

Great Battles for Boys: WW2 in Europe

by Joe Giorello

Student Worksheet

Prelude to War

1. Who was the powerful madman who took charge in Germany after World War 1?
2. What was Hitler's political party called?
3. What race did Hitler say was better than any other?
4. What is "Blitzkrieg" warfare?
5. What country was Hitler's first military target?

The Invasion of Poland

1. What pact did Hitler sign with Poland?
2. What did Hitler do to turn the Germans against Poland?
3. What date marks the beginning of World War 2?
4. What was the "Luftwaffe"?

The Winter War

1. Which leaders agreed to divide Poland between themselves?
2. Who attacked Finland in the Winter War?
3. When did Finland and the Soviet Union sign the Moscow Peace Treaty?

The Battleship Bismarck

1. Who decided to build the *Bismarck* and for what purpose?
2. At this time, who were the “Allies”?
3. What was the “Axis”?
4. Among the *Bismarck*'s 2,000 men, how many survived?

The Battle of Britain

1. Who told the people of Britain that negotiating with Hitler wouldn't work—they would have to fight him?
2. Who was the leader of the German air force?
3. Who won the Battle of Britain?
4. Who was the first American airman killed in the Battle of Britain?

Stalingrad

1. Which leaders fought against each other in the Battle of Stalingrad?
2. Who was the most famous Stalingrad sniper?
3. Who was the only Allied country that sent women into combat during WW2?
4. Who surrendered the Battle of Stalingrad?
5. How many people were killed, wounded, or captured in the Battle of Stalingrad?

The *Schnellboot* and the PT Boat

1. What is a “PT Boat”?
2. Where did Hitler build the *Schnellboot*?
3. Who led the crew aboard *PT-109* to safety?

Operation Torch

1. Where did Hitler send all the Jewish citizens of France?
2. Where did the Allies decide to invade?
3. Who was nicknamed “The Desert Fox”?

Operation Mincemeat

1. Who are the two spies who planned Operation Mincemeat?
2. What was their trick?
3. Where did the British spies convince Hitler they were headed next?

4. What were some of the inventions that British spies used?

Operation Husky

1. Who led the 82nd Airborne?
2. Who had victory in Operation Husky?
3. Who was the youngest American General in WW2?

B-17: The Flying Fortress

1. Who entered the B-17 in the competition for aircraft manufacturers?
2. What was the B-17's nickname?
3. Why did the crewmen have to wear wool clothing and leather jackets?

The Battle of Kursk

1. Why did Hitler want to win the Battle of Kursk?

2. Where was the monumental clash?
3. Who won the Battle of Kursk?
4. What was the German's most heavily armored tank called?

The Battle of Salerno

1. In Salerno who did Hitler replace Rommel with?
2. Who was heading the Allies in the fight to control Italy?
3. When did Italy surrender and which side did they join?

D-Day: Operation Overlord

1. Who was the general that the Germans watched to reveal the Allies' next step?
2. How did the Allies fool the Germans?
3. Where was the real invasion located?

4. What does the military term "D-Day" mean?

5. Who eventually controlled Paris, France?

Battle of the Bulge

1. What was Hitler's goal in the Battle of the Bulge?

2. Who led the 101st Airborne Division?

3. Who led the American Third Army on the ground?

4. When did the Battle of the Bulge end?

The Holocaust

1. What was Hitler and the Nazis "cleansing" Germany of?

2. Where did Hitler put the people he conquered or wanted to get rid of?

3. What was one of the first actions Hitler took to stop people from resisting arrests?
4. What happened in the gas chambers or crematoriums?
5. About how many people were killed during the Holocaust?
6. Which famous general personally visited every part of the German prison camps and ordered his troops to document everything so we would have proof today?

Victory in Europe: V-E Day

1. After President Franklin Roosevelt died, who took his place?
2. When and how did Hitler die?
3. When did Germany surrender?
4. Did German surrender end World War 2? Why or why not?

In Your Own Words

What did you learn from the WW2 battles in Europe?

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