

# Polio Epidemic during/after WWII in Rockford, IL

## Lesson Targets:

- Identify patterns of the transmission of polio in the Rockford area.
- Estimate the population of Rockford in 1945, based on the current population.
- Draw conclusions on how contracting polio would affect someone's life.
- Design a brochure educating the 1945 public in order to prevent deaths and paralysis from polio.

## Standards:

RH.9-10.3      RH.9-10.5      RH.9-10.6      RH.9-10.9

WHST.9-10.4    WHST.9-10.7    WHST.9-10.9

## Introduction of the lesson:

With a neighbor, the students will analyze two propaganda posters. Answering the questions, what is the purpose of the images? Why would the American public be exposed to images like these?

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=polio+pete+propaganda&FORM=HDRSC2#!?q=polio+pete+propaganda&view=detailv2&&id=1AF912E7EA5B58E1624AD300C66886430D8FFCDF&selectedIndex=3&ccid=epNduSOo&simid=608034513947525473&thid=OIP.M7a935db923a897154103cd700a90cfc7o0&mode=overlay>

<http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/dhm/lib/detail.html?id=1040>

After the class discussion, the teacher will show the following video explaining how there was a national concern over polio.

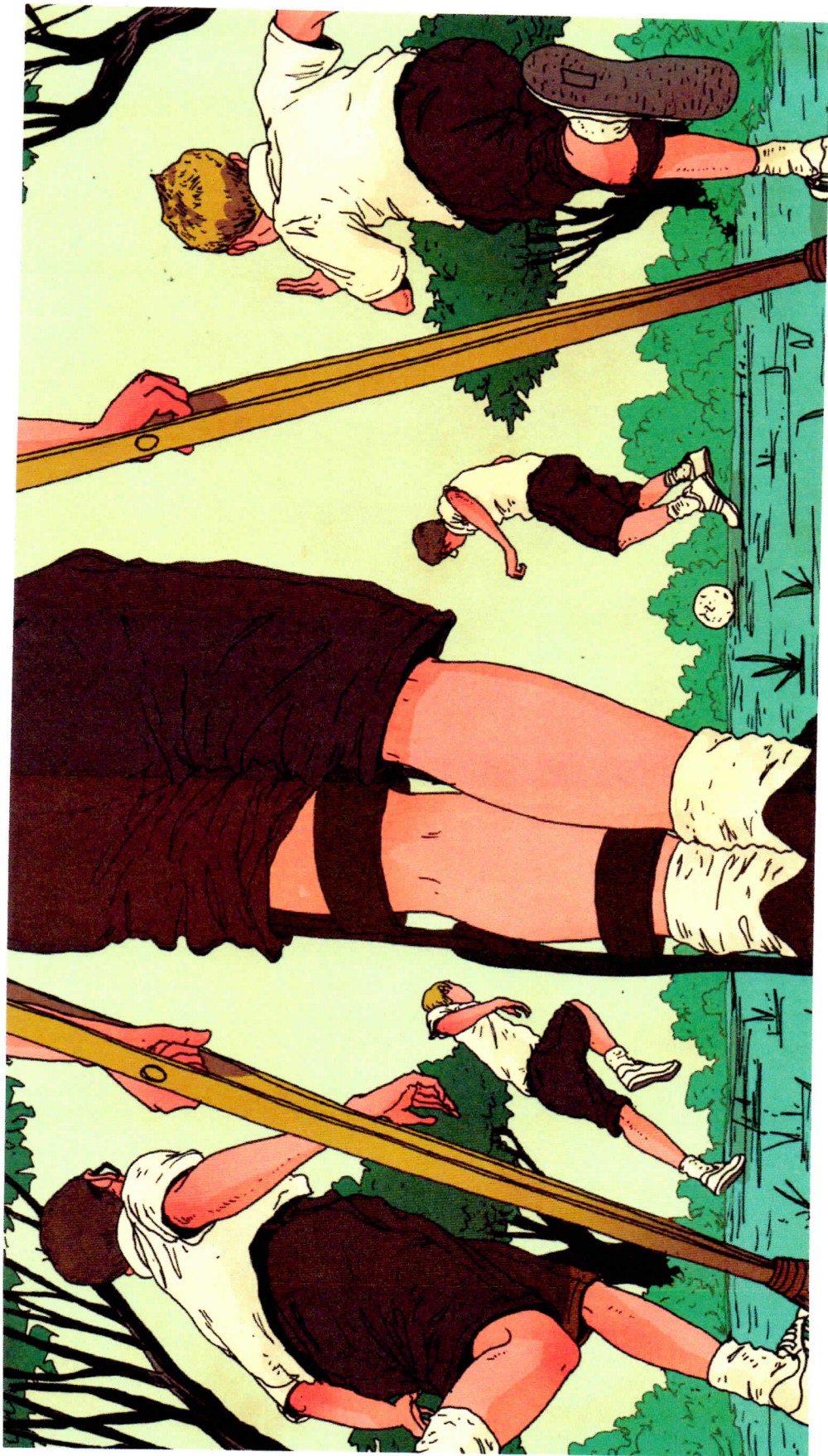
<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=polio+pete+propaganda&src=IE-TopResult&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dpolio%2bpete%2bpropaganda%26src%3dIE-TopResult%26FORM%3dIE10TR&view=detail&mmscn=vwrc&mid=6DF49326F8F2FDA07E1C6DF49326F8F2FDA07E1C&FORM=WRVORC>

## Activity:

The students complete a webquest about the polio epidemic in Rockford. A webquest will require the students to individually work (using an iPad) on questions relating to the videos. In addition, they will have to find out additional information about polio in order to create a final project based on what they learned.

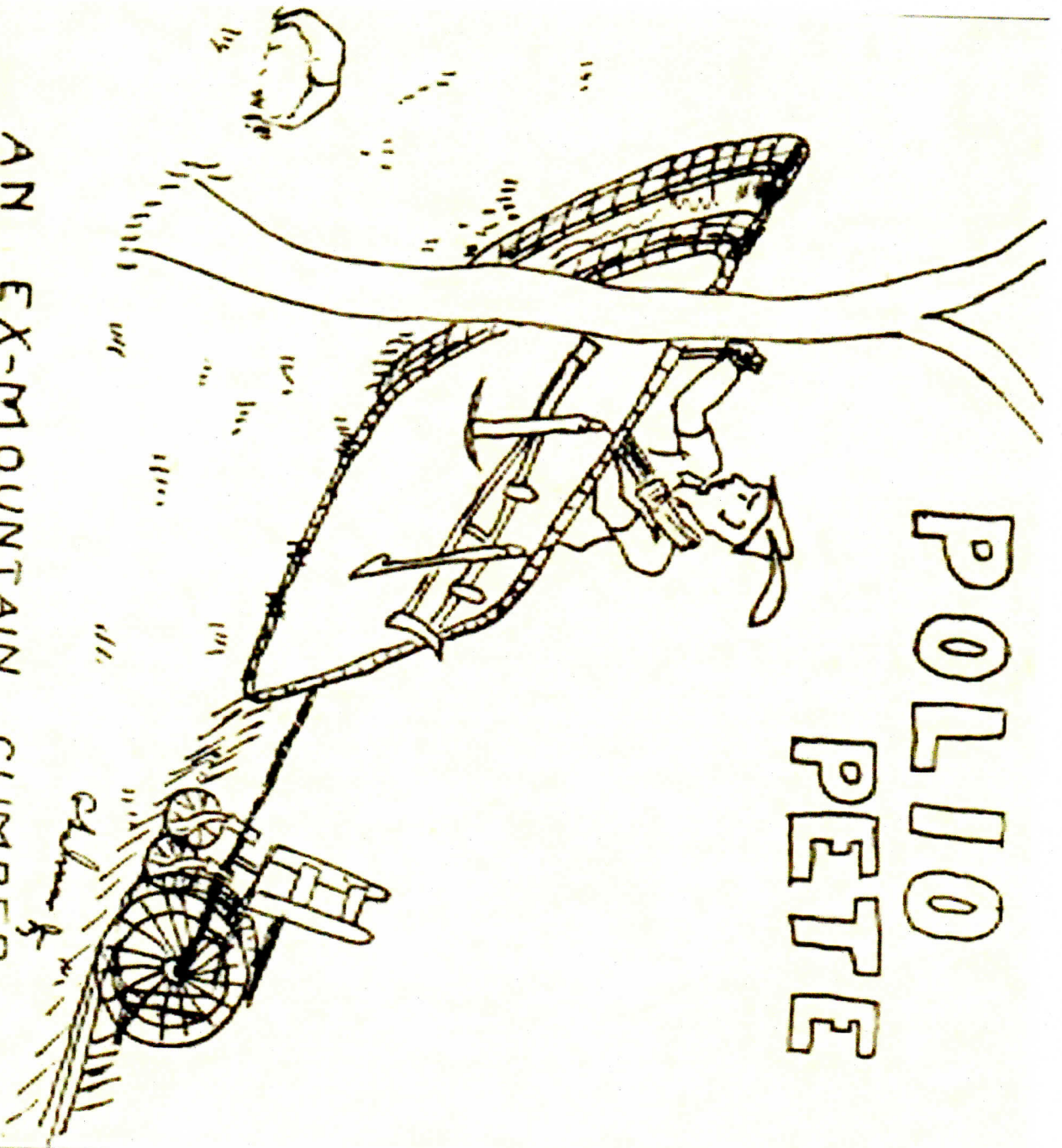
## Wrap-Up:

The students will have a project to summarize what they learned from the webquest. Knowing the information they gathered, they will create a brochure educating the 1945 public about polio to avoid future contraction of the virus.



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# Epidemic in Rockford Webquest

**Introduction (as a class):** Analyze the images your teacher is projecting and answer the following questions with your desk partner (s).

1. What is the purpose of the images?
2. Why would the American public be exposed to images like these?

**Activity (individually):** Answer the following questions based on the video listed before the questions begin.

Go to YouTube, search Rockford Polio Epidemic, the video is 9 minutes and 14 seconds. The video from 40 seconds to 2 minutes and 7 seconds may be skipped. Stop viewing at 6:50.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld3k0jZPBy0>

3. How many deaths occurred in Rockford because of polio?
4. Explain Don Swanson's story. Why is his story significant?
5. Based on the interviews, name three steps taken to avoid the contraction of polio in Rockford.

<http://1440wrok.com/rockfords-polio-epidemic-of-1945/>

6. Analyze the excerpt from the Rockford Register Star. What did you find significant in this reading?
7. View the video attached to the webpage. What did they believe was spreading polio? Why do you think people thought this?

This is current map of Rockford, with a population of 150,251.

[https://www.google.com/search?q=map+of+rockford+2015&espv=2&biw=1366&bih=667&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjpfGug9jNAhUG8IMKHaULBTIQ\\_AUIBigB#imgrc=xO-yDgMTK4RfdM%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=map+of+rockford+2015&espv=2&biw=1366&bih=667&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjpfGug9jNAhUG8IMKHaULBTIQ_AUIBigB#imgrc=xO-yDgMTK4RfdM%3A)

[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/illinois/txu-pclmaps-topo-il-camp\\_grant-1918.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/illinois/txu-pclmaps-topo-il-camp_grant-1918.jpg)

8. Based on the above map, estimate the population of Rockford, IL in 1945.

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/polio/basics/definition/con-20030957>

9. What is polio?

10. Is it still around today?

11. Look at the symptoms page; explain how polio would affect someone's quality of life.

12. How is polio spread? Look at what you put for #7. Is that the same answer?

13. How can polio be prevented?

**Summative Assignment:** Based on the information you have gathered. Create a brochure educating the 1945 Rockford public about polio. The brochure should include ways to PREVENT more deaths/paralysis from polio, 4 hand-drawn pictures or graphs/charts, and a creative title.