World War II: War in Europe

World War II was the most destructive war in history. It killed more people and destroyed more property than any other war. While the war was fought in nearly every part of the world, more people were killed in Europe than anywhere else. Millions upon millions of European soldiers and citizens were killed during the war. Millions more were displaced from their homes. Let's learn about World War II in Europe to understand why it was so devastating.

First, go to www.worldbookonline.com
Then, click on “Student.” If prompted, log on with your ID and Password.

Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the “Search” tool to search key words. Since this activity is about World War II, you can start by searching the key words “World War II.”

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. World War II began on ________________ when Nazi Germany invaded ________________.

2. In 1940, about 338,000 Allied troops evacuated from the seaport of ________________ to England.

3. What happened on June 22, 1941?

4. Troops who rallied around ________________ became known as the Free French.

5. Germany attacked which three countries on May 10, 1940?

6. What Russian city suffered greatly while it was besieged from September 1941 through January 1944?
7. Who was supreme commander of the Allied Forces and directed the D-Day invasion?

8. In 1944, Germany used the first guided missiles against the United Kingdom.
   These were the ___________________ and ___________________ missiles.

9. What did Adolf Hitler do on April 30, 1945?

**True or False**

Write “True” if the statement about World War II is correct. If the statement is not correct, write “False” and correct the statement in the space below.

10. German U-boats sank thousands of tons of Allied shipping in the Atlantic Ocean.

11. In 1939, Germany invaded Finland and began what became known as the Winter War.

12. Adolf Hitler’s forces killed approximately 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust.

13. On D-Day, the Allied invasion took place near Calais.

14. *Operation Barbarossa* was the code name for the German invasion of France.

15. What did Franklin Roosevelt mean when he asked his fellow Americans to become “the arsenal of democracy”?

16. Name three reasons why Adolf Hitler decided to invade the Soviet Union.
17. How did Roosevelt and Churchill disagree regarding when to invade western Europe and whose view won?

18. What happened to Benito Mussolini in April 1945?

19. Name two ways that the Ultra secret helped the Allies defeat Germany.

Name the Country
In the line provided, write which country is being referred to in the statement.

___________ 20. The country where the battles of Kursk, Leningrad, and Stalingrad were fought.

___________ 21. The country that surrendered to the Allies on September 3, 1943 - only a couple of months after it was invaded.

___________ 22. The country from which the Allies retreated from Dunkerque in 1940 and returned in 1944 at Normandy.

___________ 23. The country whose surrender on May 8, 1945, ended the war in Europe.

___________ 24. The country whose Royal Air Force (RAF) helped prevent a German invasion in 1940.

___________ 25. The country invaded by Italian forces in 1940.
26. Who were the Tuskegee Airmen? (Hint: For this question see the “Tuskegee Airmen” article.)

27. What was the Dieppe Raid, and which country suffered the most fatalities in the raid? 
(Hint: For this question see the “Dieppe Raid” article.)

28. What six concentration camps served as Nazi death camps? 
(Hint: for this question see the “Concentration camp” article.)

29. Who was Rudolf Hess, and what did he do in May 1941? (Hint: For this question see the “Rudolf Hess” article.)

30. What was the Katyn Massacre and who committed this act? (Hint: For this question see the “Katyn Massacre” article.)

31. Who was Raoul Wallenberg, and what did he do during World War II? 
(Hint: For this question see the “Raoul Wallenberg” article.)

Map It!

Within the “World War II” article, you will find the map “World War II in Europe: 1943-1945.” Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. In July 1943, the Germans and Russians fought an important battle near which Soviet city?

33. The Allied supply route to the Soviet Union ended in which northern Soviet city?

34. Besides Spanish Morocco, which five countries on the map were neutral during World War II?
Timeline

Imagine that you are a war correspondent who wrote about all of the following events. Put the events in the order in which you wrote about them.

_________ Allied forces invade Sicily
_________ Allied troops invade Normandy on D-Day
_________ Battle of Britain begins
_________ Battle of the Bulge begins
_________ Battle of Stalingrad begins
_________ British forces defeat Germany at El Alamein
_________ British troops evacuate from Dunkerque
_________ Germany invaded Poland
_________ Germany invades the Soviet Union
_________ Germany surrenders unconditionally
_________ Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference

Read more about World War II by visiting World Book’s eBook collection:


© 2015 World Book, Inc. Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. All rights reserved. World Book and the globe device are trademarks or registered trademarks of World Book, Inc. This webquest may be reproduced without World Book’s permission provided that it is reproduced exactly as published by World Book and is reproduced for entirely non-commercial educational purposes. Any other reproduction of this webquest, in whole or in part, in any form, requires the express written permission of World Book, Inc., and may require the payment of a fee.
Answers:

1. World War II began on September 1, 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland.
2. In 1940, about 338,000 Allied troops evacuated from the seaport of Dunkerque to England.
3. On June 22, 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union.
4. Troops who rallied around Charles de Gaulle became known as the Free French.
5. Germany attacked Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands on May 10, 1940.
6. Leningrad suffered greatly while it was besieged from September 1941 through January 1944.
7. General Dwight Eisenhower was supreme commander of the Allied Forces and directed the D-Day invasion.
8. In 1944, Germany used the first guided missiles against the United Kingdom. These were the V-1 and V-2 missiles.
10. True.
11. False. In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Finland and began what became known as the Winter War.
12. True.
14. False. Operation Barbarossa was the code name for the German invasion of the Soviet Union.
15. Roosevelt meant that the United States would supply military equipment to the Allies.
16. 1. Hitler feared Soviet ambitions to expand in eastern Europe.
2. Hitler desired more living space for his people.
3. Hitler wanted the vast wheat and oil fields of Ukraine and elsewhere within the Soviet Union.
17. The Americans wanted to invade as soon as possible. The British wanted to wait until the Allies were fully prepared.
18. Mussolini was captured by Italian resistance fighters and shot.
19. 1. During the 1940 Battle of Britain, Ultra supplied warning of where and when the Luftwaffe planned to attack.
2. Ultra provided Bernard Montgomery with Erwin Rommel’s battle plan in Egypt in 1942.
20. Soviet Union
21. Italy
22. France
23. Germany
24. United Kingdom
25. Greece
26. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African Americans who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.
27. The Dieppe Raid was an unsuccessful Allied assault on German forces in 1942. The Canadians suffered the most fatalities.
28. The six Nazi death camps were Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka.
29. Rudolf Hess was Adolf Hitler’s private secretary. In May 1941, he piloted a plane to Scotland to persuade Britain to get out of the war and leave Europe to the Germans.
30. The Katyn Massacre was a mass murder of around 20,000 Polish army officers by the Soviet Union.
31. Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish businessman and diplomat who helped save about 100,000 Hungarian Jews from being killed by the Nazis.
32. In July 1943, the Germans and Russians fought an important battle near Kursk.
33. The Allied supply route to the Soviet Union ended in Murmansk.
34. Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland were neutral during World War II.

**Timeline:**

The correct order of the events is:

- Germany invaded Poland
- British troops evacuate from Dunkerque
- Battle of Britain begins
- Germany invades the Soviet Union
- Battle of Stalingrad begins
- British forces defeat Germany at El Alamein
- Allied forces invade Sicily
- Allied troops invade Normandy on D-Day
- Battle of the Bulge begins
- Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference
- Germany surrenders unconditionally