

World War II

1. What position did George Marshall hold during World War II?

- A. Commanding General of the Pacific
 - B. Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army
 - C. Army Field Marshall of Bataan
 - D. Supreme Officer of European Operations
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2. Which of the following best explains why President Harry S. Truman decided to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II?

- A. He wanted the war to last as long as possible.
 - B. He wanted to wait for the USSR to join the war.
 - C. He wanted Germany to surrender unconditionally.
 - D. He wanted to avoid an American invasion of Japan.
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3. What impact did the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor have on World War II?

- A. Italy surrendered and united with the Allies.
 - B. The Pacific Charter was organized against Japan.
 - C. Japan surrendered to the Allies the following day.
 - D. It pulled the United States into World War II.
-

4.



The picture above is an iconic image from World War II and symbolizes which of the following?

- A. the women who ferried supplies into combat areas during the war
- B. the millions of women who joined the workforce in heavy industry
- C. the important work done by Red Cross nurses during World War II

- D. the women who joined the armed forces in combat roles
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Battle of the Bulge

The Battle of the Bulge, initially known as the Ardennes Offensive, began on December 16, 1944. Hitler believed that the coalition between Britain, France, and the United States in the western region of Europe was not very powerful and that a major defeat by the Germans would break up the Allied forces. Hitler ordered a substantial attack against the Allied troops in an attempt to split the Allies in half in their push towards Germany. Hitler's troops made rapid strides at first; however, the Allied troops stood firm in their resistance. Denied crucial routes and hindered by air attacks by the Allied forces, the German attempts resulted in a large bulge in the Allied lines. Due to a supply shortage, German tanks and other vehicles ran out of fuel, forcing the Germans to abandon their transports. What Hitler thought would be a definite victory for Germany backfired and became a major turning point for the Allies toward winning the war. The Battle of the Bulge was the bloodiest battle that U.S. forces endured in World War II.

5. Why was World War II's Battle of the Bulge important?

- A. It distracted the U.S. so Japan could launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.
 - B. It opened a path for German forces to attack the Soviet Union in Stalingrad.
 - C. It prompted Italy to surrender, leaving Germany and Japan to fight the Allies.
 - D. It was the final major Nazi offensive against the Allied forces in the war.
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6. Why did Congress pass the Lend-Lease Act and amend the Neutrality Acts in 1941?

- A. to allow the U.S. to lend military equipment and supplies to any nation the president said was vital to the defense of the U.S.
 - B. to limit the amount of military equipment and supplies sent overseas
 - C. to allow a means for the U.S. military to build military bases on foreign soil
 - D. to permit landlords to lend or lease housing for American troops overseas
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7. During World War II, General Douglas MacArthur led the U.S. forces in the Philippines and surrounding areas. MacArthur was also the military general who

- A. traded U.S. military secrets with the Chinese.
 - B. accepted Japan's surrender in September 1945.
 - C. started a nuclear war with Cuba and the U.S.S.R.
 - D. required the immediate evacuation of London.
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8.



Which World War II military general, who was also the Military Governor of the American Occupation Zone in Germany, was elected president of the United States?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - B. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - C. Richard Nixon
 - D. John F. Kennedy
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9.



The image used above is a propaganda poster from World War II. The man in the poster represents a famous group of African Americans who fought in the war. They were known as the

- A. 442nd Regimental Combat Team.
- B. Tuskegee Airmen.
- C. American Expeditionary Forces.

D. 82nd Airborne.

10.



General George Patton is famous for his leadership of the Seventh Army and their successful invasion of

- A. Iwo Jima.
 - B. Sicily.
 - C. Bataan.
 - D. Berlin.
-

11. From November 28-December 1, 1943, Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union, Winston Churchill of Britain, and Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States met together in what was known as the Tehran Conference. It was the first World War II conference among the Big Three (the Soviet Union, the United States, and the Britain) in which Stalin was present. What was one major negotiation reached at the Tehran Conference?

- A. The Potsdam Declaration was issued asking for Japan's surrender.
 - B. The division of Germany would be split into four occupation zones.
 - C. The Pacific Charter was outlined for the Allies' action plan for Asia.
 - D. Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, was scheduled for France.
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12.



The image above immortalizes which important World War II battle?

- A. Pearl Harbor
 - B. Okinawa
 - C. Midway
 - D. Iwo Jima
-

13. By 1937, the aggression in Europe was becoming apparent to the United States. President Franklin Roosevelt did not shy away from acknowledging the situation but instead issued the "Quarantine Speech." In this speech, Roosevelt

- A. publicly announced his alliance with the allied powers.
 - B. threatened Germany in order to suppress its ambitions.
 - C. asked Congress to declare war on the aggressors.
 - D. called for an end to America's isolationist ways.
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14. The USSR pledged which of the following at the Yalta Conference in February of 1945?

- A. to open a second front in the war by invading France
 - B. to disarm as quickly as possible once the war ended
 - C. to attack Japan within three months of German surrender
 - D. to foster communism in nations taken from Germany
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15. What was the reasoning of the United States government for placing thousands of Japanese Americans into internment camps?

- A. Many Americans were concerned about the loyalty of Japanese Americans.
- B. Japanese Americans were quarantined to prevent a small pox outbreak.
- C. The U.S government wanted to train Japanese Americans to fight in the war.

- D. The U.S. government wanted to offer protection to Japanese Americans.

Letter from Einstein to Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 2, 1939

"Some recent work... leads me to expect that the element of uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future... This new phenomenon would... lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable... that extremely powerful bombs of a new type could thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by a boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port as well as some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might prove to be too heavy for transportation by air. In view of this situation, you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America."

—Albert Einstein

16. Which of the following best describes the result of the letter above from Albert Einstein to Franklin D. Roosevelt as it relates to World War II?

- A. the arms race to produce nuclear weapons between two world superpowers
- B. the establishment of a project in Los Alamos to develop the first atomic bomb
- C. the use of nuclear power as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels
- D. the discovery that nuclear reactions could be used to create energy

17. The Potsdam Declaration called for the immediate surrender of Japan or else they would face "prompt and utter destruction." Japan's refusal to surrender led directly to which of the following?

- A. the creation of the United Nations
- B. the dropping of the atomic bombs
- C. the invasion of France at Normandy
- D. the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

18. Which event had the **greatest** impact on the Cold War nuclear arms race?

- A. the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957
- B. the Soviet development of the atomic bomb in 1949
- C. the U.S. lunar landing in 1969
- D. the U.S. detonation of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945

19. The Neutrality Acts passed by the United States as part of a policy of isolationism during the 1930s were, in part, a response to

- A. spreading anxieties regarding nuclear warfare.
 - B. growing conflicts in European and Asian countries.
 - C. imperial conquests by the USSR in South Africa.
 - D. aggression of China against the Japanese.
-

20. The 442nd Regimental Combat team was a highly decorated unit of the U.S. Army that fought in World War II. One aspect that distinguished the 442nd was that its members were

- A. German Americans.
 - B. Japanese Americans.
 - C. Italian Americans.
 - D. African Americans.
-

21.



Image courtesy of the Library of Congress

Pictured above are Joseph Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill at the Tehran Conference in 1943. They were the leaders of the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom. During World War II, these men were known as the "Big Three" because they led

- A. the countries that suffered the most casualties during the war.
- B. the most powerful of the Allied countries.
- C. the only countries fighting against Germany.

D. countries had declared war on each other.

22. Members of which Native American tribe, in association with the United States Marine Corps, created an unbreakable code that was used in messages of military intelligence in the Pacific Theater of World War II?

- A. Sioux
 - B. Navajo
 - C. Powhatan
 - D. Huron
-

23. From July 17 to August 2, 1945, leaders from the Allied nations met at the Potsdam Conference to decide what sanctions to put in place against the recently defeated Nazi Germany. During the conference, the decision was made that certain industries in Germany would be

- A. brought back to their pre-World War I levels.
 - B. disabled in order to destroy potential for war.
 - C. governed by the forces occupying the country.
 - D. revitalized because the war had damaged them.
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24. What was the significance of World War II's Normandy Invasion, commonly referred to as D-Day?

- A. It promptly pulled the United States out of World War II.
 - B. It marked the first use of the atomic bomb in a war.
 - C. It prompted a peace summit that ended World War II.
 - D. It marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.
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25. Which of the following battles marks the turning point of World War II in the Pacific Theater?

- A. Pearl Harbor
 - B. Iwo Jima
 - C. Midway
 - D. Okinawa
-

26. The Battle of Midway

- A. was the first major naval victory by the Allies against the Japanese.
 - B. ended when America dropped an atomic bomb.
 - C. resulted in almost the complete destruction of Allied naval forces.
 - D. forced the Japanese to surrender to the U.S.
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27. Compared to fighting in Europe, the United States suffered what disadvantage in the Pacific Theater during World War II?

- A. It was more difficult to deliver American troops and supplies.
 - B. China refused to let the United States use its naval ports.
 - C. Russia did not have the airplane technology necessary to help.
 - D. The United States had fewer troops to deploy on the West Coast.
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28. How did the Lend-Lease Act help the United States when it entered World War II?

- A. The United States was able to buy superior naval technology.
 - B. The United States was able to use military bases in Allied territory.
 - C. The United States effectively was able to maintain its neutrality until 1941.
 - D. The United States intercepted secret messages on German troop movements.
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29. A. Philip Randolph was a well known civil rights leader. During the 1940s, his work was focused mainly on which of the following?

- A. fair employment practices for men and women
 - B. voting rights protection for African Americans
 - C. equal rights for women in the armed services
 - D. ending racial discrimination of war industries
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30. Shortly after the United States entered World War II in 1941, Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at the Arcadia Conference in Washington, D.C. At this conference, the two leaders agreed on a strategy known as "Germany First" in which they agreed to concentrate their war efforts on defeating Germany. Why did the United States and the United Kingdom think this would be an effective strategy?

- A. They wanted to take control of all German territory.

- B. They wanted to prevent Germany from invading France.
 - C. They viewed Germany as the greatest threat in the war.
 - D. They thought Germany would be the easiest country to defeat.
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31.



- one of the main field army generals in North Africa and Europe
- commanded many of the U.S. efforts during Operation Overlord in Normandy, France
- led the Veterans Administration after the war

Which World War II leader is described by the examples in the box above?

- A. Ernie Pyle
 - B. Harry S. Truman
 - C. Omar Bradley
 - D. George Marshall
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32. A controversy regarding the use of the atomic bombs at the end of World War II began almost immediately after the war. Those who argue against the use of the atomic bombs state that

- A. they were needed to end the war.
 - B. they were not required militarily.
 - C. they led to the surrender of Japan.
 - D. they made an invasion unnecessary.
-

33. What impact did World War II have on the American economy?

- A. burdened the nations farmers who grew too little
- B. placed a huge war debt on the American people

- C. permanently ended the Great Depression
 - D. caused the stock market crash of 1929
-

34.

- Operation Iceberg
- Fought from March to June of 1945
- Largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater

Which battle of the Pacific Theater is described in the box?

- A. Battle of the Bulge
 - B. Battle of Midway
 - C. Battle of Iwo Jima
 - D. Battle of Okinawa
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