Closing In

Trace the Allied advance and Germany's surrender

SS24.HOS.19b "Outline the chronology of the Allied advance into Germany and the German surrender."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline dated advances by western Allied forces and circle dated advances by Soviet forces. Number the events from Berlin's surrender through Germany's surrender taking effect to trace the final sequence.

The Advance into Germany

1. On June 6, 1944, Allied troops landed in Normandy, France, opening a major western front against Nazi Germany. After breaking out of Normandy, they liberated Paris in August and moved toward Germany's western border that fall. In December, Germany launched a surprise attack in Belgium and Luxembourg, known as the Battle of the Bulge. Allied forces held their ground and pushed the German army back by January 1945. The failed offensive used up troops and supplies Germany could not replace. The western Allies then prepared to cross the Rhine, a major river that guarded Germany's industrial heartland.

2. Meanwhile, the Soviet Red Army advanced from the east. In January 1945, Soviet troops drove west across Poland and reached the Oder River, near Berlin. On January 27, they liberated Auschwitz, where Nazi Germany had murdered vast numbers of people, most of them Jews. In March, American forces captured a bridge over the Rhine at Remagen, and other western Allied forces crossed the river. Soviet forces began their final assault on Berlin on April 16. On April 25, American and Soviet troops met at the Elbe River. Germany now faced Allied armies from both directions, with its capital under attack.

3. Berlin's defense collapsed as Soviet soldiers fought through the city. Adolf Hitler died by suicide on April 30, 1945. Berlin's German garrison surrendered on May 2, but fighting elsewhere continued. On May 7, German representatives signed an unconditional surrender of Germany's armed forces at Reims, France. It took effect late on May 8 in central Europe. A second signing took place in Berlin on May 8, as Soviet leaders had demanded. By the time the surrender took effect, it was already May 9 in Moscow. That difference in local time helps explain why Victory in Europe Day is observed on different dates.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace the western Allied advance from June 1944 through March 1945 using three dated milestones.

2. Where does the Battle of the Bulge fit between the liberation of Paris and the Rhine crossing? What had happened by January 1945?

3. Trace three dated steps in the Soviet advance from January through April 25, 1945, ending with the meeting at the Elbe.

4. Put Berlin's surrender, the signing at Reims, and the surrender taking effect in order. Give the date of each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label titled “Closing In.” Explain how both Allied fronts closed in on Germany and how the advance exposed a Nazi camp. Include at least five dated events in chronological order, and explain why May 8 and May 9 both appear as victory dates.

ANSWER KEY

Closing In

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.19b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline dated advances by western Allied forces and circle dated advances by Soviet forces. Number the events from Berlin's surrender through Germany's surrender taking effect to trace the final sequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace the western Allied advance from June 1944 through March 1945 using three dated milestones.	**Allied troops landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944, liberated Paris in August, and crossed the Rhine in March 1945.**
2	Where does the Battle of the Bulge fit between the liberation of Paris and the Rhine crossing? What had happened by January 1945?	**Germany launched the attack in December 1944, after Paris was liberated and before the March Rhine crossing. By January 1945, Allied forces had pushed the German army back.**
3	Trace three dated steps in the Soviet advance from January through April 25, 1945, ending with the meeting at the Elbe.	**Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz on January 27, began their assault on Berlin on April 16, and met American troops at the Elbe on April 25.**
4	Put Berlin's surrender, the signing at Reims, and the surrender taking effect in order. Give the date of each.	**Berlin's garrison surrendered on May 2. German representatives signed at Reims on May 7, and Germany's surrender took effect late on May 8 in central Europe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Closing In: On June 6, 1944, Allied landings in Normandy opened a major western front. By August, western forces had liberated Paris. On January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers advancing from the east liberated Auschwitz, exposing Nazi crimes. In March, western Allies crossed the Rhine. Soviet forces attacked Berlin on April 16, and American and Soviet troops met at the Elbe on April 25. Berlin surrendered on May 2. Germany's surrender took effect late on May 8 in central Europe, when it was already May 9 in Moscow.

Accept other accurate, chronological milestones from the passage. For the museum label, check the word count, both fronts, camp liberation, five dated events in order, and the local-time explanation.