The End of the War

Main Idea
In 1945 the Allies finally triumphed over the Axis powers, but the war left many nations in ruins.

Content Statement/Learning Goal
Describe how WWII devastated most of Europe and Asia, led to the occupation of Eastern Europe and Japan, and began the atomic age.

Essays for Test:
Explain how the consequences of World War I and the worldwide depression set the stage for the rise of totalitarianism, aggressive Axis expansion and the policy of appeasement which in turn led to World War II.
14-4 vocabulary

- D-Day:
- V-E Day:
- Battle of Iwo Jima:
- Battle of Okinawa:
- Harry S. Truman:
- Hirohito:
- V-J Day:
- Yalta Conference:
- United Nations
- Potsdam Conference:
14-4 vocabulary

• **D-Day:** June 6, 1944; the first day of the Allied invasion of Normandy in WWII. Largest amphibious landing in military history.

• **V-E Day:** May 8, 1945; a term used by the Allies, it stands for “victory in Europe” during WWII.

• **Battle of Iwo Jima:** WWII battle between Japanese forces and invading U.S. troops. Feb. 1945. 750 miles south of Tokyo. 7,000 Americans died and all but a thousand of 20,000 Japanese died. Fight to the death.

• **Battle of Okinawa:** (1945) WWII victory for the Allied troops that resulted in the deaths of almost all of the 100,000 Japanese defenders; the battle claimed 12,000 American lives.

• **Harry S. Truman:** (1884-1972) 33rd president of U.S.; he became president after FDR’s death. He led the U.S. through WWII and into Cold War. Decided to drop A-bomb on Japanese.
14-4 vocabulary

- **Hirohito**: (1901-1989) Emperor of Japan from 1926 to 1989: he led Japan during WWII and forced into unconditional surrender following the atomic-bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

- **V-J Day**: August 15, 1945; a term used by the Allies, it stand for “Victory over Japan” during WWII.

- **Yalta Conference**: (Feb. 1945) a meeting between FDR, Churchill, and Stalin to reach an agreement on what to do with Germany after WWII.

- **United Nations**: international organization formed in 1945 to maintain world peace and encourage cooperation among nations.

- **Potsdam Conference**: (1945)a meeting of Allied leaders in the German city of Potsdam to address issues about the post-WWII Europe. 1st day of conference U.S. drops A-bomb.
THE END OF THE WAR, 1944–1945

Movement Describe the Allied advances in 1944 and 1945.

- Allied-controlled territory (1944)
- Allied advance
- Axis-controlled territory (1944)
- Neutral (1944)
- Major battle

Map showing the movement of Allied forces during World War II, focusing on Europe. Key locations include Normandy, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Soviet Union, and Germany. The map highlights major battles and territorial changes from 1944 to 1945.
War Ends in Europe

1) Soviet advance—pushing Hitler’s troops backward
   - Axis forces with 2 million casualties—outnumbered and outgunned
   - Early 1944, Siege of Leningrad ends; more victories for Soviets followed
   - Axis forces driven back into central Europe
   - Soviets within 40 miles of Berlin by end of January 1945

2) D-Day/Operation Overlord
   - Second front in Western Europe
   - Sea assault led by Marshall and Eisenhower. launched from U.K.
   - June 6, 1944, invasion at Normandy
   - Victory came with high casualties 9,000
   - Over 150,000 troops landed that first day
   - By July 1, 1944 1 million Allied soldiers came ashore.
   - Paris free by end of August 1944
   - Eisenhower, “The enemy is routed and running” → KNOCK OUT PUNCH!

3) Battle of the Bulge
   - December 1944, one last stand
   - Counterattack at Belgium
   - German advance led to bulge in the line
   - Defeat ended German resistance
   - Allies racing to Berlin from the east and west
   - Final German offensive
D-Day Pictures
D-Day Pictures
D-Day Pictures

They Fought to Free Europe from Hitler’s Tyranny

A Day That Changed America

D-DAY
World War II
Section 4
The End of the War, 1944–1945

Movement: Describe the Allied advances in 1944 and 1945.
4) The Germans Surrender

- Soviets reached Berlin first
- Adolf Hitler found dead in bunker—a suicide 4/30/1945
- Berlin surrendered May 2, 1945; Germany five days later
- Victory in Europe (V-E Day) proclaimed May 8, 1945
- War in Europe finally over after nearly six years
By mid-1944, regular bombing raids on Japanese cities, including Tokyo. Bombing that creates firestorms killed 84,000.

Great distance made raids difficult, dangerous

Americans needed bases closer to Japan. *Island hopping*

5) **Battle of Iwo Jima** **Flags of our Fathers**

February 1945 island invasion; 750 miles south of Tokyo

7,000 Americans died in month of fighting; 20,000 Japanese died—only 1,000 thousand surrendered. FIGHT TO THE DEATH!!!

5) **Battle of Okinawa**

Only 350 miles from Japan; U.S. troops invaded island April 1945

By June, 12,000 American soldiers dead

Japanese lost 100,000 defenders and another 100,000 civilians

FIGHT TO THE DEATH!!!
6) The Atomic Bomb

- After Okinawa, mainland Japan was next
- Atomic bomb used energy released by the splitting of atoms. Far more powerful than ordinary bombs. Manhattan Project

**Option to invasion**

- Atomic bomb successfully tested in 1945
- **Harry S Truman** U.S. president with Roosevelt’s death in May 1945
- Forced to make decision—bomb Japanese city to force surrender
- Wanted quick end to war in Pacific.
- **July 26, 1945**
  - Allies issued demand for surrender
  - No response; Hiroshima bombed on August 6. 70,000 Killed instantly.
  - Still no surrender; second bomb dropped on Nagasaki on August 9
  - Another 75,000 killed.
  - 145,000 total deaths
  - 80,000 more die slowly from radiation.
  - Japanese acknowledged defeat

Emperor **Hirohito** surrendered on August 15, 1945. This day is known as **V-J Day** for Victory in Japan. World War II was finally over.
1. FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HARRY TRUMAN, DID THE U.S. NEED TO DROP THE ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN? WHY OR WHY NOT? Yes/No chart

- **YES:**
  - Kamikaze
  - Battle of Okinawa, Iwo Jima: FIGHT TO THE DEATH
  - Estimates of 1 Million Allied casualties to take Japan.
  - $$$: Cost of Bomb
  - Shows our superiority

**NO:**

Victory in Japan seen as imminent

-Russia’s help: Enters war August 6, 1945. Day of Hiroshima

Killed civilians

Some Japanese officials had negotiated with Russia in a hope for peace.
Nearly everything within a one-mile radius of the blast was destroyed when an atomic bomb hit Hiroshima. Heavy damage extended three miles out. Lighter damage reached as far as 12 miles out from the center of the blast.
World War II

Section 4

HIROSHIMA (15 kiloton)
6 AUGUST 1945

ESTIMATED POPULATION ...... 330,000
DEATHS BY DECEMBER 1945 .................. 90,000–120,000

NAGASAKI (21 kiloton)
9 AUGUST 1945

ESTIMATED POPULATION ...... 250,000
DEATHS BY DECEMBER 1945 .................. 60,000–80,000
A-bomb in Hiroshima
1. FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HARRY TRUMAN, DID THE U.S. NEED TO DROP THE ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN? WHY OR WHY NOT? Yes/No chart

- **YES:**
  - Kamikaze
  - Battle of Okinawa, Iwo Jima
  - Estimates of 1 Million Allied casualties to take Japan.
  - $$$ Cost of bomb/Superiority

- **NO:**
  - Victory in Japan seen as imminent
  - Russia’s help: Enters war August 6, 1945. Day of Hiroshima
  - Killed civilians
  - Some Japanese officials had negotiated with Russia in a hope for peace. Why Japan? Germany first to split atom.

2. After seeing the aftermath of the bomb, is your opinion the same? Perspective from today.
Was Atomic Bombing necessary?: What alternatives did we have?

- Full scale invasion?
  - Estimated 1 million Allied casualties?
  - Conventional bombing
  - Wait for help from Russia

- Naval Blockade
  - Battle of Atlantic ➔ German U-Boats
  - Why did Japanese bomb us at Pearl Harbor ➔ oil embargo
Was Atomic Bombing necessary?: According to United States Strategic Bombing Survey 1946

• By the summer of 1944, it had become evident to the Japanese air commanders that there was no way in which they could equal the United States air arms at any point. Their losses were catastrophic, while the results which they were achieving were negligible.

• Kamikaze fighters ineffective. By Oct 1944 to end of Okinawa 2,550 kamikaze missions only 475 effective. 18.6%.

• After the liberation of the Philippines and the capture of Okinawa, oil imports into Japan were completely cut off; fuel oil stocks had been exhausted, and the few remaining Japanese warships, being without fuel, were decommissioned or were covered with camouflage and used only as antiaircraft platforms. JAPANESE NAVY DECIMATED

• Japan entered the war with some 6,000,000 tons of merchant shipping of over 500 tons gross weight. During the war an additional 4,100,000 tons were constructed, captured or requisitioned Eight million nine hundred thousand tons of this shipping were sunk or so seriously damaged as to be out of action at the end of the war.

• It is the opinion of the Survey that by August 1945, even without direct air attack on her cities and industries, the over-all level of Japanese war production would have declined below the peak levels of 1944 by 40 to 50 percent solely as a result of the interdiction of overseas imports.→ U.S. naval supremacy and embargo.

• Japanese quality of life diminished. Undernourishment causes rise in tuberculosis.

• By 1944, the average per capita caloric intake had declined to approximately 1,900 calories. By the summer of 1945 it was about 1,680 calories per

• Sixty-four percent of the population stated that they had reached a point prior to surrender where they felt personally unable to go on with the war.
Was Atomic Bombing necessary?: According to United States Strategic Bombing Survey 1946

- Roughly one-quarter of all people in cities fled or were evacuated, and these evacuees, who themselves were of singularly low morale, helped spread discouragement and disaffection for the war throughout the islands. This mass migration from the cities included an estimated 8,500,000 persons.

- Early in May 1945, the Supreme War Direction Council began active discussion of ways and means to end the war, and talks were initiated with Soviet Russia seeking her intercession as mediator.

- On 20 June the Emperor, on his own initiative, called the six members of the Supreme War Direction Council to a conference and said it was necessary to have a plan to close the war at once, as well as a plan to defend the home islands.

- General Takashima: “Surrender unavoidable”

- Although the Supreme War Direction Council, in its deliberations on the Potsdam Declaration, was agreed on the advisability of ending the war, three of its members, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Navy Minister, were prepared to accept unconditional surrender, while the other three, the Army Minister, and the Chiefs of Staff of both services, favored continued resistance unless certain mitigating conditions were obtained.

- Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts, and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leaders involved, it is the Survey’s opinion that certainly prior to 31 December 1945, and in all probability prior to 1 November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated.

- Manhattan Project cost U.S. $2 billion dollars (roughly $26 billion 2014 equivalent)
Was Atomic Bombing necessary?: According to United States Strategic Bombing Survey 1946

Summary:
Japan was out of oil
Japan was out of raw materials
Japan’s war production would be cut by 40-50% in 1945
Japan was out of food
Japanese officials were already in negotiations with Russia to mediate agreement to end the war
U.S. government admits war would have ended by December 1945 even without full scale invasion.
THE END OF THE WAR, 1944–1945

Movement Describe the Allied advances in 1944 and 1945.
9) The Postwar World

• End of war, Europe and Asia in ruins
  – Food, shelter, and medicine all scare.
  – National economies collapsed

• Tens of millions dead; heaviest losses in Eastern Europe

• Germany, Japan, and China had also suffered greatly
  – Physical devastation; cities, villages, and farms destroyed
  – National economies near collapse

• Millions uprooted
  – former prisoners of war, survivors of concentration camps, refugees of fighting and of national border changes
### World War II Casualties

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<th></th>
<th>Military Dead</th>
<th>Military Wounded</th>
<th>Civilian Dead</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,310,000</td>
<td>1,753,000</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>213,000</td>
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<td>7,000,000+</td>
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<td>292,000</td>
<td>672,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Axis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>672,000</td>
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Planning for the Future

**July 1941**
- Allied leaders planned for years for the of war
- **Churchill and Roosevelt met to discuss even before U.S. entered war**

**Atlantic Charter**
- **Joint declaration of Churchill and Roosevelt**
  - Outlined purpose of war
  - Sought no territorial gains
  - All nations could choose their own government
  - Work for mutual prosperity

**Tehran Conference**
- December 1943
- Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin
- Agreed on schedule for D-Day invasion
- Would work together in peace after the war
10) Yalta Conference: February 1945

- Held in Soviet territory in early 1945; Allies on brink of military victory
- Primary goal to reach agreement on postwar Europe
- Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill agreed on plans for Germany
- Stalin got his way kept some Polish territory, made promises of democratic elections in Poland and Eastern Europe

11) United Nations: Approved at Yalta

- Roosevelt got Stalin to agree to join fight against Japan once war in Europe over. Discussed at Yalta.
- USSR would join new world organization—United Nations
- Meant to encourage international cooperation and prevent war
- June 1945 charter signed with five major Allies as Security Council
- United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China made up Security Council. Hold veto power.
In 1949 Germany was divided into four zones of occupation: American, British, French, and Soviet.

**Location** Why was it necessary to airlift supplies to West Berlin?

See *Skills Handbook*, p. H20
### Potsdam Conference

**July 17 - Aug 2 1945**

- Small German city location for Potsdam Conference
- Growing ill will between Soviet Union and other Allies
- U.S. and U.S.S.R two most powerful nations

### Stalin

- Soon broke his promises
- Did not respect democracies in Eastern Europe → No elections in Poland
- Another struggle beginning

### Three sides

- Soviet Union, Britain, and United States
- Discussed many issues previously agreed upon at Yalta but had difficulty reaching agreements.

### Closing months

- American and British leaders worried about Stalin’s intentions
- Concerned about spread of communism, growth of Soviet influence
- *totalitarian dictatorship

12) **Potsdam Conference**
The Iron Curtain in Europe

After World War II, Stalin helped install Communist governments throughout Eastern Europe. Here, a poster of Stalin (center) hangs above a doorway in newly Communist East Germany in 1946. The spread of communism concerned American and British leaders. In a famous speech, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (far right) described a sharp division between Europe’s Communist and non-Communist nations—a division that he famously termed “the Iron Curtain.”
CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR II

CAUSES
- Economic hardship and political unrest following World War I
- Aggressive leaders in Germany, Italy, and Japan wanted to expand their nations.
- Germany invaded Poland, and Japan attacked the United States.

EFFECTS
- Millions of people were killed, and large areas of Europe and Asia were damaged or destroyed.
- The Allies occupied Japan and parts of Europe.
- The United Nations was created to help prevent future wars.
- Conflict began between the Soviet Union and the other Allies over the fate of Eastern Europe.
- The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world’s two major powers.
**World War II: 1939–1945**

**German aggression leads to war**
- Rhineland militarized
- Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia annexed
- Poland invaded

**Axis Powers make early gains**
- Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, France, invades Soviet Union
- Nazis adopt the Final Solution and establish death camps
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; rules the Pacific

**The Allies fight back**
- British and Americans win in North Africa, Italy
- Soviets win at Stalingrad
- Americans win at Midway, begin island hopping

**The war ends**
- Soviets push back Germans from the east
- After D-Day, other Allies push toward Germany from the west
- Americans win in Pacific; atomic bomb ends war

**Major Events of World War II**

| 1939 | Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact  
|      | German troops invade Poland and the war begins |
| 1940 | Germany conquers France  
|      | Battle of Britain begins |
| 1941 | Germany invades the Soviet Union  
|      | Japan attacks Pearl Harbor  
|      | United States enters the war |
| 1942 | Allies win the Battle of Midway  
|      | Allied victory at El Alamein  
|      | Allies begin to hear reports of widespread killings of Jews in Europe |
| 1943 | Soviets win the Battle of Stalingrad  
|      | Allies invade Italy |
| 1944 | Allies invade France in D-Day  
|      | Allies begin to discover death camps |
| 1945 | Allies meet at Yalta and Potsdam  
|      | Germany surrenders  
|      | Allies win battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa  
|      | Allies drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
|      | Japan surrenders and the war ends |