

World War II

(1939 – 1945)

Historical Context: After WWI, much of Europe was left in ruins, especially Germany. The Germans were left with many problems, including having to figure out how to pay back reparations for the war. Although other European countries recovered quickly, the Great Depression of the 1930s hit the rest of Europe very hard. In this time of economic difficulties, many countries tried to find a solution for their problems. In countries like Germany and Italy, this solution came in the form of one powerful leader who promised to fix all of their problems.

As these men (Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy) came to power, the rest of the world did little to stop them for fear of another World War. There was no response from other European countries even when Hitler annexed Austria. It was only after he tried to annex part of the country of Czechoslovakia that France and Britain protested and called for a conference to discuss it. At the Munich Conference, they tried to appease Hitler. They agreed to let him take the area if he agreed to stop his aggressive acts. Once he had what he wanted, though, he ignored the pledge and invaded Poland in 1939, beginning World War II.

Meanwhile, Japan was growing as an imperialistic power in Asia. (Remember who opened trade with Japan and ended their period of isolationism?) They also had a growing disregard for western nations, particularly the US, because of the discrimination that they faced. (Remember all of the laws limiting immigration to the US?) In 1937, they annexed part of China and looked to take over more countries in Southeast Asia. They needed the natural resources there to remain imperialistic and to keep their war-machine going. By 1940, the US stopped selling goods to Japan because of Japan's aggression towards the countries in Asia. The resulting shortage of oil and other goods caused the Japanese to decide to join Germany & Italy and to declare war on its enemies.

What was the short-term (immediate) cause of World War II?

Germany invaded Poland.

Why did the Japanese decide to become allies with Germany?

They were upset that the US had stopped supplying them oil. Although the US wasn't officially in the war yet, it was helping the Allies. Since Germany was the enemy of the Allies, Japan wanted to be part of the Axis powers.

America Gets into the War

Historical Context: During the first two years of WWII, the United States kept a policy of neutrality. However, the country still provided weapons and other war supplies to the Allied Powers. This got American businesses going again, dramatically improved the level of employment and helped to bring the country out of the Great Depression. At the same time, we began to build our military again. In 1940, we stopped selling any goods to Japan because of their aggression towards other countries in Asia. Their attack on the United States resulted in our full entry into World War II.

Directions: First, complete the section of the graphic organizer on WWI. As you watch two videos, *Lend-Lease & America* and *The Path to Infamy*, answer the questions in your packet and complete the cloze passage. Go back to the graphic organizer and complete the section on WWII.

	World War One	World War Two
Immediate Cause of the War	Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand	Invasion of Poland by Germany
American Position at the Start of the War	Neutral	Neutral
What event(s) got the Americans into the war?	Sinking of the Lusitania Zimmerman Telegram	Attack on Pearl Harbor

Lend-Lease & America

1. Who was the President at the start of WWII?
FDR
2. What was the Lend-Lease Plan?
The US would lend or rent war supplies to the Allied Powers.
3. Why did some Americans think that we shouldn't get involved in the war at all?
We could face problems and get dragged into another war.
4. Why did the Soviet Union join the Allied Powers?
Germany disregarded their alliance and invaded Russia.
5. What did FDR order the Navy to do and allow American warships to do?
He ordered the Navy to protect lend-lease shipments and to attack German subs that tried to stop them.

The Path to Infamy

1. How did the US respond when Japan became aggressive? They were seizing land in Asia.
2. Why did Japan need our oil? To defend herself from enemies and to wage war.
3. What demands did the US put on Japan? To leave the Axis powers and withdraw from China and Indochina.
4. Complete this passage:

December 7, 1941, was a beautiful sunny day at the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Shortly before 8am, terror struck from the sky. Launching a surprise attack, over 300 Japanese planes bombed and torpedoed the naval base. 200 aircraft were destroyed and 20 ships sunk and damaged. By the end, 2400 Americans were dead, 1100 wounded and the entire Pacific Fleet was crippled. In response to the attack, the President gave one of his most famous speeches. "December 7, 1941, a day which will live in infamy."

5. How did the damages at Pearl Harbor compare to those in the first world war?
The losses were greater than in the entire first world war.
6. How did Germany and Italy support Japan? They declared war on the United States.
7. (Not in the video) Why is the attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941) an important date for you to know? *It was the largest attack (at that time) on US soil; it brought the US into WWII.*

Japanese Internment

Historical Context: Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which permitted the military to avoid the constitutional rights of American citizens in the name of national defense. The order allowed the military to forcibly move 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast to internment camps in the western United States. Most of these people were US citizens or legal permanent resident aliens. These Japanese Americans, half of whom were children, were confined for up to 4 years, without due process of law or any factual basis, in bleak, remote camps surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. They were forced to evacuate their homes and leave their jobs; in some cases family members were separated and put into different camps. President Roosevelt himself called the 10 facilities "concentration camps." Some Japanese Americans died in the camps due to inadequate medical care and the emotional stresses they encountered. Several were killed by military guards posted for allegedly resisting orders. At the time, Executive Order 9066 was justified as a "military necessity" to protect against spying and plots against the US government. However, it was later documented that "our government had in its possession proof that not one Japanese American, citizen or not, had engaged in espionage, not one had committed any act of sabotage."

Directions: Read through all of the experiences of Japanese-Americans during World War II. As you do, complete the graphic organizer and questions below.

What happened to the property that Japanese-Americans had when they went to the camps?

It was sold, often for less than it was worth.

How were Japanese-Americans treated in their towns (even by many of their friends) when war broke out?

Many lost friends who discriminated against them.

What were the living conditions like in the camps?

Muddy and crowded. They could not leave. The housing was often cement buildings that were not comfortable.

How were Japanese-Americans treated in the army?

Not well – they still faced discrimination and could not have the upper level jobs in the military.

Japanese-American Internment

What was it like for Japanese-Americans after they left the internment camps?

Sometimes they had nothing to go back to and had lost many friends.

Why do you think that Japanese-Americans were forced to live in internment camps?

They might be spies or support the Axis powers.

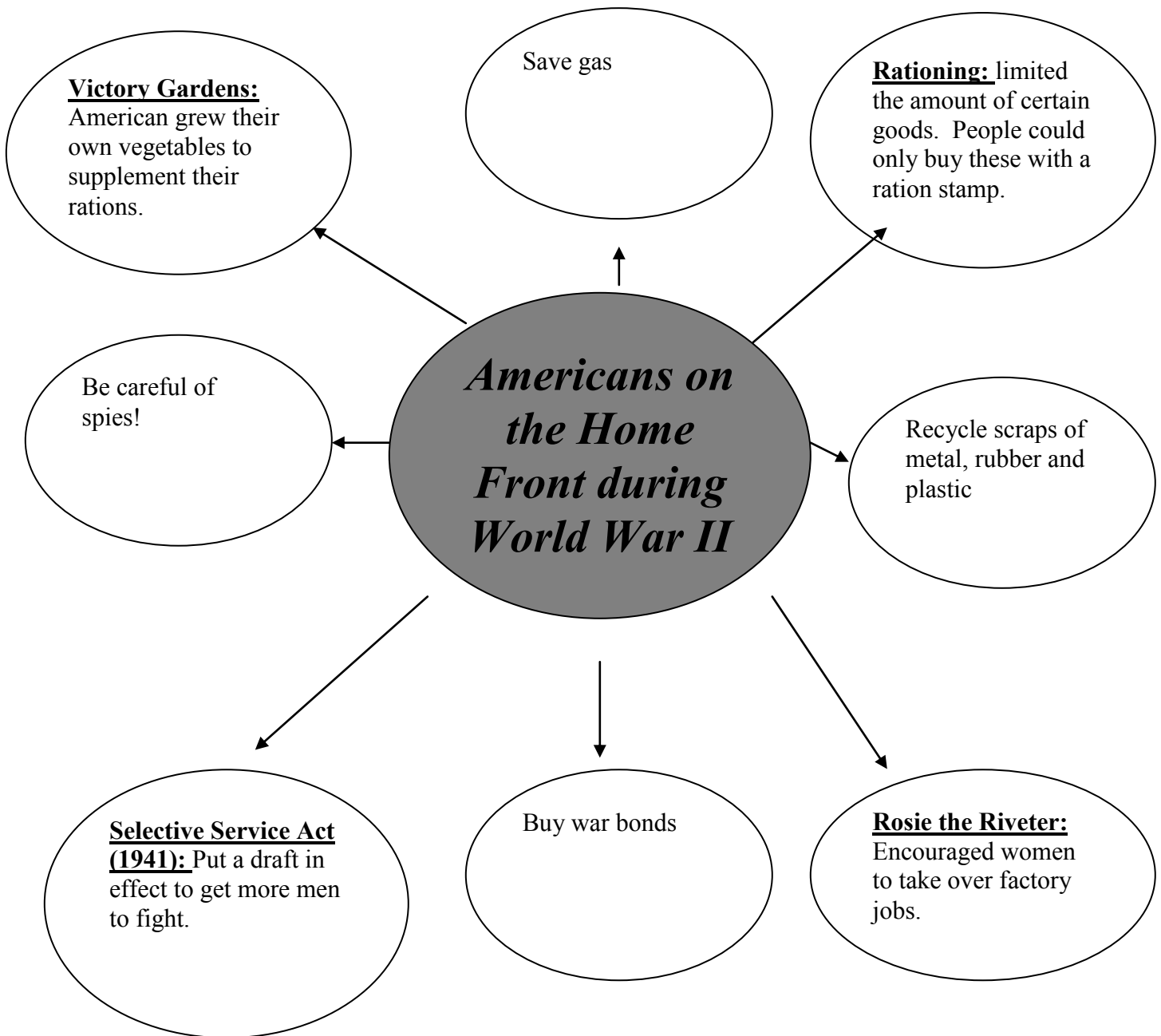
Why do you think that German-Americans weren't forced to do the same thing?

Germany didn't directly attack the US, racism, etc.

America on the Home Front

Historical Context: Like World War I, America was neutral when World War II began. This changed on December 7, 1941 with the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. After this attack on and declaration of war, America had to quickly become mobilized to fight. Like World War I, sacrifices had to be made at home, to help the soldiers going overseas to fight.

Directions: Look through the following pictures of posters created by the US government during World War II. Fill in the graphic organizer in your notes that goes along with these posters. Explain what each of the terms in the organizer mean, and fill in the blank bubbles of the organizer with anything else that Americans did that you may notice from the posters.



The D-Day Invasion

Historical Context: Germany took firm control of Europe starting with their invasion of Poland in 1939. By 1942, Germany had control of most of Europe, reaching from the border of Spain in the West to the steps of Moscow, Russia to the East. With the entrance of America in the war in 1941, the Allies now had a strong ally to help them beat back the German foe. They devised a daring plan to invade the European mainland across the English Channel from Great Britain into German occupied France. This daring invasion became known as the D-Day Invasion and took place on June 6th, 1944.

Directions: After reading the historical context, answer the questions that go along with the accompanying maps and graphs about D-Day and the end of the war.

Fighting the War in Europe Maps

1. What role did aerial bombing play in the war? What kinds of targets did they attack?
They attacked transportation routes, military facilities and factories.
2. What body of water did Allied ships cross to get to Normandy on June 6th?
English Channel
3. What specific countries landed soldiers on the different beaches at Normandy, France?
US, Britain and Canada
4. What kind of German weaponry did the Allies have to deal with during the invasion?
Artillery, machine guns, mines
5. How many lives were lost in WWII?
51 million
6. Why do you think there were so many more civilian lives than military lives lost?
Blitzkrieg, Holocaust
7. How many more lives were lost in WWII than in WWI?
41 million

Reading

8. What were some memories that this soldier never forgot about first landing on the beaches during D-Day?
Artillery shells bursting, people dying
9. What were some obstacles that the Allies faced during D-Day?
Large pebbles to slow down the tanks, mines, high hills to climb

10. Explain the scene with the last sentence: What does he mean by the awfulness of it all?

It is horrible what humans do to each other.

Map End of War

11. What countries were neutral during WWII?

Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Ireland, Turkey

12. In what city does the Allied advance end?

Berlin

Fighting in the Pacific

Historical Context: After Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces moved to take over more of Asia. They took control of Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the Netherlands East Indies. To position themselves against a U.S. attack, the Japanese took Guam and Wake Island. The Japanese also captured the Philippines. Soon afterward, the Japanese forced more than 70,000 U.S. and Filipino prisoners to walk 65 miles to an internment camp. This became known as the Bataan [buh-TAAHN] Death March, because so many prisoners died during the walk.

To stop Japanese expansion, the United States attacked the Japanese navy. In the Battle of the Coral Sea, U.S. planes sank one Japanese ship and damaged another. In the summer of 1942, U.S. and Japanese forces clashed in the Battle of Midway. U.S. planes sank four Japanese ships. The United States successfully stopped the Japanese capture of Midway Island. The Allies also took control of Guadalcanal [GWA-dulh-canal]. The Allies developed a strategy of island-hopping—taking only important Japanese islands in the Pacific. The Allies hoped to get close enough to the mainland to stage an air strike on Japan. Meanwhile, General Douglas MacArthur planned to take back the Philippines. The Japanese navy gathered to block the invasion in the Battle of Leyte [LAY-tee] Gulf. The Japanese lost the battle decisively. In the Battle of Okinawa [oh-KIN-ah-wah], the Japanese tried to stop Allied naval forces with the tactic of kamikaze [KAH-mih-KAH-zee]. Kamikaze pilots flew their planes filled with explosives straight at Allied ships off Okinawa. The Allies won the battle and looked to take Japan.

Directions: Read the historical context at the station first with the accompanying map. Answer questions 1-3 in your note packet for this section. Then you will be watching a 5-minute video clip on the computers.

1. Who won the Battle of Midway?

United States

2. What is island hopping? Why did the Americans use this strategy?

Taking important islands in the Pacific in order to get close enough to stage an airstrike on Japan.

3. What do the purple lines on the map represent?

Allied advance.

Video: During World War II the US government would release Newsreels. These Newsreels would be shown at the beginning of movies and showed the progress that America had made during the war. It was propaganda, meant to show how well the Allied forces were doing. This Newsreel focuses on the capture of the island of Tarawa in the Pacific Ocean in 1943. This island was part of the Navy's island hopping strategy that was so effective during the Pacific campaign. Watch the following video clip and answer questions 4-7 in your note packet. You only have to watch to 5:45 in the video, but feel free to watch all nine minutes if you have time.

1. What kind of base did the Japanese have on the island of Tarawa?
Air base
2. Before Marines land on the island, what did the US Navy do to help out?
Started firing on the island
3. Describe what the island looks like after the Americans captured the island.
Smashed barbed wire, many dead, destroyed batteries
4. Who was forced to work for the Japanese on the island?
Koreans

Station Eight: The Atomic Bomb

Historical Context: By the summer of 1945, World War II appeared to be nearing its end. Germany had surrendered and US ships and airplanes had blockaded Japan. In May, American troops captured Okinawa, just a few hundred miles from Japan. And, though the Soviet Union had not declared war on Japan, it was expected to do so soon. The US and its allies demanded the Japanese government's "unconditional surrender." However, the Japanese government had not surrendered. Plans were made to invade Japan in the fall. In July, President Truman was informed that scientists involved in the Manhattan Project had invented a new bomb, capable of destroying an entire city. This bomb would eventually be dropped on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which led to Japanese surrender and the end of the war. Before its use, those in government debated whether or not it was the best decision to use the Atomic Bomb.

Directions: Read the two viewpoints. As you do, complete the graphic organizer and questions in your packet.

Drop the Bomb

1. How many American soldiers does the author claim have died during the war?
250,000
2. What is one example of how the author shows Japan's willingness to fight to the last man?
Kamikaze pilots would load planes with bombs and crash them into American ships.

Choose Another Way

- 3. According to the author, how many Japanese died when the US firebombed Tokyo?
80,000
- 4. What is the only major country not to declare war on Japan?
Soviet Union
- 5. Why does the author think that country could get Japan to surrender?
The Japanese will know the Soviets won't join them if they have already joined the Allies. They will think they won't be able to win without the Soviets.

What are 3 reasons for and against dropping the atomic bomb on Japan?

FOR	AGAINST
It we invaded, at least 250,000 more Americans will die.	It would kill civilians.
If we try a blockade, it will take too long.	It will not convince Japan to surrender.
If we offer lenient surrender terms, it will Show we are weak. This will show our Strength.	It might not cost that many American lives to invade Japan.
This will prevent future wars.	

Which do you agree with and why?
Opinion, with support.