

Time-binding

GOLDEN NUGGETS OF TRUTH

Teachers Material

Please share the following information with your students prior to displaying the poster. We consider it vital that students understand that simply because something appears in print, or on the internet, or comes from an authority figure, they still need to process that information before making judgements and taking action. Alternately, you can copy these pages and hand them out to your students.

For several years we have discussed the positive aspects of time-binding. Unfortunately, we must be discerning about the material we accept from our ancestors, current “experts”, and sometimes even ourselves. When we search our books and the internet, or listen to someone supposedly “in the know”, are we hearing verifiable information? Or are we simply hearing an unsubstantiated theory or opinion.

Today, the internet supplies us with a generous supply of information and data. It also provides those with a hidden agenda a forum to infuse us with misinformation and spurious data. Sorting out the truth from all the nonsense becomes quite a chore as more sites abound. Point out to your students that we see that which we like to see, and if the bogus information confirms a position we have already taken, we are quite likely to accept it without critical review.

A case in point.

At 8:00 AM, December 7, 1941, planes from the Japanese fleet began a surprise attack on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This part of history seems to be accepted by just about everyone. Almost immediately, questions were raised as to where to assess the blame. Hundreds of books and articles have been written about the attack. Many of them seek to establish a conspiracy that led back to Washington.

Now let’s get into one area of dispute. We know from Japanese records that they launched five midget submarines off Pearl Harbor with the express purpose of going into the harbor to torpedo ships at anchor there. At 3:42 AM, a minesweeper outside of Pearl Harbor reported seeing a periscope, and asked the destroyer Ward for help. The Ward searched for two hours to no avail. Around 6:00 a PBY flying boat on patrol spotted one of the submarines, and now informed the Ward where it was. Ward managed to find it, and at 6:45 fired at it and claimed to have sunk it. At 6:54 the captain of the Ward reported the action to the office of the Commandant. For whatever reason, the information was not relayed to a staff member until 7:25 AM. Still no action.

Those “historians” who wished to espouse the conspiracy theory simply could not accept the fact that Pearl Harbor had over an hour warning. For nearly 60 years, the crew members of the Ward have been disbelieved and insulted. However, 60 years after the fact, with only a few of the Ward’s crew still alive, divers found the submarine in question, resting on the bottom outside of Pearl Harbor. They photographed it, and they photographed the big hole in the conning tower where the Ward’s gunners had placed a shell. The divers established the authenticity of the Ward’s message.

If you only read and accepted an account by one of the conspiracy buffs, you would have accepted something bogus. You would have read in some accounts, that the Ward never made contact, and certainly did not sink a Japanese submarine. When you receive information from different sources that seems to be in disagreement, you are the person responsible to check it out. Ask yourself: does someone supplying you this information have an agenda? Do they have a theory that can only be sustained by omitting certain incidents or information?

This account of the disaster at Pearl Harbor looms large in the history of the United States. If people can twist the facts in something this large, what can they do in your day-to-day life?

Now like all the other time-binding topics, this one also has a poster. And to make sure that you can fully utilize it, I would like to have a vocabulary check. Can anyone tell me what the term golden nugget means? And a golden nugget would or wouldn’t have a lot of value? Considerable value. And do you know if gold would be considered heavy or light? Yes, it is quite heavy.

Now a little further afield. What do we mean by the term gilded? An object that has a golden color, or even may have a very thin plating of gold, can be called gilded. Now do any of you fish? From what material are your sinkers made? Lead. Does it weigh a lot for its size? Yes. And is it cheap? Yes. If someone gave you gilded pieces of lead, and expected you to pay pure gold prices, what would you say to that? Oh, and as for the ‘bull’ on the graphic, I will let you interpret that for yourselves.