

## Exploring World War II

**WebQuest Description:** This WebQuest will help student understand the major concepts of World War II by providing an interactive guide to finding important WWII facts using the internet. This WebQuest is a guided practice in researching WWII using trusted sites on the internet.

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** World War II, Second Great War, Axis Powers, Allied Powers

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### Introduction

¡» ¿Great News! You get to learn about the Second World War! Remember when we learned that World War I was called the “Great War” and the “war to end all wars”? What would cause the world to go to war again for the second time two decades later? Is there a connection between the first World War and the second? Just twenty-one short years after the greatest conflict in the history of mankind concluded, the world was at it again. It’s time for you to join the scores of historians and scholars who have worked so diligently to uncover the truth about a conflict that shook the entire world to its core. Join us in exploring World War II!

### Tasks

At the conclusion of this WebQuest, you will be able to use internet resources to complete a required 5 – 10-page essay on World War II. You will also have the required knowledge to complete the World War II human timeline that will happen at the conclusion of the module.

### Process

This WebQuest is a guided research activity that will be accomplished with a partner. All parts of this lesson will first be presented in class during the lecture/presentation. During the presentation you are encouraged to complete the graphic organizers that were handed out at the beginning of the class. An electronic copy is attached if needed.

Before completing the section of the lesson, you will complete the corresponding section of the WebQuest. If you would like to use a different website, both you and your partner have to agree on which site to use.

**Causes of World War Two**  
<http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW2/causes.htm>

1. What was the Treaty of Versailles? Why did it make the German people very unhappy?
2. List and explain three of Hitler’s aggressive actions from 1934 to 1936?
3. Why didn’t the League of Nations stop Hitler? Give four reasons.

**Munich Conference**  
<http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW2/causes.htm>

1. Which countries were invited to the Munich Conference? Which was not?
2. Why did European nations like Britain and France adopt a Policy of Appeasement in response to Hitler’s actions?
3. Was the Munich Conference successful in securing “Peace during our time” like British P.M. Chamberlain claimed?

**Canada Joins the War Effort**  
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/second-world-war-wwii/>

1. When did Canada declare war? On who?
2. Why did Canada wait a week after Britain to declare war?
3. Were Canadians reluctant to go to war? Did memories from WWI still affect them?
4. Why did the Canadian Government not like the idea of using Conscription to recruit soldiers for the war effort?

**Fall of France**  
<http://www.history.co.uk/explore-history/ww2/fall-of-france.html>

1. What was the Maginot Line? Did it work?
2. What is Blitzkrieg?
3. How long did it take Germany to capture France?
4. Why was France unable to defend itself? Where were all of their troops?

**Canada’s Home front**  
[http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/newspapers/canadawar/homefront\\_e.shtml](http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/newspapers/canadawar/homefront_e.shtml)

1. What is Propaganda? How did the Canadian Government use it?
2. What are War Bonds? Why did the Canadian Government want Canadian citizens to buy them?
3. Why was rationing food so important during wartime? List three different food Canadian rationed.
4. What are some of the ways Women assisted the war effort from the home front?

**Battle of Britain and the Blitz**  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/uk/2000/battle\\_of\\_britain/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/uk/2000/battle_of_britain/default.stm)

1. What was the Spitfire summer? When did it happen?
2. What areas did the German forces focus their attack on?
3. What was the Blitz? Why did it start?
4. Why did the battle end? How many were lost on both sides by its conclusion?

**Miracle at Dunkirk**  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/765004.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/765004.stm)

1. Why were the British, French and Belgian forces trapped at

Dunkirk? 2. When did the evacuation happen? 3. Who was involved in the evacuation? 4. Why was this event considered a miracle? The Dieppe Raid [http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/fact\\_sheets/dieppe](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/fact_sheets/dieppe) 1. Why did the allies chose to launch an attack at Dieppe? 2. What was the code name for the attack? 3. Copy and paste a diagram showing the invasion plan (Google this!): 4. How many Canadian soldiers were lost? 5. What was the lesson learned at Dieppe? The Italian Campaign <http://www.canadaatwar.ca/content-24/world-war-ii/the-italian-campaign> 1. What role did Canada play in the invasion of Sicily? 2. What was the invasion of Italy called? 3. Why was the Italian campaign forgotten? How many Canadians were killed? 4. Copy and paste a map of Italy here: 5. What happened to Italian leader Benito Mussolini? War in Africa <http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/09/world-war-ii-the-north-african-campaign/100140> 1. When did the war in Africa really begin? 2. Which two European countries fought over much of Northern Africa? 3. Who was in charge of Germany's forces in Africa? 4. Copy and paste two photos taken from the Africa campaign here: Holocaust <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/holo.html> 1. What propaganda did Hitler and the Nazi's use against the Jewish population in Germany? 2. How did the Jewish population resist the persecution of the Holocaust? 3. What was the range of years in which the Jewish population were prosecuted? 4. List the 5 countries in which the most Jewish people were murdered and the numbers for each. Yalta/Potsdam conferences <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperialism/notes/yalta.html> 1. What dates specifically did the Yalta Conference take place and which countries were involved? 2. List four of the major points which were made at the Yalta Conference? <http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/militarystrategies/p/World-War-II-Potsdam-Conference.htm> 3. What major agreements were made at the Potsdam Conference? 4. Give a two-sentence summary of the Potsdam Declaration. War in Pacific <http://www.ww2pacific.com> 1. What attack by the Japanese began the War in the Pacific? On which date did it occur? 2. What is a kamikaze pilot and why was this important? 3. Give a paragraph description, including dates, of three of the major battles in the Pacific campaign. 4. What two events ended the War in the Pacific? When did they occur? D-day <http://www.dday.co.uk> 1. What were the five main beaches attacked on D-Day and which countries were responsible for each? 2. What was the code name for the D-Day invasion? 3. What percentage of Canadian tanks were sunk before they made it to the beach? 4. What town were Canadian soldiers supposed to ride their bikes to after taking Juno Beach? Nuclear Bombs/ V J Day <http://www.history.co.uk/explore-history/ww2/atomic-bomb.html> 1. What were the names of the two Nuclear Bombs which were dropped on Japan? 2. What was the code name for the project to develop the Nuclear Bomb? 3. What was Canada's contribution to the development of the Nuclear Bomb? 4. On what date did the Japanese surrender to end the war? What date was V J Day and what does this acronym stand for?

Your final task is to create something that represents an aspect of WWII. It can be a song, a poem, a poster, a website, a PowerPoint, a scrapbook, a collage, a model of a battle or event, a letter, an advertisement, a video, a brochure or an essay. This will be done individually.

## Evaluation

The following rubric will be used to grade your work for this WebQuest.

| Category and Score     | Excellent (4)   | Good (3)  | Satisfactory (2)  | Needs Improvement (1)   | Score |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Completion of Tasks    | All instructions were followed exactly how they were assigned.  | Most instructions were followed how they were assigned                          | Some instructions were followed how they were assigned  | Few instructions were followed how they were assigned   |       |
| Communication of Ideas | Provides work free of spelling and grammar errors. Work is of the highest quality and complete sentences. | Provides work with few spelling and grammar errors. Work is of the good quality | Provides work with several spelling and grammar errors. Work that needs to be edited to ensure quality. | Provides work with excessive spelling and grammar errors. Work that needs to be edited to ensure quality. |       |
| Knowledge              | Answers to questions assigned are very complete and correct   | Answers to questions assigned are complete and most are correct                 | Answers to questions assigned are complete to some extent and some are correct.                         | Answers to questions assigned are very incomplete and most are incorrect.                                 |       |
| Individual Item        | The aspects of WWII are applied to the medium in their entirety and the object exceeds expectations.      | The aspects of WWII are applied to the medium and it is well done.              | The aspects of WWII are mostly applied and some effort has been put into the medium.                    | Numerous aspects of WWII are not applied and little effort has been put into the medium.                  |       |
|                        |   |   |   | Total Score   |       |

## Conclusion

Congratulations! You have made it through an exploration of World War II. You were able to learn the causes of the war and some important aspects of the war. Armed with this information you were also able to create something that represents an aspect of the

