

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

Published On:

Last Modified: 2018-06-20 21:39:20

WebQuest URL: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=383739>

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

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

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

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 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

war that may be used by future generations when studying the war. The information you gained during your exploration should have given you a higher understanding of the complicated subject of World War II. Good luck with your future essays and presentations on World War II that will show just how much you've learned on this journey!

Teacher Page

Hello fellow educators!! Thank you so much for showing interest in my WebQuest on World War II. If you are looking for an interactive assignment that will help guide your students in learning more about WWII, than you have come to the right place. Students will learn how to use multiple websites to gather information. This WebQuest was designed for students to work in at least pairs to do the research. At the end they are able to show what they've learned by creating something of their own design that illustrates an aspect of the war. I believe this WebQuest can add depth to any lesson on World War II and can definitely inspire students to learn more about the war.

Standards

This WebQuest addresses the following content standards for California History/Social Science

- 10.8 Students analyze the causes and consequences of World War II.
1. Compare the German, Italian, and Japanese drives for empire in the 1930s, including the 1937 Rape of Nanking, other atrocities in China, and the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939.
2. Understand the role of appeasement, nonintervention (isolationism), and the domestic distractions in Europe and the United States prior to the outbreak of World War II.
3. Identify and locate the Allied and Axis powers on a map and discuss the major turning points of the war, the principal theaters of conflict, key strategic decisions, and the resulting war conferences and political resolutions, with emphasis on the importance of geographic factors.
4. Describe the political, diplomatic, and military leaders during the war (e.g., Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Emperor Hirohito, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower).
5. Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.
6. Discuss the human costs of the war, with particular attention to the civilian and military losses in Russia, Germany, Britain, the United States, China, and Japan.
- 11.7 Students analyze America's participation in World War II.
1. Examine the origins of American involvement in the war, with an emphasis on the events that precipitated the attack on Pearl Harbor.
2. Explain U.S. and Allied wartime strategy, including the major battles of Midway, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Battle of the Bulge.
3. Identify the roles and sacrifices of individual American soldiers, as well as the unique contributions of the special fighting forces (e.g., the Tuskegee Airmen, the 442nd Regimental Combat team, the Navajo Code Talkers).
4. Analyze Roosevelt's foreign policy during World War II (e.g., Four Freedoms speech).
5. Discuss the constitutional issues and impact of events on the U.S. home front, including the internment of Japanese Americans (e.g., Fred Korematsu v. United States of America) and the restrictions on German and Italian resident aliens; the response of the administration to Hitler's atrocities against Jews and other groups; the roles of women in military production; and the roles and growing political demands of African Americans.
6. Describe major developments in aviation, weaponry, communication, and medicine and the war's impact on the location of American industry and use of resources.
7. Discuss the decision to drop atomic bombs and the consequences of the decision (Hiroshima and Nagasaki).
8. Analyze the effect of massive aid given to Western Europe under the Marshall Plan to rebuild itself after the war and the importance of a rebuilt Europe to the U.S. economy

Credits

I would like to thank Andi DiPonti, Jen Massender, and Matt Marentette for allowing me to use some of their content for creating my WebQuest. Their activity can be found at <http://questgarden.com/140/80/7/120313061529/index.htm>. I do not own the rights to the images on this WebQuest. Those images were found using the Google image search.

Other