

**Radar:
Technology that Impacted World War II
and Changed the World**

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Individual Exhibit**

Why I chose this topic:

There were two things that led me to choosing my topic this year. After completing my history day project on Amelia Earhart for last year's state competition, my research on her life helped me gain a basic knowledge of the times and how aircraft became an important advancement prior to World War II. Since this year's theme was on an innovation in history, I had the idea to explore the invention of radar because my great grandfather served in WWII on "The Best Lightweight Early Warning Radar Outfit in the Southwest Pacific". Listening to him tell his stories over the years prompted a curiosity in me to learn more about radar and how it impacted the war and our world.

How I conducted my research:

Of course, I knew I had a primary resource in my Grandpa Frank who had first-hand knowledge of radar during WWII, but before I could interview him, I had to do some research. Starting with the internet, I found several secondary sources and a book to help me learn basic information about radar and the war. After taking notes, I was able to develop a list of questions for the interview. We had so much fun doing the interview and not only is he my great grandfather but also a great resource! I learned so many interesting things, and dates that he remembered of invasions matched the timelines I found in my research. It was really great to make that and many other connections. Finally, I outlined my notes and gathered all my resource information for my annotated bibliography.

How I created and developed my exhibit:

First, I used my outlines to develop a general thesis through research and made sure to focus on how this innovation of radar impacted history. I also worked on transforming a clock into a model of radar based on info from my grandfather by repainting the face of

the clock, creating a map of the Philippines in the South Pacific where my grandfather was stationed during the war. Then I painted my board to look like camouflage and typed and glued down all of my info, artifacts, and photos in an organized, creative display using metallic, colorful trims to highlight how WWII and the world was changed by the technology of radar.

How my project relates to the theme:

My project shows how radar was an innovative technology for yesterday, today, and tomorrow. With information on early detection used for war and weather, it shows radar's continued development over the years and how radar influenced history on social, economic, political, cultural, and technological levels. Our world would be a very different place if radar would not have changed the war. These are just a few reasons how my project relates to this year's theme.