

World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 3 Allies Win the War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why is history important?

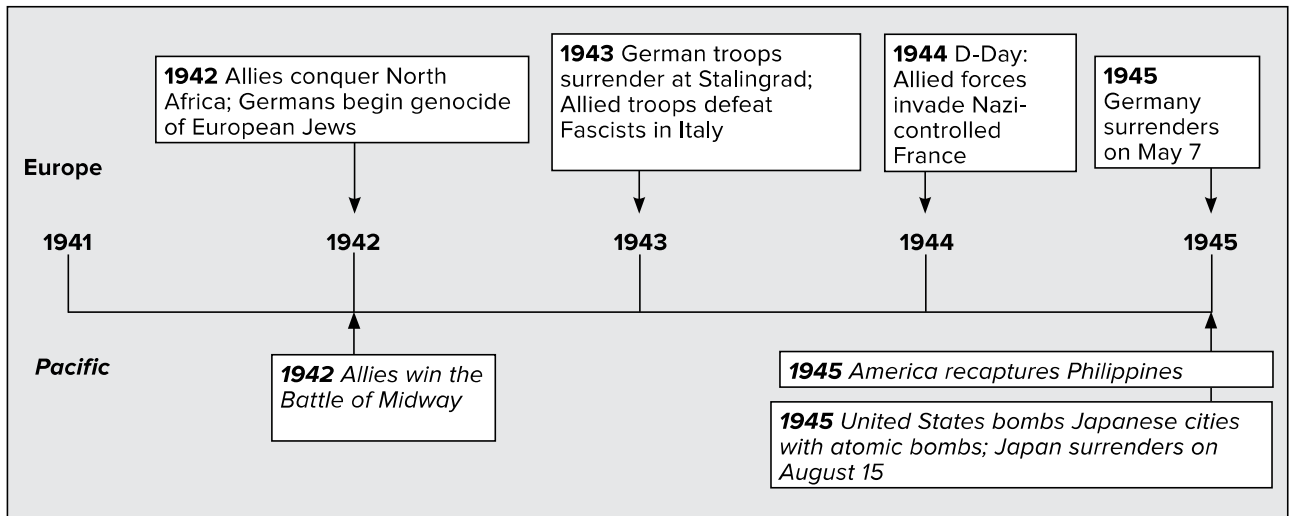
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did the Allies gradually push back Germany, Italy, and Japan in World War II?*
2. *Why is the Holocaust considered a dark chapter in human history?*
3. *What actions did the Allies take to win the war?*

Terms to Know

D-Day June 6, 1944, the day on which Allied forces began the invasion of France in World War II

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the K column, list what you already know about how the Allies won World War II. In the W column, list what you want to know. After reading the lesson, fill in the L column with the information that you learned.

K	W	L

World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 3 Allies Win the War, *Continued*

The Global Struggle

World War II was a massive conflict. The war was fought mostly in two major areas, or theaters—Europe and the Pacific. The key nations on the Allied side were the United States, Britain, China, and the Soviet Union. They fought against the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

After defeating the Germans in North Africa, the Allies advanced on Italy. The Italians overthrew their dictator Mussolini and surrendered.

Meanwhile, the Soviets were fighting Germany in Eastern Europe. In the Soviet Union, the German army was surrounded in the city of Stalingrad. After a long fight, they surrendered. This marked a major turning point in the war.

The War in Europe Changes

- **February, 1943:** Germans surrender to Soviets at Stalingrad
- **May, 1943:** Allies drive Germany out of North Africa
- **September, 1943:** Allies invade mainland Italy; Italians overthrow Mussolini and surrender

In late 1943, Allied leaders met in Tehran, Iran to make plans for the world after the war. They agreed to divide Germany when the war was over. Stalin agreed to help the United States defeat Japan. He also agreed to join an international peace organization after the war.

In the Pacific, the United States won a major victory at Midway Island. Then the Americans began to push back Japan. They used a strategy called island-hopping. They attacked certain key Pacific islands. After taking an island, they used it as a base to help them reach other islands.

The War in the Pacific

- **June, 1942:** United States wins air and sea battle at Midway Island, ending Japanese advancements in the Pacific
- **1942–1945:** Americans island-hop to recapture key Pacific islands from Japanese
- **1945:** United States recaptures Philippines



Marking the Text

1. Underline the names of the main Allied countries. Circle the names of the Axis powers.



Listing

2. List three agreements made by Allied leaders at the Tehran Conference.



Explaining

3. What was island-hopping?



Reading Check

4. How was the war in Europe different from the war in the Pacific?

World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 3 Allies Win the War, *Continued*

 **Defining**

5. What is *genocide*?

 **Summarizing**

6. What was the Holocaust?

 **Reading Check**

7. Why do you think the Holocaust was a world human rights issue?

 **Identifying**

8. What was D-Day?

The Holocaust

The Nazis believed the Germans were superior to other groups of people, such as the Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs.

The Nazis believed that the Jews were a threat to the "racial purity" of the German people. The Nazis began a program of genocide, the killing of an entire group of people. They called this the "final solution."

They rounded up Jews and sent them to death camps. There, the Jews were either poisoned in gas chambers or starved to death. As many as 6 million Jews, along with many Slavs and Gypsies, were killed in what is known as the Holocaust.

Nazi Persecution of the Jews

- **1930s:** German Jews lose their personal and political rights.
- **1938:** The "Night of Broken Glass"—Nazis burn synagogues, destroy Jewish businesses, and send thousands of Jewish men to prison camps.
- **1939–1945:** Jews are forced to live in ghettos and wear yellow stars to identify them as Jews.
- **1941:** Nazis begin mass killing of Jews in the Soviet Union.
- **1942:** Nazis send millions of Jews to death camps.

Ending the War

By 1944 Germany and Japan were retreating everywhere. On June 6, 1944, western Allied forces invaded Nazi-controlled France. That day is known as **D-Day**. Within a few weeks, a million Allied soldiers had landed in France. German forces retreated, and the western Allies moved into Paris.

Meanwhile, Soviet forces from the east pushed into Germany. After weeks of fighting, western Allied forces moved into Germany. Hitler committed suicide. On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered. The war in Europe was over.

The war in the Pacific, however, continued. The Japanese would not surrender even though most of their navy and air force had been destroyed.

World War II and the Cold War

Lesson 3 Allies Win the War, *Continued*

In April 1945, Franklin Roosevelt died and Harry S. Truman became president. In the secret Manhattan Project, American scientists had developed the atomic bomb. Not everyone was sure that such a powerful weapon should be used. Truman had to make the decision.

The Manhattan Project

- Begun under President Roosevelt
- A secret project to build an atomic bomb
- Scientists worked at a laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico

Truman felt the atomic bomb could end the war while saving American lives. On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, another bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese people were killed. Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945. The war in the Pacific was over.

More than 70 million people fought in World War II. Millions of people died. The Allies put some German and Japanese leaders on trial for crimes against humanity. After the war, fifty countries formed the United Nations to keep world peace. In response to the Holocaust, the United Nations issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It detailed the rights and freedoms of all people.

Check for Understanding

List two key changes that occurred as a result of World War II.

1. _____
2. _____

Name the cities, in order, on which the atomic bomb was dropped.

3. _____
4. _____

Marking the Text

9. Circle the date that Japan surrendered.

Explaining

10. What caused Japan to surrender?

Reading Check

11. Why did President Truman decide to drop atomic bombs on Japan?



12. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Write *Ending the War in ...* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Europe* and *Japan*.

List words or phrases that tell how the Allied Powers ended the war in Europe and in the Pacific.

Glue Foldable here