

Great Battles for Boys: WW2 in Europe

by Joe Giorello

Teacher Answer Sheet

Prelude to War

1. Who was the powerful madman who took charge in Germany after World War 1?
Adolf Hitler
2. What was Hitler's political party called?
The National Social government or "Nazi" government
3. What race did Hitler say was better than any other?
The Aryan race—people with blue eyes, light skin, and blond hair
4. What is "Blitzkrieg" warfare?
A quick and powerful attack that is so fast the other side doesn't have time to recover
5. What country was Hitler's first military target?
Poland

The Invasion of Poland

1. What pact did Hitler sign with Poland?
A nonaggression pact, promising not to attack Poland
2. What did Hitler do turn the Germans against Poland?
He made up lies about the people of Poland that made the Germans angry
3. What date marks the beginning of World War 2?
September 1, 1939
4. What was the "Luftwaffe"?
Germany's air force

The Winter War

1. Which leaders agreed to divide Poland between themselves?
Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin
2. Who attacked Finland in the Winter War?
Stalin

3. When did Finland and the Soviet Union sign the Moscow Peace Treaty?
March 12, 1940

The Battleship Bismarck

1. Who decided to build the *Bismarck* and for what purpose?
Hitler ordered it to be built to crush England's navy.
2. At this time, who were the "Allies"?
All the countries against Germany and Italy
3. What was the "Axis"?
All the countries joined together with Hitler
4. Among the *Bismarck's* 2,000 men, how many survived?
Only 107 men 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?
The Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill
2. Who was the leader of the German air force?
Hermann Goering
3. Who won the Battle of Britain?
Britain
4. Who was the first American airman killed in the Battle of Britain?
Officer William "Billy" Fiske, former Olympic champion bobsledder

Stalingrad

1. Which leaders fought against each other in the Battle of Stalingrad?
Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin
2. Who was the most famous Stalingrad sniper?
Vasily Zaitsev
3. Who was the only Allied country that sent women into combat during WW2?
The Soviets
4. Who surrendered the Battle of Stalingrad?

Germany

5. How many people were killed, wounded, or captured in the Battle of Stalingrad?
More than two million people

The *Schnellboot* and the PT Boat

1. What is a “PT Boat”?
Patrol Torpedo boat
2. Where did Hitler build the *Schnellboot*?
In the Soviet Union so he could claim Germany wasn’t making weapons
3. Who led the crew aboard *PT-109* to safety?
Lieutenant John F. Kennedy

Operation Torch

1. Where did Hitler send all the Jewish citizens of France?
Concentration camps
2. Where did the Allies decide to invade?
North Africa
3. Who was nicknamed “The Desert Fox”?
General Erwin Rommel

Operation Mincemeat

1. Who are the two spies who planned Operation Mincemeat?
Charles Cholmondeley and Ewen Montagu
2. What was their trick?
They took a homeless man and created a fake man—Major Martin—with documents that spread the wrong information about the Allies’ plans and deceived Hitler.
3. Where did the British spies convince Hitler they were headed next?
Greece
4. What were some of the inventions that British spies used?
Exploding rats, buttons that were compasses, tobacco pipes that turned into guns, radios that looked like biscuit tins, clothes hanging on clotheslines in a specific order.

Operation Husky

1. Who led the 82nd Airborne?
Colonel James Gavin
2. Who had victory in Operation Husky?
The Allies
3. Who was the youngest American General in WW2?
James Maurice Gavin

B-17: The Flying Fortress

1. Who entered the B-17 in the competition for aircraft manufacturers?
The Boeing Company
2. What was the B-17's nickname?
"The Flying Fortress"
3. Why did the crewmen have to wear wool clothing and leather jackets?
The temperature in the planes could drop to 50 degrees below zero!

The Battle of Kursk

1. Why did Hitler want to win the Battle of Kursk?
He wanted control of the oil in the Caucasus region of Russia
2. Where was the monumental clash?
Prokhorovka
3. Who won the Battle of Kursk?
Russia (the Soviets)
4. What was the German's most heavily armored tank called?
The Tiger

The Battle of Salerno

1. In Salerno who did Hitler replace Rommel with?

Albert Kesselring

2. Who was heading the Allies in the fight to control Italy?
General Mark Clark
3. When did Italy surrender and which side did they join?
September 1943. They joined the Allies to fight against Germany.

D-Day: Operation Overlord

1. Who was the general that the Germans watched to reveal the Allies' next step?
General George Patton
2. How did the Allies fool the Germans?
They gave General Patton a fake army and stationed him in England. They also created fake operations in different countries to mislead the Germans.
3. Where was the real invasion located?
Normandy, France
4. What does the military term "D-Day" mean?
The day an attack will begin
5. Who eventually controlled Paris, France?
The Allies

Battle of the Bulge

1. What was Hitler's goal in the Battle of the Bulge?
To recapture the Belgian seaport of Antwerp
2. Who led the 101st Airborne Division?
General Anthony McAuliffe
3. Who led the American Third Army on the ground?
General George S. Patton
4. When did the Battle of the Bulge end?
January 28, 1945

The Holocaust

1. What was Hitler and the Nazis "cleansing" Germany of?
Every race other than Aryan and anyone they considered weak, such as handicapped people

2. Where did Hitler put the people he conquered or wanted to get rid of?
“Extermination camps”—prison camps
3. What was one of the first actions Hitler took to stop people from resisting arrests?
He confiscated all privately owned firearms so people couldn’t protect themselves.
4. What happened in the gas chambers or crematoriums?
Guards would round up prisoners, telling them they were going to take a shower. Then they locked the people inside and filled the rooms with poisonous gas that killed everyone.
5. About how many people were killed during the Holocaust?
About eleven million people. (About six million were Jews and five million were other “inferior” people. One million of them were children.)
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?
General Dwight Eisenhower

Victory in Europe: V-E Day

1. After President Franklin Roosevelt died, who took his place?
Vice President Harry Truman
2. When and how did Hitler die?
On April 30, 1945 he committed suicide.
3. When did Germany surrender?
May 7, 1945
4. Did German surrender end World War 2? Why or why not?
No, the Japanese were attacking the Allies.

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