

World War II

Day 1

Lesson 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. During the 1930s, totalitarian governments rose to power in Europe and Japan.
2. German expansion led to the start of World War II in Europe in 1939.
3. The United States joined the war after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Key Terms and People

totalitarianism political system in which the government controls every aspect of citizens' lives

Benito Mussolini fascist Italian dictator who ruled from 1922 to 1943

fascism political system in which the government is seen as more important than individuals

Adolf Hitler politician and World War I veteran who took advantage of public anger to become chancellor of Germany in 1933

Nazis National Socialist Party members; controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945

Joseph Stalin Communist dictator of the Soviet Union who gained control in 1928

Axis powers World War II alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan

appeasement policy of avoiding war by giving in to demands

Winston Churchill British prime minister during World War II

Allied powers alliance between Great Britain and France in 1939, and later, the Soviet Union and the United States

Lend-Lease Act law allowing the president to aid any nation vital to U.S. defense

Pearl Harbor U.S. naval base in Hawaii attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941

Lesson Summary

THE RISE OF TOTALITARIANISM

The 1930s were hard times. Many people were willing to give up rights to leaders who promised them a better future. In Europe and Asia, some countries moved toward **totalitarianism**.

Why did totalitarian leaders gain support in Europe and Asia after World War I?

Lesson 1, *continued*

Benito Mussolini took control of Italy in 1922. Under **fascism**, Mussolini restored order and improved the economy.

In Germany **Adolf Hitler** used anger over World War I to gain power. His **Nazis** took control in 1933.

Joseph Stalin became dictator of the Soviet Union in 1929. Stalin ruled by fear and scare tactics. He killed or jailed millions.

In Japan military leaders slowly took over the government. Then in 1931 Japan invaded northern China.

GERMANY EXPANDS

Hitler rebuilt the military in Germany. His goal was to start a new empire. In 1936 Germany joined Italy and Japan to form the **Axis powers**. Hitler took over part of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Although Britain and France were allied with Czechoslovakia, they chose **appeasement**. But British admiral Winston Churchill warned that the policy would fail.

In 1939 Germany and the Soviet Union made a secret pact to split Poland between them. Germany attacked Poland and won, starting World War II. The **Allied powers** declared war on Germany.

In 1940 Germany conquered much of Europe, including France. Britain stood alone. With new radar technology, the British Royal Air Force was able to stop an invasion of Britain.

THE UNITED STATES JOINS THE WAR

Most Americans wanted to stay out of the war in Europe. In 1941 the **Lend-Lease Act** was passed to allow the president to aid any nation vital to U.S. defense. The United States began sending supplies to Britain and other Allied countries.

What countries were included in the Axis powers?

Underline the name of the new technology that helped the British prevent a German invasion.

World War II

Day 2

Lesson 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Businesses, soldiers, and citizens worked to prepare the United States for war.
2. The war brought new opportunities for many women and minorities.
3. Japanese Americans faced internment during the war.

Key Terms and People

War Production Board agency that converted factories for war production

A. Philip Randolph African American labor leader

Tuskegee Airmen African American pilots who trained in Tuskegee, Alabama

Benjamin O. Davis Jr. group leader of Tuskegee Airmen and later the first African American general in the U.S. Air Force

zoot-suit riots Los Angeles riots in which white mobs attacked Mexican Americans

internment imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II

Lesson Summary

DOMINANCE OF BIG BUSINESS

The Great Depression finally ended as the United States mobilized for war. The **War Production Board** was created. The Selective Training and Service Act started the first peacetime draft in the history of the United States. More than 16 million Americans served in World War II.

To fund the war, the government raised taxes and sold war bonds. Americans also gathered scrap metal for war production factories. Government rations curbed the nonmilitary use of gasoline, rubber, shoes, and some kinds of food.

Circle the number of Americans who served in World War II.

WARTIME OPPORTUNITIES

Women took on a new role in World War II. Because so many men left to fight in the war, women were urged to fill factory jobs. Women also served in the armed forces, some as pilots

Why did women take factory jobs during the war?

Lesson 2, *continued*

and as nurses. Over 300,000 women served in the armed forces during World War II.

The Great Migration continued as African Americans moved north to find factory jobs supporting the war effort. A march was planned by A. **Philip Randolph** to protest lower wages for African Americans. It was called off when Roosevelt ended the practice of racial discrimination in factories that produced war goods.

About 1 million African Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Most of them were sent to support jobs in segregated units. The **Tuskegee Airmen**, under the leadership of **Benjamin O. Davis Jr.**, flew thousands of successful missions in North Africa and Italy.

About 300,000 Mexican Americans served in the military during the war. Many also found wartime jobs in the West and Midwest. Mexico supplied farm workers to ease a lack in the United States. Despite their aiding the war effort, Mexican Americans faced discrimination. In Los Angeles in June 1943, groups of sailors attacked Mexican Americans wearing zoot suits. Zoot suits were fancy, loose-fitting outfits with oversized hats. This started the **zoot-suit riots**.

JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, fear of Japanese Americans on the West Coast increased. No evidence to back up the fear was offered, but the government began the process of **internment** of Japanese Americans. About 120,000 people, many of them native-born Americans, were forced to move and were held in internment camps. Many lost their jobs, homes, and belongings.

After Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans could not join the military. This policy ended in 1943.

Explain how World War II helped some African Americans.

Underline the name of the African American unit of pilots who flew in World War II.

When were Japanese Americans moved to internment camps?

World War II

Day 3

Lesson 3**MAIN IDEAS**

1. The Allies fought back against the Axis powers in North Africa and Europe.
2. Key Allied victories halted the German advance.
3. In the D-Day invasion, Allied forces attacked German-controlled France.

Key Terms and People

Battle of El Alamein battle in which Montgomery's British troops stopped Rommel's *Afrika Korps* in North Africa in November 1942

Dwight D. Eisenhower American general who commanded Allied forces in Europe; later elected U.S. president

Battle of Stalingrad key battle in which Soviets stopped German advance in winter of 1943

D-Day date of Allied sea invasion of occupied France—June 6, 1944

Lesson Summary**THE ALLIES FIGHT BACK**

When the United States entered the war, President Roosevelt met with British prime minister Winston Churchill. They decided to attack German forces in North Africa before an invasion of Europe. This angered the Soviet Union, which had been hoping for help on the eastern front.

New technology helped in the effort. Long-range planes dropped bombs on German factories, railroads, and cities. Sonar detected German U-boats.

What decision caused the Soviet Union to be angry with the Allies after the United States entered the war?

HALTING THE GERMAN ADVANCE

By 1942 the Germans and the British were fighting in North Africa. They were fighting for control of the Suez Canal. The British forces stopped the German attack at the **Battle of El Alamein**. American general **Dwight D. Eisenhower** led U.S. and British troops through

Why did the Germans and the British fight in North Africa?

Lesson 3, continued

Morocco and Algeria. Trapped, the Germans surrendered in May 1943.

After taking control of North Africa, the Allies moved into Europe. They attacked Italy in 1943. Italian leaders removed Mussolini from power and surrendered to the Allies. Germany sent troops to Italy to stop the Allies. German forces were not pushed out of Italy until 1945.

At the same time, German and Soviet troops were fighting on the eastern front in the Soviet Union. Hitler ordered the German troops not to retreat. However, Germany did not send enough supplies or fresh troops. The German forces surrendered due to supply shortages and the harsh winter. The Soviets blocked the German advance at the **Battle of Stalingrad**, a key turning point in the war. More than 1 million Soviet soldiers died and about 800,000 Axis soldiers were killed.

Where was the eastern front of World War II in 1943?

THE D-DAY INVASION

After succeeding in North Africa and Italy, the Allies made plans to move into France. At the time, the Germans controlled France. General Eisenhower was in charge of planning the largest sea-to-land invasion ever attempted. The invasion took place on **D-Day**, named for the “designated day” of the attack—June 6, 1944.

More than 156,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches in Normandy, France. The Germans had placed mines and soldiers along the coast to repel the invasion. Although they suffered heavy losses, the Allies took control of all five beaches by the end of D-Day. Then they could begin moving east through France toward Germany.

Underline the name of the general in charge of the D-Day landing in France.

Why did the Allies suffer heavy casualties during the D-Day landing?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Make Inferences Imagine that you are an American soldier on D-Day. Write a

World War II

Day 4

Lesson 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Japanese continued advancing across the Pacific in 1942.
2. The Allies stopped Japan's advance with key victories over the Japanese navy.
3. The Allies began battling toward Japan.

Key Terms and People

Douglas MacArthur general who commanded U.S. ground troops in the Pacific

Bataan Death March forced march of American and Filipino prisoners on the Bataan Peninsula, during which many died

Chester Nimitz American admiral who commanded U.S. Pacific fleet

Battle of the Coral Sea naval battle in which the American fleet prevented Japanese invasion of Australia

Battle of Midway key Pacific battle in which Japanese navy was severely weakened

island hopping strategy of attacking only key Pacific islands

Battle of Leyte Gulf largest naval battle in history; American navy defeated the Japanese navy to retake the Philippines

kamikaze tactic of purposely crashing piloted planes into enemy ships

Lesson Summary

JAPAN ADVANCES

The attack on Pearl Harbor left the U.S. Pacific fleet weak. As a result the fleet was not able to react immediately to the assault. In the meantime Japan was able to conquer much of Asia and the Pacific. American forces under the command of U.S. General **Douglas MacArthur** could not stop Japan's advance in the Philippines. MacArthur was forced to leave. MacArthur's forces could not stop the Japanese advance. More than 600 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died in the **Bataan Death March**.

Why were the Japanese able to conquer much of the Pacific after the attack on Pearl Harbor?

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Lesson 4, *continued***KEY ALLIED VICTORIES**

The Allies feared a Japanese attack on India, Australia, or the U.S. mainland. American code breakers learned to read the Japanese secret code, and Admiral **Chester Nimitz** found out that Japan planned to attack Australia. His aircraft carriers and fighter planes fought the Japanese in the **Battle of the Coral Sea** and stopped the invasion.

The Allies learned that Japan was planning a surprise attack on the Midway Islands. Nimitz was ready for the attack. The Allies destroyed four Japanese carriers at the **Battle of Midway**, badly weakening the Japanese navy. This allowed U.S. Marines to invade Guadalcanal. Allied forces took full control of the island six months later.

BATTLING TOWARD JAPAN

The battles at Midway and Guadalcanal were key victories. This **island hopping** strategy was successful but hard to execute. The Allied forces slowly moved across the Pacific.

In October 1944 General MacArthur led his forces to retake the Philippines. The Allies won the **Battle of Leyte Gulf**. After the battle MacArthur's troops fought for many more months to drive out the remaining Japanese forces.

Allied planes began bombing Japan in November 1944. At this time they fought two of the fiercest battles of the war on the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Near Okinawa, Japanese pilots used **kamikaze** tactics against American ships. More than 2,500 kamikaze missions were flown. After the victories at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Allies began to plan an assault on the main Japanese islands.

What advantage did the American Pacific fleet have over the Japanese?

What general led the mission to regain control of the Philippines?

Underline the tactics Japanese pilots used at the Battle of Okinawa.

World War II

Day 5

Lesson 5



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Allies gained victory in Europe with Germany's surrender.
2. Nazis murdered millions of Jews and other people in the Holocaust.
3. Victory in the Pacific came after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan.

Key Terms and People

Battle of the Bulge key battle at the Ardennes forest; Allies were victorious after an initially successful German attack

Harry S. Truman vice-president who became president when Roosevelt died in 1945

Holocaust Nazi program of mass murder against the Jewish people

genocide extermination of an entire group of people

Manhattan Project secret American research program to develop the atomic bomb

atomic bomb weapon that produces tremendous power by splitting atoms

Lesson Summary

GERMANY SURRENDERS

After the D-Day invasion, hundreds of thousands of Allied troops landed in France. By August 1944 Allied troops had taken control of Paris from the Germans. At the same time, Soviet troops were headed for Germany from the east.

In December Hitler ordered a massive attack against the Allies, whose planes were grounded due to bad weather. Germany pushed forward about 65 miles, creating a bulge in the front lines. The Allies recovered quickly and their planes were able to fly. The Allied victory at the **Battle of the Bulge** put Germans on the defensive for the rest of the war.

The Allies began bombing raids on German cities. These raids killed thousands of civilians. As Allied troops surrounded Berlin, Hitler

How did the Allied airplanes' initial inability to fly affect the Battle of the Bulge?

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_____	_____
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Lesson 5, continued

committed suicide. The Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Roosevelt died before the German surrender. **Harry S. Truman** became president and faced the challenge of winning the war in the Pacific.

Underline the name of the U.S. president who accepted the German surrender.

HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

As the Allied forces liberated Europe, they discovered that stories of the **Holocaust** were true. Soon after taking power, Hitler had begun a campaign against the Jews. The Nazis destroyed or seized property and moved the Jews to ghettos and concentration camps.

Hitler's "final solution" was **genocide**. He planned to get rid of all of the Jewish people, killing millions in death camps. About 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. The Nazis also murdered millions of other people.

What was Hitler's "final solution"?

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

The Allied planners projected that an invasion of Japan could cause more than 1 million Allied deaths. They had another option, based on research results of the **Manhattan Project**. When Japanese leaders refused to surrender, President Truman gave the order to use the **atomic bomb**.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped above the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Almost 80,000 people were killed instantly. Thousands died later. Japanese leaders refused to surrender, and a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. The Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945.

Underline the names of the two cities where atomic bombs have been dropped during a war.

AFTER THE WAR

After six years World War II was over. About 50 million people had been killed. More than half of them were civilians. Economies were badly damaged, and millions of people were left without food, water, or shelter. Because the

Why did the United States have to take charge of much of the rebuilding in Europe and Asia?