

BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II - Mapping Activity Project

<u>Supplies Needed</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>To be made</u>
Scissors	Textbook (pp.773, 791, 797, 916, 917, atlas maps)	Map legend (key)
Colored pencils		Map of Europe and N. Africa
Glue stick/glue		Map of Pacific Region
Poster sized paper (1)		

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read, discuss and follow the directions very carefully. Follow the steps in order - do NOT Skip around!
2. Cut out a legend from a blank sheet of paper.
3. On the poster put your name and class period. Glue both sets of maps and the legend on the poster.
4. Label maps:
 - Europe
 - Pacific
5. Color the legend accordingly:
 - Axis Powers - green
 - Allied Powers - red
 - Axis controlled countries - purple
 - Neutral countries - light brown
 - Japanese Empire 1942 - pink
 - Allied victories - yellow (create a victory symbol)
 - Axis victories - orange (create a victory symbol)
 - Allied Advances - red
 - Axis Advances - green
 - Atomic Bomb - red and yellow stripe
6. Define/identify all boldfaced words (on a separate sheet of paper)

THE AXIS POWERS MAKE EARLY GAINS: 1939-1941

Two days after Hitler ordered his armies into Poland, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. The British and French thus ended their policy of **appeasement** that for five years had enabled Hitler to seize territory in Eastern Europe without opposition. But before the British and French could send help to Poland, the German **blitzkrieg** overran the country with tanks, infantrymen, dive-bombers, and other aircraft.

After the fall of Poland, the German war machine swept through northern and Western Europe. Denmark and Norway surrendered then Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Allied forces in France found themselves in a desperate situation. With German armies closing in, the Allies retreated to Dunkirk a port city along the northern coast of France. From there, more than 300,000 British, French and Belgian troops managed to escape across the English Channel to Great Britain. **Benito Mussolini**, the dictator of Italy, announced that his country would never give up. Soon afterward, France surrendered. Great Britain was the only remaining Allied nation in Western Europe. In July 1940, the **Luftwaffe** - the German air force - began bombing British airfields and ports. Hitler hoped to force the British to surrender. But the Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** vowed that his country would never surrender. Britain's **Royal Air Force (RAF)** though outnumbered had better planes and pilots. Month after month, the **Luftwaffe** carried on a massive aerial bombardment. Nightly raids were made on London and other cities. Yet the British kept up a determined resistance. The **RAF** shot down more than 2,000 German planes and forced Hitler to abandon his plan of capturing the British Isle. **The Battle of Britain**, as it came to be known, was one of the turning points of World War II. Not only was Great Britain saved, but the British showed that the **Luftwaffe** could be defeated.

Meanwhile, the Germans and Italian gained new territories in Eastern Europe and Africa. Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia joined the Axis Powers. Hitler sent the **Afrika Korps**, a highly motorized and heavily equipped army under **General Erwin Rommel**, to help the Italians seize lands in North Africa, then, in the summer of 1941, 3 million Axis troops invaded Russia. Hitler expected a quick victory that would give him control over Russia's vast supplies of food, petroleum and other raw materials. But as the Russians retreated, they burned or destroyed their own factories, dams, railroads, food supplies and other resources in order to prevent them from falling into German hands.

On the map of Europe and North Africa:

1. Locate and label in **CAPITAL LETTERS**, **GERMANY** and **ITALY** the leading Axis Powers in Europe. Color them according to the legend
2. Print "Hitler" inside of Germany.
3. Print "Mussolini" inside of Italy.
4. Label in **GREAT BRITAIN** and **RUSSIA**, the 2 major Allied Powers in Europe that the Germans failed to capture. Color according to the legend

5. Label and color (legend) the countries of Europe that remained neutral:

PORTUGAL
SWEDEN

SPAIN

SWITZERLAND

IRELAND

6. Label and color (legend) the countries in Europe that were under Axis control by the summer of 1941:

AUSTRIA
CZECHOSLOVAKI
POLAND
DENMARK
NORWAY
ROMANIA

THE NETHERLANDS
FRANCE
HUNGARY
BULGARIA
YUGOSLAVIA
LITHUANIA

ALBANIA
GREECE
LATVIA
ESTONIA
FINLAND
BELGIUM

7. Label and color light blue the following bodies of water:

ARCTIC OCEAN
BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
NORTH SEA

BALTIC SEA
ATLANTIC OCEAN

8. Draw in color an arrow (legend) to show an Axis advanced starting in Germany and extending into Poland.

9. Draw in color (legend) an Allied victory symbol next to London. Print - "1940-41 Battle of Britain" next to the symbol

10. Draw in color (legend) an arrow to show an Axis advance starting from Germany and extending into Russia. Print - "1941: Germany attacks Russia" next to the line.

AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR: 1941

When World War II began in 1939, the United States remained neutral. But German victories in Europe soon convinced **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** that the Untied States should start sending war materials to the Allies. He wanted America to become the "arsenal of democracy". Congress responded by passing the Lend-Lease Act in 1941. It provided the Allies, especially Great Britain and Russia with more than \$50 million worth of arms, food, and other supplies. American and British ships helped transport these goods across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. German submarines, or U-boats, constantly harassed Allied shipping lanes throughout the war. Eventually, the Allies were able to destroy more U-boats than were able to sink Allied ships.

Some of the Lend-Lease aid went to China, which had come under the attack of Japan in 1937. When the Japanese occupied Indochina in 1940, the United States stopped shipping gasoline, iron, steel, and other materials that might help Japan's armed forces. Relations between the United States and Japan grew steadily worse. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese suddenly struck the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The secret raid was carried out by a fleet of 33 ships and more than 300 warplanes. More than 3,000 Americans were killed or wounded. The U.S. Pacific Fleet was dealt a crippling blow. President Roosevelt called December 7, "a date which will live in infamy".

He asked Congress to declare war on Japan, and the declaration was quickly approved. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States. Congress responded by declaring war on Germany and Italy.

On the Map of Europe and North Africa:

1. Draw an arrow in black starting from the Atlantic Ocean and pointed towards Great Britain.
Next to the line, print - "1941-45 Lend-Lease Supply lines attacked".

On the map of the Pacific Region:

1. Label the following

INDIAN OCEAN	ALASKA	CORAL SEA
CHINA	GUAM	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
AUSTRALIA	IWO JIMA	JAPAN
MIDWAY ISLANDS	CANADA	SOVIET UNION
KOREA	UNITED STATES	PACIFIC OCEAN
GUADALCANAL	HAWAIIAN ISLANDS	FORMOSA (Taiwan)
NEW GUINEA		

2. Color all dotted lands according to the legend showing Japanese Empire 1942.
3. Color the U.S. an Allied Power according to the legend.
4. Locate the Hawaiian Islands and print next to them: "Dec. 7, 1941 - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor".
5. Color all bodies of water light blue.
6. Color all other countries in colors of your choice (Make sure you do NOT use any colors from the legend).

THE ALLIES DEFEAT THE AXIS POWERS IN NORTH AFRICA AND EUROPE: 1941-1945

The tide of war turned in favor of the Allies late in 1941. German armies that had swept into Russia became bogged down in the mud, snow, and bitter cold of the winter season. They failed to capture Moscow and Stalingrad. A Russian counter-offensive forced them to retreat.

American and British troops ended Axis resistance in North Africa during 1942 and 1943. Hitler had hoped to seize Egypt in order to control the Suez Canal and gain access to oil fields in the Middle East. But Rommel's Afrika Korps were caught between two Allied Armies. A British force, commanded by **General Bernard L. Montgomery**, pushed the Germans and Italians westward from Egypt. A second Allied army under the command of **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** of the U.S. advanced eastward from Algeria and Morocco. The Allies won decisive battles at El Alamein Egypt and in the country of Tunisia.

After their victories in North Africa, the Allies crossed the Mediterranean Sea and attacked Italy. Political pressure in Italy led Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to resign. The new Italian

government surrendered, but the Germans continued to defend the country. The Allies fought their way up the Peninsula and captured the cities of Naples, Rome, and Florence.

Meanwhile, back in Great Britain, the Allies were ready to launch a great invasion across the English Channel to the northern coast of France. President Roosevelt and the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill selected General Eisenhower as supreme commander of the **Allied Expeditionary Force**. The Allies had 3 million men, 16 million tons of weapons and supplies, 9,000 boats of various sizes, and 11,000 aircraft.

Eisenhower's men landed on the Normandy coast of France on "D-Day", June 6, 1944. In the months that followed the Allies drove through France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The Germans launched a fierce counter attack, but were defeated at the **Battle of the Bulge**. Next, the Allies pushed forward into Germany. The Russian army by this time had fought its way through Poland and into Germany from the east. The Germans realized their position was hopeless, and surrendered on May 8, 1945.

In the final days of the war in Europe, Italians who supported the Allies captured Mussolini and executed him. In Germany, Hitler committed suicide.

On the map of Europe and North Africa:

1. Draw in color an Allied victory symbol (legend) at Moscow and Stalingrad to show Russian victories against the invading German army.
2. Draw in color an Allied victory symbol (legend) at El Alamein.
3. Draw in color 2 Allied advance arrows (see legend):
 - Starting at Morocco to Tunisia
 - Starting at Morocco to Libya
4. Draw in color (legend) an Allied victory symbol in Tunisia. Print next to it: "1943"
5. Draw in color an Allied advanced arrow (legend) starting at Tunisia, go across the Mediterranean Sea to Sicily and then up to Italy. Next to the arrow print: "1944 Italy surrenders"
6. Draw in color (legend) an Allied victory symbols at: Naples, Rome, and Florence, Italy
7. In Northern France print: "D-Day - June 6, 1944."
8. Draw in color an Allied advance arrow (legend) starting in northern France and ending in the middle of Germany - draw in color an Allied victory symbol (legend) where the arrow ends.
→ ←)
9. Draw in color (legend) an Allied advance arrow starting near Moscow, continuing through Poland and ending in the middle of Germany. (It should be pointing at the arrow you drew in step 8
→ ←)
10. Where the arrows from step 8 and 9 meet, print: "May 8, 1945 - Germany surrenders".

THE U.S. DEFEATS JAPAN IN THE PACIFIC REGION: 1942-1945

In the months following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese added new lands to their empire. By the spring of 1942, Japan controlled a vast area that included Korea, Burma, Thailand, Indochina, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippine Islands, part of China, and hundreds of island stretching from Alaska to Australia.

The United States was finally able to halt Japan in May and June of 1942. The **Battle of the Coral Sea**, in which planes based on aircraft carriers did all of the fighting, prevented a Japanese invasion of Australia. The **Battle of Midway** removed the threat of another attack on Hawaii. These American victories proved to be the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

The United States then adopted an "island hopping" strategy for pushing the enemy back toward Japan. The idea was to capture key islands, one after another until Japan came within range of American Bombers. The plan eventually succeeded but only after a long and difficult struggle. Japanese soldiers believed in fighting to the death. During the last year of the war, the enemy started using "kamikazes" or suicide planes. Pilots would deliberately crash their bomb-laden planes into American warships. Gradually, however, U.S. forces achieved their objective. Important victories were won at battles of Guadalcanal (1942), Tarawa (1943), Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, and Leyte Gulf (1944), and Iwo Jima and Okinawa (1945).

The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest air-sea engagement in history. American forces destroyed much of the Japanese main fleet. **General Douglas MacArthur**, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Southwest Pacific, was then able to recapture the Philippines. Two-and-a-half years earlier, MacArthur had been driven from the islands by the Japanese. At that time, he made a pledge "I shall return." He kept his promise.

The conquest of the Philippines and the subsequent victories at Iwo Jima and Okinawa brought the U.S. forces within a few hundred miles of the Japanese mainland. President Roosevelt died in April 1945, soon after beginning his fourth term. Vice-President Harry C. Truman succeeded him. Truman directed the final assault on Japan. Plans were drawn up to invade the Japanese Island. But before an invasion was approved, Allied scientists informed President Truman that they had developed a powerful **atomic bomb**. The Allies asked the Japanese to surrender and accept a fair peace settlement. When they refused, two atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More than 100,000 people were killed. The government of Japan then decided to give up the fight.

World War II came to an end on September 2, 1945

On the map of the Pacific Region:

1. Draw in color an Allied victory symbol at Midway Island and in the Coral Sea.
Next to each, print "1942 - turning point of the war"
2. Show the Allied "island hopping" campaign by drawing in color (legend) Allied advance arrows to the following locations:
 - From the Hawaiian Islands to Midway Islands

- From the Hawaiian Islands to Guam
- From Guam to Iwo Jima
- From Guam to Okinawa
- From the Hawaiian Islands to New Guinea by going through Guadalcanal
- From New Guinea to Philippine Islands
- From the Philippine Islands to Formosa

3. Draw in color (legend) Allied victory symbols and their dates at the following locations:

- Guadalcanal 1942
- Saipan 1944
- Guam 1944
- Iwo Jima 1945
- Okinawa 1945

4. Locate and label:

- Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Draw in color (legend) Atomic bomb symbol at both cities
- Next to them print: "World War II ends ~ Sept. 2, 1945