Where Wars Turned

Trace how battles in three theaters changed World War II.

SS24.WH.10b "Describe major turning points of World War II in the European, North Africa, and Pacific theaters and identify the locations of these events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline two turning-point events and circle where each happened. Number each event and one result of that event with the same number.

Turning Points Across Three Theaters

1. In Europe, the war did not turn on a single day. At Stalingrad, a city on the Volga River in the Soviet Union, Soviet troops surrounded a large German force in November 1942. Its surrender in February 1943 ended Germany's advance toward the Volga and drained troops it could not easily replace. Farther west, Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The landings opened a major western front against German forces. With Soviet armies pushing from the east and Allied armies moving inland from France, Germany faced powerful attacks from two directions.

2. North Africa mattered because control of its coast and routes affected access to the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal. In October 1942, British-led forces attacked German and Italian troops near El Alamein, Egypt. Their victory ended the Axis drive toward the Suez Canal and pushed Axis forces west. In November, American and British forces landed in Morocco and Algeria during Operation Torch. Those landings placed Allied troops west of Axis armies while British-led troops advanced from the east. Caught between these forces, Axis troops surrendered in Tunisia in May 1943. The campaign then gave the Allies a base for invading Sicily.

3. Across the Pacific, distance and islands shaped the fighting. Near Midway Atoll, northwest of Hawaii, American forces sank four Japanese aircraft carriers in June 1942. Japan lost ships and experienced aircrews it could not quickly replace, weakening its ability to launch major carrier attacks. In August 1942, American marines landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, where Japan was building an airfield. After months of combat at sea and on land, Japan withdrew in February 1943. Holding Guadalcanal helped protect routes between the United States and Australia and gave the Allies a foothold for further advances across the Pacific.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where was Stalingrad, and how did the German surrender there change the war in Europe?

2. Where did Allied forces land on June 6, 1944, and why did that landing put Germany under greater pressure?

3. How did the victories near El Alamein and in Morocco and Algeria change the fighting in North Africa?

4. Where were Midway and Guadalcanal, and what advantage did the Allies gain at each place?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum caption of 75 to 95 words about one turning point from each theater. Name each event and its location, explain how it changed the war, then argue which of your three choices shifted momentum most and why.

ANSWER KEY

Where Wars Turned

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.10b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline two turning-point events and circle where each happened. Number each event and one result of that event with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where was Stalingrad, and how did the German surrender there change the war in Europe?	**Stalingrad was on the Volga River in the Soviet Union. The surrender ended Germany's advance toward the Volga and cost it troops that were difficult to replace.**
2	Where did Allied forces land on June 6, 1944, and why did that landing put Germany under greater pressure?	**They landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. The landing opened a western front while Soviet armies pushed from the east.**
3	How did the victories near El Alamein and in Morocco and Algeria change the fighting in North Africa?	**Near El Alamein, Egypt, British-led forces stopped the Axis drive toward the Suez Canal and pushed Axis forces west. The landings in Morocco and Algeria put Allied troops west of the Axis armies, leaving them caught between Allied forces.**
4	Where were Midway and Guadalcanal, and what advantage did the Allies gain at each place?	**Near Midway Atoll, northwest of Hawaii, American forces sank four Japanese carriers, weakening Japan's ability to launch major carrier attacks. On Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, the Allies gained a foothold for further advances and helped protect routes to Australia.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Stalingrad in the Soviet Union, Soviet troops trapped a German army, ending Germany's drive toward the Volga. Near El Alamein, Egypt, British-led forces stopped the Axis advance toward the Suez Canal and forced a retreat. Near Midway Atoll, northwest of Hawaii, American forces destroyed four Japanese carriers, weakening Japan's striking power. Of these, I would choose Stalingrad as the greatest shift because it halted a major German offensive and cost Germany troops it struggled to replace. The other victories opened opportunities, but Stalingrad damaged Germany's ability to continue its advance.

Accept accurate descriptions of each event's location and effect, even if students use different wording. For the caption, accept any supported choice of the most significant turning point.