

Europe Changes Course

Trace how war and political conflict reshaped Europe.

SS6H3 "Explain conflict and change in Europe."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause of conflict or change, circle each result, and number each cause-and-result chain to show how events reshaped Europe.

War, Division, and Change

- ① In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II in Europe. Germany's leaders wanted more land and power, and they used military force against neighboring countries. Britain and France declared war because they had promised to protect Poland. The war soon involved many nations. Civilians faced bombing, hunger, and forced movement. Nazi Germany also carried out the Holocaust, murdering six million Jewish people and millions of other victims. By 1945, fighting had destroyed homes, factories, roads, and cities across Europe.
- ② After Germany surrendered in 1945, the Allied powers occupied Germany. The United States, Britain, and France controlled western zones, while the Soviet Union controlled an eastern zone. The former allies disagreed about elections, economies, and political power. Western European nations generally supported democratic governments and market economies. In eastern Europe, Soviet-backed communist governments took control. Germany became two countries in 1949: West Germany and East Germany. Berlin, inside East Germany, was also divided. This division showed how World War II led to a new conflict called the Cold War.
- ③ During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union competed for influence but did not fight each other directly in Europe. The Soviet Union kept tight control over Eastern Europe. Some people protested communist rule, but Soviet forces crushed major uprisings. In 1989, protests and reforms helped bring down communist governments in several eastern European countries. The Berlin Wall opened that year, allowing people to cross more freely. In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed. Europe changed again as Germany reunified and former Soviet-controlled nations chose new governments.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What action by Nazi Germany began World War II in Europe, and why did Britain and France declare war?

- 2 Name two ways World War II harmed civilians or damaged Europe.

- 3 How did different political and economic ideas help divide Germany after World War II?

- 4 What happened in 1991, and name one way Europe changed afterward?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one event from the passage other than the Soviet Union's 1991 collapse. Write exactly three sentences explaining its cause, an immediate result, and a later change in Europe. Use because, so, or as a result in one sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause of conflict or change, circle each result, and number each cause-and-result chain to show how events reshaped Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action by Nazi Germany began World War II in Europe, and why did Britain and France declare war?	Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war because they had promised to protect Poland.
2	Name two ways World War II harmed civilians or damaged Europe.	Answers may include bombing, hunger, forced movement, and the destruction of homes, factories, roads, or cities.
3	How did different political and economic ideas help divide Germany after World War II?	The western zones supported democratic governments and market economies, while the Soviet-controlled eastern zone had a communist government. Germany became West Germany and East Germany.
4	What happened in 1991, and name one way Europe changed afterward?	The Soviet Union collapsed. Afterward, Germany reunified, or former Soviet-controlled nations chose new governments.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nazi Germany invaded Poland because its leaders wanted more land and power. Britain and France declared war, so the conflict spread to many nations. After the war, disagreements among the former Allies helped divide Germany into two countries.

Accept accurately stated cause-and-result relationships from the passage. For the open response, accept any three-sentence chain that includes an event, a supported result, and a later European change.