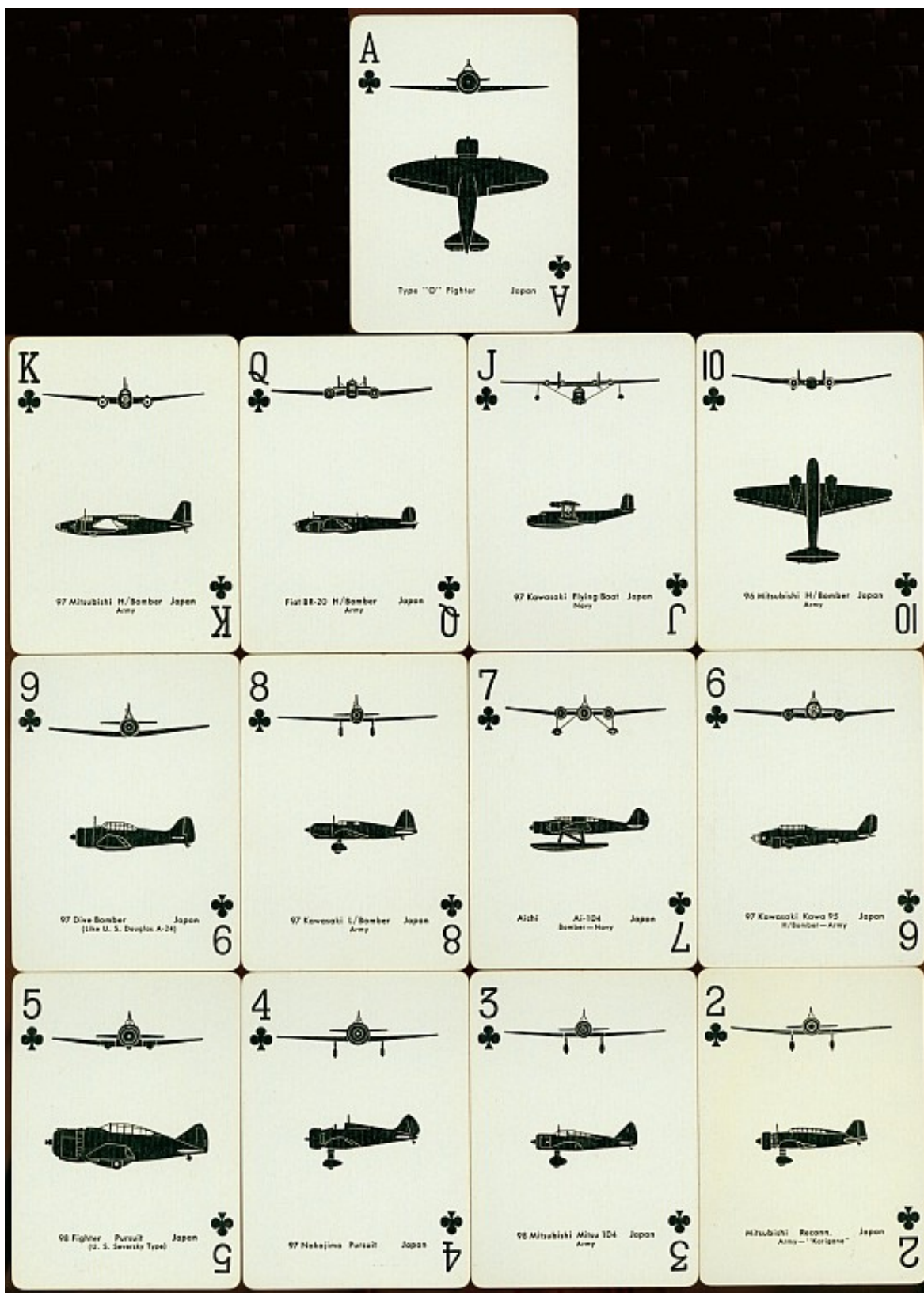


Also view [British Aircraft Recognition Cards](#) with silhouettes and real photos.



German aircraft

Focke-Wulf Curier and 187, Junkers Ju-89 & Ju88A1 & Ju-52 & Ju87B Stuka, Dornier Do-215, Heinkel He-111K(MK3) & He-115, Arado AR-95, Messerschmitt Me-110 & Me-109F, Blohm & Voss Ha-139



Japanese aircraft

Type O Fighter, 97 Mitsubishi H & 96 Mitsubishi H & 98 Mitsubishi Mitsu 104 & Mitsubishi Reconnaissance, Fiat BR-20 H, 97 Kawasaki Flying Boat & 97 Kawasaki L Bomber & 97 Kawasaki Kawa 95, 97 Dive Bomber, Aichi Ai-104, 98 Fighter Pursuit, 97 Nakajima Pursuit

[\(back to World War II homefront\)](#)

