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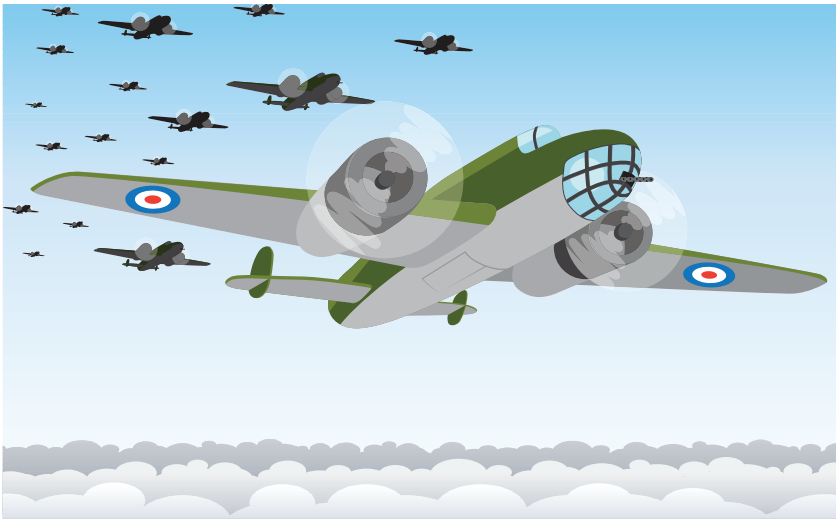
World War II: War in Europe

World War II was the most destructive war in history. It killed more people and destroyed more property than any other war. While the war was fought in nearly every part of the world, more people were killed in Europe than anywhere else. Millions upon millions of European soldiers and citizens were killed during the war. Millions more were displaced from their homes. Let's learn about World War II in Europe to understand why it was so devastating.



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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about World War II, you can start by searching the key words "World War II."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. World War II began on _____ when Nazi Germany invaded_____.
2. In 1940, about 338,000 Allied troops evacuated from the seaport of _____ to England.
3. What happened on June 22, 1941?

4. Troops who rallied around _____ became know as the Free French.
5. Germany attacked which three countries on May 10, 1940?

6. What Russian city suffered greatly while it was besieged from September 1941 through January 1944?

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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7. Who was supreme commander of the Allied Forces and directed the D-Day invasion?

8. In 1944, Germany used the first guided missiles against the United Kingdom.

   These were the _____ and _____ missiles.

9. What did Adolf Hitler do on April 30, 1945?

True or False

Write "True" if the statement about World War II is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

_____ 10. German U-boats sank thousands of tons of Allied shipping in the Atlantic Ocean.

_____ 11. In 1939, Germany invaded Finland and began what became known as the Winter War.

_____ 12. Adolf Hitler's forces killed approximately 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust.

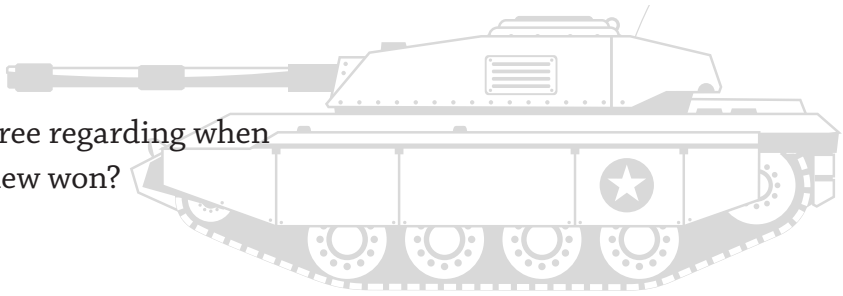
_____ 13. On D-Day, the Allied invasion took place near Calais.

_____ 14. *Operation Barbarossa* was the code name for the German invasion of France.

15. What did Franklin Roosevelt mean when he asked his fellow Americans to become "the arsenal of democracy"?

16. Name three reasons why Adolf Hitler decided to invade the Soviet Union.

17. How did Roosevelt and Churchill disagree regarding when to invade western Europe and whose view won?



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18. What happened to Benito Mussolini in April 1945?

19. Name two ways that the Ultra secret helped the Allies defeat Germany.

Name the Country

In the line provided, write which country is being referred to in the statement.

_____ 20. The country where the battles of Kursk, Leningrad, and Stalingrad were fought.

_____ 21. The country that surrendered to the Allies on September 3, 1943 - only a couple of months after it was invaded.

_____ 22. The country from which the Allies retreated from Dunkerque in 1940 and returned in 1944 at Normandy.

_____ 23. The country whose surrender on May 8, 1945, ended the war in Europe.

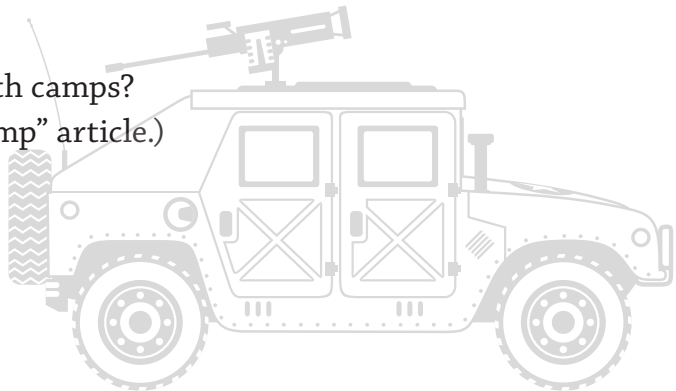
_____ 24. The country whose Royal Air Force (RAF) helped prevent a German invasion in 1940.

_____ 25. The country invaded by Italian forces in 1940.

26. Who were the Tuskegee Airmen? (Hint: For this question see the "Tuskegee Airmen" article.)

27. What was the Dieppe Raid, and which country suffered the most fatalities in the raid? (Hint: For this question see the "Dieppe Raid" article.)

28. What six concentration camps served as Nazi death camps? (Hint: for this question see the "Concentration camp" article.)



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29. Who was Rudolf Hess, and what did he do in May 1941? (Hint: For this question see the "Rudolf Hess" article.)

30. What was the Katyn Massacre, and who committed this act? (Hint: For this question see the "Katyn Massacre" article.)

31. Who was Raoul Wallenberg, and what did he do during World War II? (Hint: For this question see the "Raoul Wallenberg" article.)

Map It!

Within the "World War II" article, you will find the map "World War II in Europe: 1943-1945." Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. In July 1943, the Germans and Russians fought an important battle near which Soviet city?

33. The Allied supply route to the Soviet Union ended in which northern Soviet city?

34. Besides Spanish Morocco, which five countries on the map were neutral during World War II?

Timeline

Imagine that you are a war correspondent who wrote about all of the following events.

_____Allied forces invade Sicily

_____Allied troops invade Normandy on D-Day

_____Battle of Britain begins

_____Battle of the Bulge begins

_____Battle of Stalingrad begins

_____British forces defeat Germany at El Alamein

_____British troops evacuate from Dunkerque

_____Germany invaded Poland

_____Germany invades the Soviet Union

_____Germany surrenders unconditionally

_____Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference

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Extension Activity 1

Write a 1-2 page paper about how Winston Churchill and/or Adolf Hitler affected the outcome of the war. Use facts to justify your opinions regading their roles.

Extension Activity 2

Write a 1-2 page paper theorizing how the history of the world would have been different if Germany had won World War II. Topics to consider, but are not limited to, include:

- What would the map of Europe and the rest of the world have looked like?
- Would Germany have invaded and possibly occupied the United States?
- Would there have been a "Cold War" between the United States and Germany?
- Would Israel exist? If not, what would the Middle East have looked like?
- How many more people would have been killed in the Holocaust?
- What would have happened when Adolf Hitler died?

Extension Activity 3

Write a 1-2 page letter from the perspective of a German citizen who lived through World War II and is telling a friend (a student of the future!) how the war impacted him or her. Topics to consider, but are not limited to, include:

- How did you feel about the German army's initial success and later defeat?
- What did you think when you heard that Adolf Hitler committed suicide?
- What were your thoughts when you first heard about the Holocaust?
- What was life like living in a country devastated by war? What was life like right after the war ended?
- What was it like having Allied bombs raining down on your city day and night?
- How did you feel when you learned that your nation surrendered?

Read more about World War II by visiting World Book's eBook collection:

World War II in Europe. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook* Web. 23 Nov. 2015. <http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2575-9/detail.do>.

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