World Conflict Series

WORLD WAR II

High-Interest • Low-Vocabulary

CC5502

GRADES 5-8

READING LEVELS 3-4

Aligned to your State Standards

Curriculum Based Activities

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy

Reproducible

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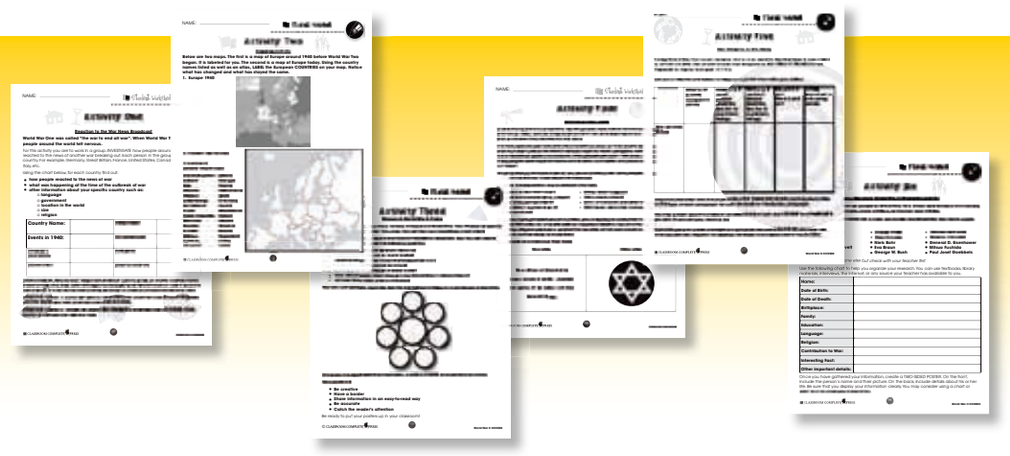


NAME: _____

Before You Read

Major Battles

1. Match each of the words below with the correct meaning. You may use a dictionary to help you.

1	**neutral**	carried by ship over the sea	A
2	**aviator**	a place where the military keeps supplies and equipment, where soldiers stay	B
3	**seaborne**	a warship with a deck so that airplanes can land and take off	C
4	**surrender**	people who are killed or injured during a battle	D
5	**casualties**	a pilot of an airplane	E
6	**aircraft carrier**	not supporting either side in a disagreement	F
7	**base**	to give over to someone else	G

2. Being NEUTRAL means not taking a side in an argument. Can you think of a time when you have been neutral in an argument? Why would you want to be neutral?

_____

_____

_____

PRE-ASSESSMENT

Reading Passage

NAME: _____

Major Battles

There were many battles fought during World War Two. Each one had **casualties**, and all caused damage. Three of the major battles are described below.

The Battle of Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941

As in World War One, the United States remained **neutral** for the first part of the Second World War. That changed when the American military **base** at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was attacked at 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941.

Pearl Harbor was home for almost 50,000 American troops. It was the biggest American base in the Pacific region. The Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor from the coast off of the island of Oahu. Japan's goal was to cause as much damage as possible. They especially wanted to damage battleships, **aircraft carriers** and airplanes on the ground. The attack was sudden. Hundreds of Japanese airplanes attacked the American base, damaging many American ships and airplanes. The Americans fought back. The attack was over in less than two hours. Close to 2,500 people lost their lives. This battle was the start of war between Japan and the U.S.

The Battle of Midway

June 4 to June 7, 1942

The Battle of Midway has been called a "turning point" in World War Two. The battle occurred six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It took place on the Midway Islands, northwest of Hawaii. The U.S. defeated Japan by destroying several large ships and aircraft carriers.

Losing the Battle of Midway was terrible for the Japanese. They were not fighting to take over U.S. territory; they just wanted more control in the Pacific region. They thought that if they took the Midway Islands, the U.S. would not have power and that the Japanese could gain control. Japan lost many boats and aircraft, as well as **aviators** to operate the airplanes during the battle. As a result, the United States was able to gain control of that area of the Pacific Ocean.

The Battle of Normandy

June 6, 1944

The Battle of Normandy started on June 6, 1944. This date is also known as D-Day. This battle was fought between the Nazis and the Allies, including American and Canadian soldiers. It is the largest **seaborne** invasion in history with almost three million troops involved. The battle began during the night as soldiers parachuted into France. Later, attacks came from the air and from the sea. The Battle of Normandy lasted for more than two months. It was the first of many victories for the Allies. Germany **surrendered** less than a year later.

READING PASSAGE

NAME: _____

After You Read

Major Battles

1. Circle T if the statement is TRUE or F if it is FALSE. Go back to the reading passage to check your answers.

T F **a)** The Japanese lost the Battle of Midway.

T F **b)** The United States did not want to be neutral at the beginning of World War Two.

T F **c)** The Battle of Normandy took place in Italy.

T F **d)** The attack on Pearl Harbor was the beginning of the war between the United States and Japan.

T F **e)** Japan wanted control of the Pacific Region.

T F **f)** The Battle of Normandy started on June 6, 1944 which is also known as D-Day.

T F **g)** Germany surrendered within a year of the Battle of Normandy.

T F **h)** Pearl Harbor has been called a "turning point" in World War Two.

2. What was the TURNING POINT of World War Two?

_____

_____

3. What signaled that start of war between Japan and the United States?

_____

_____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After You Read

NAME: _____

Major battles

4. Use the words in the list to give the answer to each clue. Write the correct term on the line.

casualties	**aircraft carrier**	**surrendered**	
neutral	**aviator**	**base**	**seaborne**

_____ **a)** The United States did not want to take sides.

_____ **b)** Without these, Japanese airplanes could not get off the ground.

_____ **c)** Able to have airplanes land and take off in the middle of an ocean.

_____ **d)** These were people who were injured or killed in battles.

_____ **e)** When soldiers are carried by ship to get to a place

_____ **f)** The Germans gave up shortly after the Battle of Normandy; they knew they could not win.

_____ **g)** This is a place where soldiers live and train, and where the military keeps supplies and equipment.

Research & Application

5. The United States government has military bases all over the country and all over the world. Find out where some of these bases are and then choose **one** to investigate. Create a poster that shows the following information:

- **Name**
- **Location (include a map)**
- **Size**
- **Specialty (air force, navy, etc.)**
- **Special features (tours, museum, special forces)**
- **At least three other interesting facts**

Be ready to share your poster with the class.

6. Many cities and towns across the United States grew because of a military base close by. Find out if there is a military base near your hometown. If you can, make plans to go and visit it. If you cannot visit the base, do some research at the local library or on the Internet to find out more about the military base close to your community. Write a **three-paragraph** information piece about what you have discovered.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

NAME: _____

The End of War

2. Use the following words to fill in the blanks.

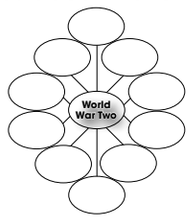
perished	**emerged**	**surrendered**
conflict	**influence**	**agencies**

World War Two was the biggest _____ (a) in history. Many countries were involved and many people _____ (b) in the fighting. War ended in Europe on May 7, 1945 when the German forces _____ (c) to the allies. Although peace came to the world, new tensions _____ (d) between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both wanted to be superpowers and have _____ (e) over other countries. Today the United Nations works to bring peace to many parts of the world. Many UN _____ (f) try to improve the lives of people around the world.

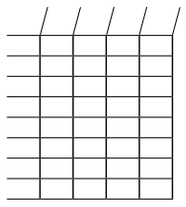
Research & Application

3. **Statistics** are numbers that give information about different things. For example, in World War Two, 55 million people perished. That is a statistic of the number of people who died. Do some research to find out different statistics about World War Two.

a) In the first part, gather statistics about **ten** different "topics". Use the web organizer on the next page to help you.



b) In the second part, gather statistics using **five to eight** of the "topics" from part A for **at least three** different countries involved in World War Two. Use the chart on page 34 to help you organize your information.



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

Crossword Puzzle!

Across

2. The armed forces of a country
3. A rotating structure onto which guns are mounted
5. An expression of an intent to do harm
8. To pass away; to die
10. To enter and take over in hopes of getting something
15. A demand that if rejected means the end of peace
16. A connection based on similar ideas
17. Not weak; not uncertain
19. Something that is very complicated or complex

Down

1. The one who defeats an enemy; the winner
4. To become known
6. An extended struggle
7. A hidden supply that may be stored
9. Having a high price
11. An exchange of information
12. Organized spreading of certain ideas
13. Having little strength
14. Given over to someone else
18. An extreme shortage of food

CROSSWORD

NAME: _____

Comprehension Quiz

30

1. Circle T if the statement is TRUE or F if it is FALSE.

8

T F **a)** World War Two is one of the most important events in world history.
T F **b)** World War Two lasted for eight years.
T F **c)** Many people died in fighting; many people also died from disease.
T F **d)** The Treaty of Versailles allowed people to live in peace.
T F **e)** Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933.
T F **f)** Blitzkrieg means lightening warfare.
T F **g)** The U.S. joined World War Two at the Battle of Pearl Harbor.
T F **h)** World War Two was not the biggest war in history.

2. Fill in the blanks with the words in the list. There will be six words left over.

10

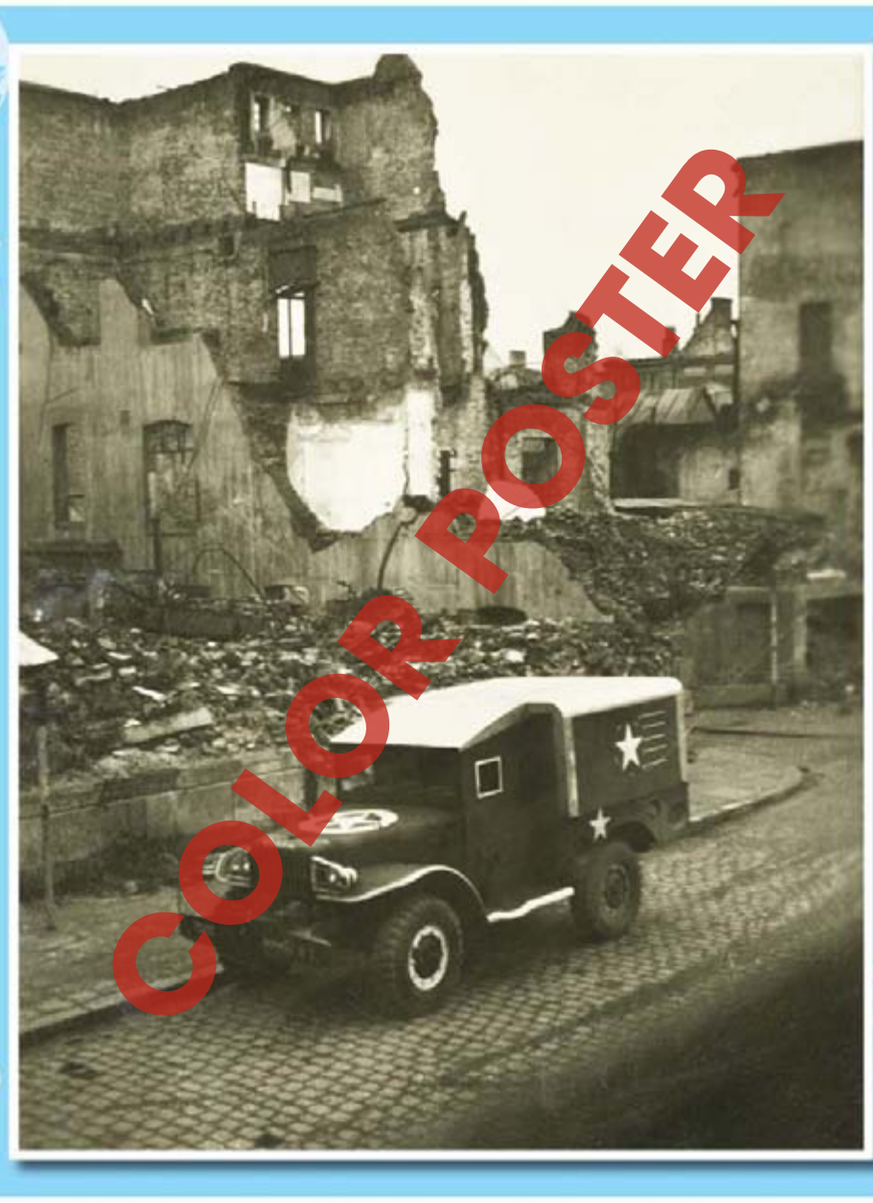
reserves	**influence**	**transportation**	**blamed**
promote	**perished**	**economic depression**	**tension**
sophisticated	**Pearl Harbor**	**propaganda**	**fatigue**
Normandy	**alliances**	**aviators**	**invaded**

World War Two began when Germany _____ (a) Poland. After World War One the Treaty of Versailles was meant to _____ (b) peace but it was never enforced fully. Since Germany was _____ (c) for World War One, many people in Germany were angry. Germany wanted revenge. The _____ (d) was another factor that led to war. Many people were poor and were desperate for help. The rise of both nationalism and militarism led to _____ (e) in Europe. Countries formed _____ (f). One side was the Axis and the other was the Allies. Adolf Hitler became leader of Germany. He used _____ (g) to get people to agree with him. He told Germans that other people were to be blamed for their problems. Hitler invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia; other countries did not stop him. When Hitler invaded Poland, the allies responded and World War Two started. The United States became involved when the Japanese military attacked _____ (h) from off the coast of Hawaii. The U.S. then defeated the Japanese at the Battle of Midway. By 1943, the Axis powers were showing signs of _____ (i). By 1945, World War Two ended. The allies were victorious. New tensions developed between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both countries wanted to be superpowers and have _____ (j) over others.

SUBTOTAL: /18

ASSESSMENT

Destruction of WW II



COLOR POSTER

NAME: _____

After You Read

Germany's Role in the War

1. Below is a list of events that took place leading up to World War Two. Put the events in order in which they occurred. Place a *one* on the line for the first event, a *two* for the second event, etc. Go back to the reading to check your answers.

_____ **a)** World War Two begins on September 3, 1939.

_____ **b)** March 1939, Hitler takes over all of Czechoslovakia.

_____ **c)** France and Great Britain agree to give some of Czechoslovakia to Hitler.

_____ **d)** Great Britain and France issue an ultimatum to Hitler.

_____ **e)** August 31, 1939, a prisoner dressed like a Polish soldier is shot on the border of Poland and Germany.

_____ **f)** In 1933, Adolf Hitler becomes the leader of Germany.

_____ **g)** Hitler makes a deal with the Soviet Union.

_____ **h)** People in Germany begin to put their hope in the Nazi Party.

_____ **i)** Germany takes over Austria.

_____ **j)** Hitler invades Poland.

_____ **k)** People in Europe are unsure what to do.

_____ **l)** Blitzkrieg attacks take place in Poland.

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EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

Accept any reasonable answer

18

1.

a) 12

b) 6

c) 5

d) 11

e) 8

f) 3

g) 7

h) 2

i) 4

j) 9

k) 1

l) 10

19

2.

Lightening warfare; rapid firing of guns and weapons

3.

People needed to have hope in something; they believed he would help them out of the economic depression

4.

Answers will vary

5.

Answers will vary

20

1.

a) seaborne

b) base

c) aircraft carrier

d) casualties

e) aviator

f) neutral

g) surrender

2.

Answers will vary

21

1.

a) T

b) F

c) F

d) T

e) T

f) T

g) T

h) F

2.

Battle of Midway

3.

Battle of Pearl Harbor

23

EZ

4.

a) neutral

b) aviator

c) aircraft carrier

d) casualties

e) seaborne

f) surrendered

g) base

5.

Answers will vary

6.

Answers will vary

24

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