



WORLD WAR II—THE WORLD AT WAR

Teacher's Guide

Written By:
Melissa McMeen

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Materials in the Unit

- The video program World War II—The World at War
- Teachers Guide

This teacher's guide has been prepared to aid the teacher in utilizing materials contained within this program. In addition to this introductory material, the guide contains suggested instructional procedures for the lesson, answer keys for the activity sheets, and follow-up activities and projects for the lesson.

- Blackline Masters

Included in this program are ten blackline masters for duplication and distribution. They consist of, classroom activities, information sheets, take-home activities, Pre-Test, Post-Test, and the text to the Video Quiz.

The blackline masters are provided as the follow-up activities for each lesson. They will help you determine focal points for class discussion based on the objectives for the lesson.

The blackline masters have a three-fold purpose: to reinforce the program; to provide an opportunity for the students to apply and analyze what they have learned from the program; for use as diagnostic tools to assess areas in which individual students need help.

Introduction and Summary of Series

America in the 20th Century is a comprehensive series designed to provide a clear overview of the people and events that distinguished the 20th century. Rare archival footage and photographs, authentic recordings, and other primary source documents, bring history to life, while stunning graphics and engaging narration lend context and clarity to the subject.

The series has been developed specifically for classroom use. It is organized around established standards and thoughtfully divided into chapters, with each volume functioning well as a full-length program or as focused support for specific study areas.

Introduction and Summary of Program

World War II—The World at War is the companion volume to America in the 20th Century – The Road to War. The program begins where the first volume leaves off – the Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the United States' entry into the growing global

conflict. The program is organized into four video chapters, each highlighting a distinct aspect of the war.

Chapter 1, *America Joins the War*, highlights the activities on the U.S. home front including the monumental industrial shift from peacetime manufacturing to war production; programs to ration food, fuel and other raw materials; the great migration of American workers to new industrial centers; and the changing demographic of the U.S. workforce.

Chapter 2, *Achieving Victory in Europe*, establishes the “state-of-the-war” at the time the U.S. joined the fighting, underscoring the dire situation the Allies faced in 1941 and 1942. The major European battles are highlighted, including fighting in North Africa; the battles for Sicily and Italy; submarine warfare in the Atlantic; air battles in the skies over Europe; the D-Day invasion of Nazi-held France; and the ensuing land battles culminating in the fall of Berlin. The suicide of Hitler, the Holocaust and the death of FDR are related as well.

Chapter 3, *Achieving Victory in the Pacific*, explains that, while the Allies chose to win the war in Europe Hitler first, they fought concurrently against the Japanese in the Pacific. The major battles with the Japanese are explored, including Midway; Leyte Gulf; Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The program also discusses kamikaze attacks; the strategy of island-hopping; and other war strategies. The chapter concludes with the atomic bomb attacks on Japan and the subsequent surrender of the Japanese.

Chapter 4, *After the War*, explores the aftermath of war in Europe and Japan with emphasis on the pivotal actions that affected world affairs for the remainder of the century.

Standards

Era 8: World War II—The World at War and World War II (1929-1945)

STANDARD 3:

The causes and course of World War II, the character of the war at home and abroad, and its reshaping of the U.S. role in world affairs

Standard 3B

The student understands World War II and how the Allies prevailed.

Benchmarks:

Grade level: 5-12

Explain the major turning points of the war and contrast military campaigns in the European and Pacific theaters. [Draw upon data in historical maps]

Grade level: 7-12

Analyze Hitler’s “final solution” and the Allies’ responses to the Holocaust and war crimes. [Interrogate historical data]

Grade level: 9-12

Evaluate the wartime aims and strategies hammered out at conferences among the Allied powers. [Hypothesize the influence of the past]

Grade level: 7-12

Evaluate the decision to employ nuclear weapons against Japan and assess later controversies over the decision. [Evaluate major debates among historians]

Grade level: 5-12

Explain the financial, material, and human costs of the war and analyze its economic consequences for the Allies and the Axis powers. [Utilize visual and quantitative data]

Grade level: 7-12

Describe military experiences and explain how they fostered American identity and interactions among people of diverse backgrounds. [Utilize literary sources including oral testimony]

Grade level: 7-12

Explain the purposes and organization of the United Nations. [Marshal evidence of antecedent circumstances]

Standard 3C

The student understands the effects of World War II at home.

Benchmarks:

Grade level: 5-12

Explain how the United States mobilized its economic and military resources during World War II. [Utilize visual and quantitative data]

Grade level: 7-12

Explore how the war fostered cultural exchange and interaction while promoting nationalism and American identity. [Analyze cause-and-effect relationships]

Grade level: 7-12

Evaluate how minorities organized to gain access to wartime jobs and how they confronted discrimination. [Formulate a position or course of action on an issue]

Grade level: 5-12

Evaluate the internment of Japanese Americans during the war and assess the implication for civil liberties. [Evaluate the implementation of a decision]

Grade level: 5-12

Analyze the effects of World War II on gender roles and the American family. [Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas]

Grade level: 9-12

Evaluate the war's impact on science, medicine, and technology, especially in nuclear physics, weaponry, synthetic fibers, and television. [Utilize quantitative data]

Grade level: 9-12

Evaluate how Americans viewed their achievements and global responsibilities at war's end. [Interrogate historical data]

Instructional Notes

It is suggested that you preview the program and read the related Suggested Instructional Procedures before involving your students in the lesson activities. By doing so, you will become familiar with the materials and be better prepared to adapt the program to the needs of your class.

You will probably find it best to follow the program and lesson activities in the order in which they are presented in this Teacher's Guide, but this is not necessary.

It is also suggested that the program presentation take place before the entire class and under your direction. The lesson activities focus on the content of the programs.

As you review the instructional program outlined in the Teacher's Guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your students.

Read the descriptions of the Blackline Masters and duplicate any of those you intend to use.

Suggested Instructional Procedures

To maximize the learning experience, teacher's should:

- Preview the video [World War II—The World at War](#)
- Read the descriptions of the blackline masters.
- Duplicate any blackline masters you intend to use.

Students should be supplied with the necessary copies of blackline masters required to complete the activities. By keeping students informed of current events, teachers can extend any of the lessons on the program.

Student Objectives

After viewing the program [World War II—The World at War](#) and participating in the follow-up activities, students will be able to:

- Describe the effects of World War II on the United States home front for war preparations
- Explain the war hysteria after the attack on Pearl Harbor and its effect on Japanese-Americans
- Identify the changes made to everyday life for United States citizens at home during the war

- Compare and contrast the turning points and military campaigns utilized throughout the war in Europe and the Pacific, including the atomic bomb
- Outline the consequences and responsibilities established following World War II.

Follow-Up Activities

Blackline Master #1: Pre-Test is an assessment tool intended to gauge student comprehension of the Objectives prior to the launching of World War II—The World at War lesson, which includes the video and the ensuing activities. The results of the Pre-Test may be contrasted with the results of the Post-Test to assess the efficacy of the lesson in achieving the Student Objectives.

Blackline Master #2: Video Quiz is a printed copy of the questions that appear at the end of the video presentation. The Video Quiz is intended to reinforce the salient points of the video immediately following its completion and may be used for assessment or as a catalyst for discussion.

Blackline Master #3a-d: Post-Test is an assessment tool to be administered after the lesson (Pre-Test, video and follow-up activities) has been completed.

Blackline Master #4: Discussion Questions offers questions to spur conversation and to identify student comprehension and misunderstanding.

Blackline Master #5: Vocabulary Terms is a list of pertinent terms and definitions

Blackline Master #6: Turning Points This activity requires students to complete an outline of the major turning points of the war.

Blackline Master #7: Eyewitness to History This activity challenges students to prepare a written summary of an event that occurred during World War II. Students will research something of personal interest using the suggested web site as a resource and prepare a written summary from an “eyewitness” point of view.

Blackline Master #8: The Final Decision Using the Truman Presidential Library website as a resource, students are asked to research the experiences of President Truman in the days prior to reaching his decision to use the atomic bomb. Students will answer a questions based on their findings.

Blackline Master #9: Thank You Note Students will consider an individual or group of individuals whose contribution to the war effort positively affects the way we live today and write a thank you note to them.

Blackline Master #10: Persuasion Students will research some of the propaganda used during the war and answer questions based on an example they choose from the National Archives web site.

Internet Resources

For Teachers

<http://history.acusd.edu/gen/WW2Timeline/start.html>

World War II Timeline

<http://www.candles-museum.com/>

Holocaust Museum

<http://www.lifeinterrupted.org/html/>

Life Interrupted, Japanese-American Experience in WWII

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bulge/timeline/>

PBS: Battle of the Bulge

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dday/>

PBS: D-Day

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~kari/rosie.htm>

Rosie the Riveter

For Students

Note: Teachers should preview all sites to ensure they are age-appropriate for their students.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0215466>

Thinkquest: Battle With No Boundaries

<http://library.thinkquest.org/15511/>

Thinkquest: Home Front

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwii/hiroshima/index.htm>

Hiroshima: A Survivor's Story

Answer Key

Blackline Master #1: Pre-Test

1. true
2. true
3. true

4. false
5. false
6. false
7. false
8. true
9. true
10. true

Blackline Master #2: Video Quiz

1. true
2. false
3. false
4. false
5. true
6. false
7. true
8. false
9. true
10. true

Blackline Master #3: Post-Test

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. A

The following answers may vary.

11. Civilian factories began switching production to war needs; production increased due to new technology; women and minorities stepped into take the place of drafted men
12. New defense industries in California attracted rural workers; 1/3 of women in the work force manufacturing planes, ships, tanks, and other typical male jobs; Brotherhood of

- Sleeping Cars Porters protested exclusion of African-American from jobs; FDR issued executive order barring discrimination in hiring in defense industries
13. The attack of Pearl Harbor set off anti-Japanese hysteria; FDR issued executive order to remove civilians from military areas; Japanese-Americans rounded up from homes in the West and sent to relocation camps and leaving belongings behind; in 1988 Congress apologized for treatment and provided restitution
 14. Office of Price Administration kept inflation down with frozen prices; income-tax rates raised and extend to new groups- reduced consumer demand; civilians urged to spend extra money on war bonds
 15. First defeat Hitler, then defeat Japan, and finally only accept unconditional surrender
 16. Invasion of Axis-controlled North Africa and Italy; allies defeated Germans by 1943; Italians tired of war; king stripped Mussolini of power, but Hitler had him reinstated; fierce fighting drove out German troops with aid of Italian partisans; victory the allies needed to bolster spirits for the battles to come
 17. Soviets first to discover concentration camps; a thousand starving “living corpses” and German soldiers trying to bury and burn evidence; a death camp where prisoners were murdered then cremated; the “Final Solution” for those Hitler thought to be “sub-human” to his “master race”
 18. After battles in Iwo Jima and Okinawa, both fierce deadly fighting, Allied worried the final assault on Japan’s home islands would kill a million Americans and half a million British; Truman waited for unconditional surrender before concluding the war

Essays should contain the following main points along with an explanation.

19. Rationing established for civilians; materials needed for war effort such as gas, heating oil, metals; essential food rationed such as meat, butter, cheese, vegetables, sugar, coffee; people made victory gardens to grow their own food; “use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without”; children helped with drives to collect scrap iron, tin cans, paper, rags; travel limited with car-pools and riding bicycles; fashion changed due to shortage of wool, rayon; War Production Board banned ruffles, pleats, and any excess use of material; women’s skirts shortened, men’s suit now single-breasted and without vests; women and minorities joined workforce taking on new jobs now typical before war; frozen prices, income-tax raised and extend to new groups; civilians urged to spend any money on war bonds
20. Europe and North Africa: Battle of the Atlantic- German U-Boats destroyed Allied ships, allies respond with convoys, radar use, and crash shipbuilding program; Battle of Stalingrad- first turning point on land, Germans hoping to cut off military supplies, but Soviets counter-attack and Germans surrendered and Soviets in route to Germany; Operation Torch- Allies invade Italy and North Africa with aid from Italian partisans; D-

Day- Normandy, France, heavy casualties, Paris liberated, and Allies move toward Germany; Battle of the Bulge- Americans capture first German town, Aachen, Germans now in retreat; Liberation of Concentration Camps- evidence of Nazi terror; V-E Day- Soviets attack Berlin, Hitler committed suicide, May 8, 1945, unconditional surrender of Germany.

Pacific: Doolittle Raid- 16 B-25 bombers raided Tokyo and other cities, surprise attack successful and lifted American morale; Battle of Coral Sea- battle of carrier-based airplanes, U.S. and Australia prevented Japanese from attacking Australia, first time Japanese invasion prevented, but more U.S. ships lost than Japanese; Battle of Midway- Japanese invasion of more than 110 ships into Midway, U.S. managed surprise attack, resulting in Japanese loss and turning point in war; Island-Hopping Strategy- Gen. Douglas MacArthur, seizing weakly defended islands where airfields were built and airpower used to cut Japanese supplies, saved time and lives for U.S.; Guadalcanal- U.S. attacked and after six months Japan abandoned island, first turning point on land; Battle of Leyte Gulf- Allied troops invaded Leyte island, Japanese used kamikaze attacks, Japanese lost and their navy no longer a factor; Iwo Jima and Okinawa- U.S. took two islands after fierce combat, allies worried what to come on home land islands, Truman assess situation and made decision to drop secret weapon, the atomic bomb; Hiroshima and Nagasaki- Hiroshima, the military center, bombed, but Japan still did not surrender, after Nagasaki and over 200,000 dead, Japan surrendered.

Blackline Master #4: Discussion Questions

Answers will vary. Possible answers follow.

1. Five million Americans volunteered for war; ten million Americans drafted for war; War Production Board established to supervise the production of planes, ships, and other war materials; civilian factories began switching production to war needs; production increased with new technology and assembly lines similar to Henry Ford's assembly line; unemployment disappeared as civilians were asked to take the job previously held by men in the war and in producing war supplies.
2. Office of Scientific Research and Development helped improve radar, sonar, encouraged the use of pesticides to fight insects, pushed the development of drugs such as penicillin, and the atomic bomb. Henry Kaiser revolutionized the way America built ships with new techniques such as those used by Henry Ford.
3. The attack of Pearl Harbor set off anti-Japanese hysteria; FDR issued executive order to remove civilians from military areas; Japanese-Americans rounded up from homes in the West and sent to relocation camps and leaving belongings behind; in 1988 Congress apologized for treatment and provided restitution

4. Rationing established for civilians; materials needed for war effort such as gas, heating oil, metals; essential food rationed such as meat, butter, cheese, vegetables, sugar, coffee; people made victory gardens to grow their own food; “use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without”; children helped with drives to collect scrap iron, tin cans, paper, rags; travel limited with car-pools and riding bicycles; fashion changed due to shortage of wool, rayon; War Production Board banned ruffles, pleats, and any excess use of material; women’s skirts shortened, men’s suit now single-breasted and without vests; women and minorities joined workforce taking on new jobs now typical before war; frozen prices, income-tax raised and extend to new groups; civilians urged to spend any money on war bonds
5. Europe and North Africa: Battle of Stalingrad- first turning point on land, Germans hoping to cut off military supplies, but Soviets counter-attack and Germans surrendered and Soviets in route to Germany; D-Day- Normandy, France, heavy casualties, Paris liberated, and Allies move toward Germany; Battle of the Bulge- Americans capture first German town, Aachen, Germans now in retreat; Liberation of Concentration Camps- evidence of Nazi terror; V-E Day- Soviets attack Berlin, Hitler committed suicide, May 8, 1945, unconditional surrender of Germany.
6. Pacific: Battle of Coral Sea- battle of carrier-based airplanes, U.S. and Australia prevented Japanese from attacking Australia, first time Japanese invasion prevented, but more U.S. ships lost than Japanese; Battle of Midway- Japanese invasion of more than 110 ships into Midway, U.S. managed surprise attack, resulting in Japanese loss and turning point in war; Guadalcanal- U.S. attacked and after six months Japan abandoned island, first turning point on land; Battle of Leyte Gulf- Allied troops invaded Leyte island, Japanese used kamikaze attacks, Japanese lost and their navy no longer a factor; Hiroshima and Nagasaki- Hiroshima, the military center, bombed, but Japan still did not surrender, after Nagasaki and over 200,000 dead, Japan surrendered.
7. Battle of the Atlantic- German U-Boats destroyed Allied ships, allies respond with convoys, radar use, and crash shipbuilding program; Doolittle Raid- 16 B-25 bombers raided Tokyo and other cities, surprise attack successful and lifted American morale; Island-Hopping Strategy- Gen. Douglas MacArthur, seizing weakly defended islands where airfields were built and airpower used to cut Japanese supplies, saved time and lives for U.S; Iwo Jima and Okinawa- U.S. took two islands after fierce combat, allies worried what to come on home land islands, Truman assess situation and made decision to drop secret weapon, the atomic bomb; Hiroshima and Nagasaki- Hiroshima, the military center, bombed, but Japan still did not surrender, after Nagasaki and over 200,000 dead, Japan surrendered; U.S. surrounded axis powers and gained weak water and land territory until prepared to move towards home land; also see answers to number 5
8. Harry Truman made the decision to use the secret weapon, the atomic bomb; U.S. took Iwo Jima and Okinawa- after fierce combat, allies worried what to come on home land islands, Truman assess situation and made decision to drop the atomic bomb; Hiroshima and

Nagasaki- Hiroshima, the military center, bombed, but Japan still did not surrender, after Nagasaki and over 200,000 dead, Japan surrendered; Truman needed to wait for unconditional surrender; some scientists who worked on the project, military and civilian leaders had doubts about whether to use it, morality of decision, but concern for saving U.S. lives; had the U.S. entered Japan's home land islands, there may have been over one and a half million American and British soldiers alone killed, not counting the additional deaths of the Japanese.

9. Yalta Conference established the United Nations, a successor to the League of Nations- peacekeeping organization based on principles established in Atlantic Charter, contained 50 representatives, and five main allies; United States, Britain, Soviet Union, France, and China
10. Stalin, Truman, and Churchill met in Potsdam Conference, July 1945; decided on plan for disarming Germany, eliminating Nazi regime; as consequence, Germany divided into four zones, each administered by the four powers, U.S. Britain, France, and Soviet Union; Berlin similarly divided; decided on trails for Nazi leaders; international tribunal of 23 nations tried Nazi war criminals in Nuremburg, Germany- first time in history, a nation's leaders held accountable for war crimes
11. U.S. takes on occupation of Japan; trials held in Japan as in Germany; MacArthur reformed Japanese economy and political systems, including guaranteeing female suffrage and basic civil freedoms; U.S lost proportionately less lives than other nations, although more than any other U.S. war; U.S. emerged as strongest economy and power in the world after WWII; the damage from the war left Europe weak and the growing threat of the Soviet Union

Blackline Master #6: Turning Points

Answers may vary somewhat from the following:

- Battle of Stalingrad-first great turning point on land
- D-Day or June 6, 1944- heavy casualties, but successful in securing beaches
- Battle of the Bulge- Americans captured first German town
- April 25, 1945 (almost V-E Day)- Soviets attack Berlin, Germany
- Battle of the Coral Sea- First time Japanese invasion prevented (Australia)
- Battle of Midway- Japanese lost strategic island due to surprise attack
- Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands- Japan abandons island, first time defeated on land
- Battle of Leyte Gulf- Japanese lost and their navy is no longer a factor in the war

Blackline Master #7: Eyewitness to History

Answers will vary. Summary can be assessed on execution, creativity, accuracy, and content.

Blackline Master #8: The Final Decision

Explanations will vary and can be assessed on execution, creativity, accuracy, and content.

Blackline Master #9: Thank You Note

Letters will vary and can be assessed on execution, creativity, and content.

Blackline Master #10: Persuasion

Answers will vary and can be assessed on execution, creativity, accuracy, and content.

WORLD WAR II

The World at War

written by Harlan Hogan & Richard Hawksworth

INTRODUCTION

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT:

“December 7th 1941, a date that will live in infamy...”

The devastating air assault on Pearl Harbor thrust the reluctant United States into a clash with the Axis Powers.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT:

“The militarists of Berlin and Tokyo started this war. But the massed, angered forces of common humanity will finish it.”

Battles raged around the world, in the air, on land, and at sea to preserve the ideals of democracy.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT:

“They know that victory for us means victory for freedom.”

The fate of the world was at stake.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL:

“If we fail, then the whole world, including the United States will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age.”

World War II was the most horrific conflict in human history. It spanned the globe and half a decade, and sparked political, military and social repercussions that echoed throughout the 20th century and beyond.

CHAPTER 1 - WAR COMES TO AMERICA

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

“I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again; your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”

In 1940 Franklin Roosevelt campaigned on the promise to keep the nation out of foreign entanglements, well aware that the American voter had no taste for war. But the President and the country had cause for alarm.

With each passing month, the Axis Powers' tide of aggression spread, threatening to engulf the world: by the fall of 1941, Adolf Hitler's blitzkrieg had crushed resistance across Europe leaving a wake of death and destruction; a Nazi invasion of Britain was stalled, but Hitler vowed to smash the island nation; half-a-world away, in the Pacific, Japan's minister of war, Hideki Tojo, forged a brutal reputation with a murderous invasion of Manchuria and attack on French Indochina.

On December 7th 1941, the foreign war came to America. In the space of two hours a Japanese air assault on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii decimated the U.S. Pacific fleet and killed nearly 2500 servicemen. Within three days the world was at war; the President braced the country for the challenges that lay ahead.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

"We are now in this war. We're all in it – all the way. Every man, woman and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history."

Just two years earlier the U.S military was weak and the nation ill-prepared for battle. But as events overseas became increasingly ominous, the country began to rebuild its armed forces. December 7th shocked the nation into dramatic action.

"Remember Pearl Harbor" became America's battle cry. Eager young men anxious to fight flocked to armed services recruiting offices. Over five million volunteered for duty. Ten million more were drafted during the war. After eight weeks of basic training, these new recruits were battle-trained and ready to fight. New soldiers were given uniforms, weapons, supplies and standard haircuts; everything they needed was "Government Issue." It wasn't long before soldiers themselves were being referred to as 'Government Issue' or, "GIs."

Americans from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds signed up for the Armed Forces. Over one million African Americans served during the war – though segregation and prejudice forced them into support positions until near the end of the war. Women joined the fight too. During the war, over 250,000 women served in many roles - throughout the world – such as pilots, nurses and mechanics.

As the U.S. built its fighting forces, the President called upon the nation's manufacturing might to build the implements of war needed to fight the enemy.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

"We shall need everything that we have and everything that our allies have to defeat the Nazis and the Fascists in the coming battles on the continent of Europe and the Japanese on the continent of Asia and in the islands of the Pacific."

The U.S. mobilization for war stands among the monumental achievements in American history. In record time, the U.S. economy was completely transformed from producing peacetime goods to maximum war production. FDR established the War Production Board – the WPB – to direct the effort, and he set demanding goals.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

"In this year, 1942, we shall produce 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 20,000 anti-aircraft guns. We shall build eight million tons of merchant ships."

Nationwide drives were organized to collect scrap iron and tin, rags, paper - even cooking fat - to be recycled into war supplies. And metals and other raw materials were diverted for use in war production. New defense plants and shipyards sprang-up seemingly overnight and existing factories were converted to military manufacturing. Industrialist Henry J. Kaiser became a national hero as his shipyards built nearly 1500 "Liberty Ships." Henry Ford's massive assembly lines turned out a B-24 bomber every 63 minutes and the nation's railroads made delivering raw materials and war supplies their top priority.

After a decade-long depression, war production revitalized the U.S. economy. Suddenly, a nation with too few jobs had to work overtime to supply the Allied effort. As the nation's men left for the fighting front, women joined the workforce to fill the vacant positions. Many of them took jobs in the defense industry making "Rosie the Riveter" a legend of wartime production.

African Americans migrated from the rural south to work in the industrial centers of the north and west. Many were refused jobs because of their race - as a result President Roosevelt issued an executive order barring hiring discrimination in defense industries and the government and established the Fair Employment Practice Committee to report on unfair work practices, opening the doors of employment for more than two million African Americans. By the end of the war U.S. industry and the American worker were producing more weapons and firepower than all other nations combined.

Superior technology would prove vital to defeating the enemy. President Roosevelt established the OSRD - the Office of Scientific Research and Development - to bring America's leading scientists into the war effort. Many innovations developed or improved during World War II are still used today - like radar and sonar technology needed to spot enemy airplanes and submarines, and so called miracle drugs like penicillin - which prevented infection of battlefield wounds. Secretly, the OSRD was supervising a weapons project that would play a deciding role in the war - the creation of the first atomic bomb.

The cost of war was staggering. To finance the effort, government advertisements encouraged citizens to "Buy War Bonds;"

"BUY WAR BONDS" PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

"Pearl Harbor...Pearl Harbor...Pearl Harbor. What do they ask of us, the heroes that we mourn? What do they ask of us, our marching sons across the seas? To stand shoulder to shoulder with them here at home - to do the job of forging the guns of vengeance. Bonds are our weapons, stop on the way out. You want to say what is in your heart? Say it with bonds."

Americans responded by investing over \$185 billion dollars towards victory. Congress raised income taxes, and for the first time, deducted federal taxes from paychecks each week. To control inflation, Congress created the Office of Price Administration - the OPA - which froze the price of many goods. The OPA issued ration books - limiting the purchase of groceries, clothing and fuel and sending the badly needed surplus to supply Allied soldiers.

Americans grew “Victory Gardens” for food, they cut back on travel and car-pooled or rode bicycles to save precious gasoline – driving alone was considered unpatriotic.

The attack on Pearl Harbor unified the country in many ways, but it also stirred long-standing prejudice against Japanese immigrants in America. Bowing to political pressure, President Roosevelt ordered the immediate relocation of over 110,000 Japanese Americans to remote detention camps. They were forced to abandon or sell their homes and businesses – in some cases overnight. Many lost everything.

More than 70,000 of the relocated were Nisei - Japanese Americans born in America and citizens of the US. Despite the unfair treatment, the interned Japanese-Americans did their best to make the camps tolerable and remained loyal to the United States. Many Nisei even became US soldiers. Regrettably, more than 100,000 Japanese Americans spent the entire war in detention camps.

CHAPTER 2 - ACHIEVING VICTORY IN EUROPE

On December 22nd 1941 – just two weeks after Pearl Harbor - Winston Churchill arrived in Washington to meet with President Roosevelt. The British Prime Minister was grateful for a new ally in his fight against the Axis – and outspoken in his opinion of the enemy.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL:

“What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?”

FDR and Churchill met for two weeks plotting their war strategy. The leaders agreed that defeating Hitler would be their top priority. Once Europe was freed Allied forces could be re-deployed to help the U.S. defeat Japan.

The plan was set, but through the bleak months of 1942, the Nazi war machine marched on. In the Atlantic, Germany’s submarine attack groups - “wolf packs” – devastated Allied shipping. Nazi influence spread through the Mediterranean and into North Africa, threatening British colonies there. On the Eastern Front, German forces pushed deep into the Soviet Union – and descended on the city of Stalingrad. In the skies over Europe German anti-aircraft artillery exacted a heavy toll on Allied warplanes.

President Roosevelt knew the first step toward victory in Europe was to secure the trans-Atlantic supply lines.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

“The Axis Powers can never achieve their objective of world domination unless they first obtain control of the seas.”

To counter the U-boat menace, Allied warships began escorting supply ships across the sea in convoys. Air reconnaissance, long range torpedo bombers and the new technology of sonar helped the Allied

forces spot and destroy the German subs. A major breakthrough came when the British cracked Germany's coded communications. As a result, the Battle of the Atlantic swung in favor of the Allies and the German U-boat threat was neutralized. It was a critical turn in the war; with shipping lanes re-opened, U.S. war supplies began to flow freely to Great Britain, and preparations began for the first Allied land offensive.

It came on November 1942 as U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower - led 107,000 Allied troops ashore in Morocco and Algeria in North Africa. The British army was locked in a fierce battle with German General Erwin Rommel and his Axis forces. Eisenhower's troops battled eastward while the British fought west, trapping the Axis army in Tunisia. Months of heavy fighting ensued and 70,000 Allied lives were lost. But the Allies prevailed and General Rommel was forced to flee to Germany - leaving his once-unstoppable Afrika Korps to surrender.

The war was far from over but British Prime Minister Churchill knew the Battle of North Africa was a defining moment.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL:

"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

While the U.S. and Britain – the Western Allies – were fighting in North Africa, the Soviet Red Army refused to surrender the city of Stalingrad in the face of an overwhelming German onslaught. In November 1942 the Soviets launched a heroic counter-attack. The violent struggle lasted for two months. As the bitter winter set in, the German army faced frostbite, lice, starvation and defeat.

The epic Battle of Stalingrad devastated the city and left over one million Russians dead. The Soviet army began a steady march westward – towards Germany.

By the summer of 1943, Allied warplanes were bombing German cities day and night - slowly reducing them to rubble. Most attacks were aimed at military and industrial targets – like bridges, supply depots and factories. But increasingly Allied air forces targeted civilian centers for so called “terror bombing” – designed to demoralize the German public. In one raid - on the city of Dresden - the Allies dropped tons of incendiary bombs, creating a firestorm that killed more than 100,000. Before the war's end over 650,000 innocent Germans would perish from Allied bombing.

In July 1943, Allied troops struck off from North Africa in Operation Husky. Their mission was to invade Sicily – the steppingstone to the European continent. Within a month the Italian island was under Allied control and Italians revolted against their fascist leader Benito Mussolini. Italy's King stripped Mussolini of power and turned his back on Hitler - quitting the Axis alliance. War-weary Italians rejoiced.

Despite the success of Operation Husky, it would take another eighteen months of bloody fighting to drive the remaining Axis forces out of Italy.

In April 1945 Mussolini was captured by Italian resistance fighters while trying to flee the country. The once-pompous dictator was executed, and his body hung in Milan square. While the Soviet Army

marched through Poland and the Allies pushed north through Italy, Allied leaders finalized plans for the invasion of Nazi-occupied France and the liberation of Western Europe.

The mission was code-named “Operation Overlord,” but history would remember it as D-Day. It was the largest military operation ever mounted and would define an entire generation. The Allies would mount a massive assault across the English channel – on to the Normandy coast. Over 176,000 troops and 5000 ships prepared for the operation. On June 5, 1944 Allied troops mobilized. Warplanes departed from Britain dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines, Allied bombers strafed the coastline, battleships pummeled German defenses, while amphibious landing craft crossed the English Channel towards Normandy.

At daybreak on June 6th, 1944 – D-Day - British, Canadian and American soldiers fought their way ashore. The Allies sustained heavy casualties but managed to secure their beachheads and the massive supplies needed to fight the ground war came ashore. That night, President Roosevelt led the nation in prayer:

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT:

“...our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.”

Within a month there were a million Allied troops on the continent – fighting their way across France. As the Allies drew near to Paris, Hitler ordered the city burned. The German commander-in-charge refused and on August 25, 1944, he surrendered the city to French resistance fighters.

By September, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and much of the Netherlands were freed from Nazi control. While the Soviet Red Army closed in on Germany from the East.

By October, the Allies had captured the German city of Aachen, but Hitler ordered a counter-attack near the border with Belgium. The resulting dent in the Allied line gave the fight its name – the Battle of the Bulge. The Allies were pushed back with heavy losses of men and equipment. 100,000 Nazi and 19,000 Allied soldiers were killed, but in the end, the German Army was forced to retreat. It would be their last offensive.

Hitler’s dream of a thousand year Reich was crumbling. His country was in ruin - shattered by the onslaught of bombing and shelling; over 5 million of his soldiers had surrendered to the advancing Allied armies; and the German spirit was broken.

On April 23rd, the Soviet army stormed the German capital of Berlin. In face of defeat, Adolf Hitler took his own life – rather than surrender.

BBC RADIO BROADCAST:

“Here is a news flash: The German radio has just announced that Hitler is dead...”

200,000 Russian soldiers died capturing Berlin. Finally, on May 7th, 1945, the German High Command surrendered to Allied leaders. The long war in Europe was over.

There was joy in victory, but with Germany defeated, Allied troops came face-to-face with evidence of Nazi atrocities. Auschwitz. Dachau. Treblinka. Buchanwald. Concentration camps housing thousands of living corpses; countless Jews put to death in crematoriums and gas chambers; mass graves holding thousands of bodies; evidence of gruesome medical experiments conducted by the Nazis on their captives. History would reveal the true horrors of the Holocaust.

CBS Radio Broadcast

“We interrupt this program to bring you a special news bulletin from CBS World News – a press association has just announced that President Roosevelt is dead.”

Twelve years in the White House, a great depression and the world’s greatest war had taken their toll on Franklin Roosevelt.

With the passing of America’s Commander-in-Chief, the weight of war fell to Harry S. Truman. Fighting in Europe was over, but the battle against Japan raged on. The new president would take extraordinary measures to finish the war and return the world to peace.

CHAPTER 3 - ACHIEVING VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:

“The Japanese people have felt the weight of our land, air and navel attacks. Our blows will not cease until the Japanese military and navel forces lay down their arms in unconditional surrender.”

By the time President Truman assumed office in April 1945, the United States was winning the war against the Japanese and moving swiftly towards a land invasion of Japan’s home islands. But over three years of fighting in the Pacific had been every bit as perilous and costly as the war in Europe.

In the months following Pearl Harbor – Japan captured the U.S. outposts of Guam and Wake Island and the British colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore. In the Philippine Islands, Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific General Douglas MacArthur, was ordered to flee from a Japanese invasion – leaving behind 100,000 U.S. and Filipino troops as prisoners of war.

MacArthur vowed revenge.

U.S. GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR:

“I shall return.”

Despite the disastrous start, American spirits were lifted in April 1942. Colonel James Doolittle led a successful bombing run on Tokyo in a move designed to strike fear into the very heart of the Japanese. A month later, in the Battle of the Coral Sea, U.S. and Australian forces resisted an enemy attack, preventing a Japanese invasion of Australia.

In June 1942 the Japanese launched a secret plan to capture a U.S. military outpost at the Midway islands – a 1000 miles from Hawaii. But the U.S. intercepted a secret communication, and sent a carrier group to ambush the approaching armada. Japan struck first – waves of warplanes and fighters attacked U.S. forces on the island inflicting heavy damage.

The U.S. responded, sending torpedo planes and divebombers to attack the Imperial fleet. The first squadron met fierce resistance and suffered tremendous losses. But then, within the space of an hour, the U.S. turned the tide of battle by destroying three Japanese aircraft carriers. By late afternoon Japan was in full retreat.

Six months after Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway was a major turning point in the war with Japan. From that point forward, the United States was on the offensive.

General MacArthur devised the strategy of Island Hopping to fight the Japanese in the Pacific. The U.S. would “island hop” past Japan’s heavily defended islands and seize the more easily-defeated outposts. There, the United States could build landing strips and employ air power to cut Japan’s supply lines.

By August 1944 the US was island hopping steadily toward Japan - capturing Guadalcanal, Saipan, Tinian and Guam. By October the US Navy reached the Philippines. In the Battle of Leyte Gulf they fought the Japanese Fleet in the one of the greatest naval operations in history. The U.S. prevailed - General MacArthur had kept his promise to return.

After the crushing defeat the desperate Japanese began using what they called the divine wind - “Kamikazes” attacks. In these suicidal maneuvers Japanese pilots dove onto ships in bomb-loaded aircraft. Kamikaze attacks destroyed 36 US warships, badly damaged 368 others, and killed over 5000 sailors, but the divine wind failed to stop the Allied advance on Japan.

President Truman set November 1945 as the date for a land invasion of Japan. But to stage the attack, the U.S. would first need to capture the heavily fortified islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Advance air and naval bombardments were meant to soften enemy defenses for an amphibious invasion, but once on shore U.S. Marines were forced to fight a terrifying war of attrition. Snipers fired on the advancing soldiers from hidden entrenchments; the Marines fought back using flamethrowers and hand grenades to destroy the underground enemy.

When the last shots were fired, over 18,000 Marines had died fighting on Iwo Jima and Okinawa; 90,000 Japanese soldiers were dead. Over 100,000 Okinawan citizens perished as well; many of those who survived were homeless and shell-shocked.

As the U.S. marched across the sea toward Japan, daily raids by American B-29 bombers were destroying Japanese cities and killing thousands of civilians. In a single firebomb attack on Tokyo, over 100,000 innocent Japanese were incinerated. For Japan, defeat was inevitable, but the island nation refused to surrender.

The mounting loss of life worried President Truman. Military advisors cautioned that a quarter of a million American lives could be lost invading Japan. Shortly after becoming President, Harry Truman learned of “The Manhattan Project” a code name for the best-kept secret of World War II. A nuclear weapon

powerful enough to destroy an entire city. Testing in the New Mexico desert proved the atomic bomb not only worked, it was even more powerful than scientists predicted. President Truman was faced with a sobering decision: use the horrible weapon to end the war; or risk the lives of countless Allied troops in a land assault on Japan. With the urging of top aides and military advisors, Truman decided to drop the bomb on Japan.

The Allies issued a final appeal to Japan's military leaders to unconditionally surrender – this was known as the Potsdam Ultimatum. Still, Japan's military leaders remained defiant.

At 2:45 am on August 6th 1945 a B-29 bomber, the Enola Gay headed out over the Pacific towards the Japanese military center of Hiroshima. At 8:00 the atom bomb dropped clear of the plane. Forty three seconds later, the city of Hiroshima was annihilated.

That afternoon, President Truman again called for Japan to surrender. When Japan failed to respond a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, leveling half the city and killing more than 60,000. By the end of the year the death toll had reached more than 200,000 from injuries and radiation poisoning caused by the two bombs.

Finally, amid scenes of unimaginable death and destruction, Japan's Emperor Hirohito capitulated.

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:

"I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration where it specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan."

On September 2, 1945 Japan formally surrendered aboard the U.S. battleship Missouri in Tokyo bay.

U.S. GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR:

"The supreme commander of the Allied powers will now sign on behalf of all the nations at war with Japan."

The war was finally over and the world celebrated.

CHAPTER 4 - AFTER THE FIGHTING

World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history. More than 50 million soldiers and civilians died during the fighting, including 300,000 U.S. soldiers - the Holocaust alone claimed the lives of 11 million.

With the guns of aggression silenced, it was time to begin the long, slow task of rebuilding countries savaged by the fighting.

In February 1945 - three months before the defeat of Germany – Allied leaders met at Yalta in the Soviet Union to discuss Europe's reorganization. Other Postwar plans were laid at the conference in Potsdam, Germany five months later. While touring the ruins of Berlin, President Truman expressed hope for a more peaceful time ahead.

U.S. PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN:

"We're here today to raise the flag of victory over the capital of our greatest adversary. In doing that we must remember that in raising that flag we are raising it in the name of the people of the United States who are looking forward to a better world, a peaceful world, a world in which all the people will have an opportunity to enjoy the good things of life and not just a few at the top."

Post-war Germany was divided into four zones – individually administered by the U.S., Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. However, distrust between the Soviets and the Western Allies escalated, ushering in a 50 yearlong period of icy relations that would come to be called the Cold War. In 1946, an international tribunal tried Nazi leaders in Nuremberg, Germany – the first time in history a nation's leaders were held accountable for war crimes.

Japanese military leaders were put on trial as well – including General Hideki Tojo – who was convicted and executed for his crimes.

The closing months of the war also saw the birth of the United Nations – an international peacekeeping organization to succeed the League of Nations.

After the war Japan was occupied by U.S. forces commanded by General MacArthur. He introduced economic reforms to the country, leading Japan's markets to become among the world's most powerful. And MacArthur restructured their political system as well – convincing Japan to allow suffrage for women and other basic civic freedoms.

The United States was changed as well. The weakness of war-ravaged Europe and the growing threat of the Soviet Union led the U.S. to a new role as the world's leading economic and military power.

Before his death, President Roosevelt expressed hope that those who followed could learn from the horrors of this terrible war.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

"We have faith that future generations will know that here, in the middle of the twentieth century, there came a time when men of good will found a way to unite... and produce... and fight to destroy the forces of ignorance... and intolerance... and slavery... and war."

It would take decades to fully realize the changes wrought by World War II. But as soldiers returned home, they found their country, and themselves, fundamentally changed. And for many, a new more prosperous and more peaceful life lay ahead.

Blackline Masters

- [Blackline Master #1: Pre-Test](#)
- [Blackline Master #2: Video Quiz](#)
- [Blackline Masters #3a-3d: Post-Test](#)
- [Blackline Master #4: Discussion Questions](#)
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- [Blackline Master #10: Persuasion](#)

Activity: **Pre-Test (1)** Name _____

Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements, and circle whether they are true or false.

1. Americans from many races and ethnicities served in the armed forces during World War II.
True False
2. The United States developed the atomic bomb in secret.
True False
3. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans in the U.S. were involuntarily sent to relocation camps.
True False
4. Rationing of raw materials and food affected only European citizens.
True False
5. The United States' general strategy was to defeat Japan first, and then fight the war in Europe.
True False
6. The day Allied troops crossed the Rhine river and entered Germany is commonly referred to as "D-Day."
True False
7. President Roosevelt ordered the military to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.
True False
8. The United Nations was conceived during the closing months of the war as a world peacekeeping authority to replace the League of Nations.
True False
9. After the war, Nazi war criminals were put on trial for their crimes.
True False
10. The United States' emerged as the strongest military and economic power after World War II.
True False

Activity: **Video Quiz (2)** Name _____
Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the following statements, and circle whether they are true or false.

1. “Remember Pearl Harbor” became the United States’ battle cry for world peace.
True False
2. The OPA regulated raw materials to begin producing twice as many war materials.
True False
3. By 1945, one half of the work force consisted of women.
True False
4. Henry Kaiser revolutionized medicine with the drug penicillin, both on and off the battlefield.
True False
5. Air reconnaissance and radar helped spot and destroy German U-boats faster than Germany could build them.
True False
6. Operation Overlord was the plan to first invade France and the Hitler’s Germany.
True False
7. After the Battle of the Bulge, Germany’s army was left with no option but to retreat.
True False
8. Colonel James Doolittle used the strategy of “island hopping” to defeat the Japan in the Pacific.
True False
9. Franklin Delano Roosevelt suffered a fatal stroke, leaving Vice-President Harry S. Truman to assume the role of President.
True False
10. After more than 200,000 people died as a result of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrendered.
True False

Activity: **Post-Test (3a)** Name _____

Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

Multiple Choice

DIRECTIONS: Read each of the following statements. Then circle the best answer.

1. Which of the following American ethnic groups took part in the military effort during World War II?
 - a. Mexican Americans
 - b. American Indians
 - c. African Americans
 - d. All of the Above
2. Which of the following organizations supervised the production of planes, ships, and other war materials during the war?
 - a. DDT
 - b. WPB
 - c. OPA
 - d. All of the above
3. Which of the following was a result of the Office of Scientific Research and Development?
 - a. Improved radar and sonar detection
 - b. Development of pesticides and penicillin
 - c. Development of the atomic bomb
 - d. All of the above
4. Which of the following events took place during the Battle of the Atlantic?
 - a. German U-boats destroyed Allied Ships
 - b. First turning point on land
 - c. The surprise attacks lifted American morale
 - d. Both A and C
5. Which of the following statements are not true of D-Day?
 - a. Coast of Normandy, Germany
 - b. Paris liberated and troops move towards Germany
 - c. Americans captured first German town
 - d. Both A and C
6. Which of the following are true of the Battle of Midway?
 - a. A battle of carrier-based airplanes
 - b. U.S. and Australian forces lost more ships than Japan
 - c. 110 Japanese ships sailed toward strategic islands
 - d. First time Japanese invasion was prevented

Activity: **Post-Test (3b)** Name _____
 Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

7. Which strategy did General Douglas MacArthur conceive?
 - a. Atomic bomb
 - b. Kamikaze attacks
 - c. Island hopping
 - d. Convoys

8. Which of the following events led to the final decision to drop the atomic bomb?
 - a. The fierce combat at Iwo Jima and Okinawa
 - b. The 1.5 million British and American troops killed on Japan’s home islands
 - c. Japanese was no longer a factor in war
 - d. Both A and B

9. Which of the following were not included in the post-war decisions?
 - a. Free and open elections in Eastern Europe
 - b. Establish the League of Nations as a successor to the United Nations
 - c. Establish the five allies: U.S., Britain, Soviet Union, France and China
 - d. International tribunal of 23 nations tried Nazi war criminals

10. Which of the following does not describe the post-war role of the United States?
 - a. Reform Germany’s economy and political system
 - b. Strongest economy and world power
 - c. Soviet Union was growing as a threat to the U.S.
 - d. War trials were held in Germany

Short Answer Questions

Directions: Read each of the following statements and answer in one or two sentences.

11. List three reasons for the disappearance of unemployment in the United States.

12. Briefly describe the role of women and minorities in the work force once men were gone.

Activity: **Post-Test (3c)** Name _____
Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

13. Explain the events leading up to relocation of Japanese-Americans in the U.S.

14. List three economic controls placed by the government for citizens.

15. What were the three general strategies decided upon by Churchill and Roosevelt after the attack on Pearl Harbor?

16. Describe the purpose of the invasion of Operation Torch in North Africa and Italy.

17. Briefly describe the first concentration camp found by Soviet soldiers.

Activity: **Post-Test (3d)** Name _____
Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

18. Identify the reasons the United States decided to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Essay Questions

Directions: Write a short essay in response to each statement on separate piece of paper.

19. Describe in detail the effects of World War II on everyday life at home in the United States, such as rationing, economic controls, and employment.
20. Highlight three major turning points of war or military campaigns of each, Europe and the Pacific region.

Activity: **Discussion Questions (4)** Name _____
Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

1. Discuss the military preparations on the home front and their effect on unemployment.
2. Describe examples for the science, medicine, and technology advances during the war.
3. Explain the reasoning for the Japanese-American relocation camps and the U.S. government's reaction forty years later.
4. What were the effects on everyday life for civilians during the war?
5. What were the major turning points of the war for achieving victory?
6. Compare and contrast the military campaigns used for both Europe and the Pacific regions.
7. Describe the employment of nuclear weapons and the controversies.
8. Explain the purpose for establishing the United Nations.
9. Discuss the events of the Postdam conference and the approval of the first time war trials.
10. What was the role of the United States after the war, and what were its global responsibilities?

Activity: **Vocabulary Terms (5)** Name _____
Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

G.I. (Government Issue)

An enlisted person in or a veteran of any of the U.S. armed forces, especially a person enlisted in the Army.

Atomic Bomb

A nuclear weapon in which enormous energy is released by nuclear fusion

D-Day

June 6, 1944; the day on which the Allies invaded France during World War II.

V-E Day

“Victory Europe” – May 8, 1945, the day on which the Allies announced the surrender of German forces in Europe

Final Solution

The Nazi program of exterminating Jews during the Third Reich

Concentration Camp

A camp where civilians, enemy aliens, political prisoners, and sometimes prisoners of war are detained and confined, typically under harsh conditions.

Draft

The process or method of selecting one or more individuals from a group, as for a service or duty

Convoy

A group, as of ships, traveling together with a protective escort for safety

Wolf Pack

A group of submarines that attack a single vessel or a convoy

Mobilize

To become prepared for or as if for war

Activity: **Turning Points (6)** Name _____
 Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following chart of the major turning points in the war for both, Europe and the Pacific. The left column is either the name of the battle or the date of the turning point. The right column is the event that changed the war for the Allies.

Europe	
Battle of Stalingrad	
	Heavy casualties, but successful in securing beach heads
	Americans capture first German town, Aachen
April 25, 1945	
Pacific	
	First time Japanese invasion prevented (Australia)
Battle of Midway	
	Japan abandons island, first time Japan's defeated on land
Battle of Leyte Gulf	

Activity: **The Final Decision (8)** Name _____
 Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: President Harry Truman was faced with making one of the most difficult decisions in history, whether or not to use the atomic bomb. Research Truman’s library on the Internet. Study some of his conversations up to the final decision, and answer the following questions based on your findings. Websites: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org>

What are some of the moral implications that correspond to dropping the atomic bomb?

List three advantages and three disadvantages to using the atomic bomb.

Do you believe President Truman made the right decision? If yes, please explain, and if no, provide alternative to end the war.

Activity: **Thank You Note (9)** Name _____

Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: During the course of World War II, many individuals helped make a difference in the way we live our lives. Choose a demographic of individuals who you think have made your life and the lives of others different and write a thank you note to them. It may be the soldiers, the racial minority soldiers and workers, working women, scientists, Japanese-Americans, or anyone else you feel helped impact your life today.

Activity: **Persuasion (10)** Name _____
 Subject: **World War II—The World at War** Date _____

DIRECTIONS: As many Americans were asked to change their way of life during the war, propaganda was the leading cause in making it possible for a nation to rally together for success. Explore the web site listed below and choose one of the examples of propaganda. It may be a speech, poster, song, or something else you find. http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/powers_of_persuasion_home.html

Describe the propaganda you chose. (Give a quote from the text, lyrics, or describe the poster)

What is the purpose of the propaganda?

When does the propaganda take place during the war?

Do you think your selection of propaganda achieved its goal? Why or why not?

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WORLD WAR II—THE WORLD AT WAR

WORLD WAR II

THE POST-WAR YEARS

VIETNAM

COLD WAR

THE SIXTIES

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO U.S. CIVICS

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