

America at War

Trace how the United States entered, supported, and fought in World War II.

SS5H4 "Explain America's involvement in World War II."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the event that brought the United States into the war, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside one home-front action and two military actions that show how Americans took part.

A Nation Joins the Fight

- ① Before the United States entered World War II, it sent supplies to nations fighting Germany. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The next day, Congress declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States, bringing Americans into the war in both the Pacific and Europe.
- ② American factories changed from making cars and household goods to building tanks, ships, planes, and weapons. Many women took factory jobs while men served in the armed forces. Families planted victory gardens, bought war bonds, and saved materials such as rubber and metal. These home-front efforts gave U.S. troops and Allied nations the equipment and supplies they needed.
- ③ U.S. forces fought in Europe and the Pacific. In Europe, they joined Allied troops in the 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, which helped open a western front against Germany. In the Pacific, U.S. forces moved from island to island toward Japan. After the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, Japan surrendered. World War II ended.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What event caused Congress to declare war on Japan?

2

Name two ways people on the home front supported the war effort.

3

Describe one way U.S. forces fought in Europe and one way they fought in the Pacific.

4

What happened after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a three-row summary of America's involvement in World War II. For each stage, name a U.S. action and explain how that action affected the war.

STAGE OF INVOLVEMENT	U.S. ACTION	HOW THE ACTION AFFECTED THE WAR

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the event that brought the United States into the war, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside one home-front action and two military actions that show how Americans took part. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What event caused Congress to declare war on Japan?	Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.
2	Name two ways people on the home front supported the war effort.	Answers include working in factories, planting victory gardens, buying war bonds, or saving rubber and metal.
3	Describe one way U.S. forces fought in Europe and one way they fought in the Pacific.	In Europe, U.S. forces joined the D-Day invasion of Normandy. In the Pacific, they moved from island to island toward Japan.
4	What happened after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?	Japan surrendered, and World War II ended.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

STAGE OF INVOLVEMENT	U.S. ACTION	HOW THE ACTION AFFECTED THE WAR
Entering the war	Congress declared war after the Pearl Harbor attack.	The United States began fighting Japan.
Supporting the war	Factories built ships, planes, tanks, and weapons.	Troops and Allied nations received needed equipment.
Fighting and ending the war	U.S. forces fought in Europe and the Pacific.	Germany faced a western front, and Japan later surrendered.

Accept accurate stages that show entry into the war, home-front support, and military action. The explanation column should connect each U.S. action to an effect on the war.