

World War II

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Instructional Guide: In order to complete this instructional activity, you may utilize the articles listed below and/or use available external resources. Additional resources and instructional information are located in the resources tab.

Note to students: It is recommended that you don't complete the entire assignment in one sitting, rather work on your Social Studies assignment for 30-45 minutes a day. Use the [weekly checklist](#) and consider breaking up the tasks into smaller chunks. When assigned in its entirety this lesson should take approximately 3-5 days to complete.

Student Instructions:

1. Read the content summary.
2. Read the assigned articles highlighting key information.
3. Respond to the following questions in 3-5 sentences.
4. If prompted, complete the extension activities

Time: 3-5 days

Intended Grades: 6-12

Vocabulary:

- Appeasement
- Big Three
- D-day
- Double V campaign
- Executive Order 9066
- Manhattan Project

Content Summary:

World War II was the deadliest war in human history. It involved most of the countries in the world and saw around 70 million people killed. The two major sides in the conflict were the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers. The Allied Powers included Britain, Soviet Union, France, and later the United States. The Axis Powers included Germany, Italy, and Japan. The economic devastation that Germany faced after WWI led to the growth of radical politicians, including Adolf Hitler, who founded the National Socialist German Workers' Party. In 1938, Germany began annexing parts of Czechoslovakia and all of Austria. World leaders did not take action, hoping to avoid another large scale conflict. In Asia, Japan was occupying land in the Chinese territory of Manchuria and seeking to establish a "new order in East Asia". Germany, Italy, and Japan signed a formal alliance 1940. World War II began on September 1, 1939 with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. Poland fell in just a few weeks because of the Nazi's blitzkrieg (lightening) warfare. Large parts of France fell to the Nazis as well and by mid 1940, the war was primarily fought between the Axis Powers and Britain. Hitler's objective was to gain a vast territory for a German master race and exterminate the Jews from German occupied Europe. More than 6 million Jews would die in the Holocaust during World War II. In 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union, opening up a second front of the war. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked a U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor and the United States declared war on Japan and Germany. On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched a massive invasion of Europe called D-Day. This turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies. World War II in Europe ended in May 1945. The war in Japan ended in August, after the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The end of World War II saw two superpowers left in the world: The United States and the Soviet Union. The end of one conflict would immediately usher in a new era of conflict between the two remaining superpowers.

Questions (respond in 3-5 sentences):

1. Explain how the Holocaust happened and who it affected.
2. Describe the reasons for, impact of and constitutional issues of the internment of Japanese Americans in the United States.
3. Explain the impact of World War II on African Americans.

Extension Activities (Optional):

- **Timeline:** Using the timeline worksheet or a piece of paper, create a timeline that indicates the events that led to the United States entry into World War II.
- **Action Plan:** Imagine you are a member of Congress. Develop an action plan that outlines the responsibilities of world leaders and citizens to ensure human rights violations like the ones that took place during World War II do not happen again.

The articles included in this lesson are:

- [The Holocaust, Part One: The Rise of Adolf Hitler and World War II](#)
- [A photographer's photos show WWII life of Japanese in America](#)
- [The Road to Pearl Harbor](#)
- [The Holocaust Part Two: The "Final Solution"](#)
- [Racial discrimination in the U.S during World War II](#)
-