War's Long Reach

Trace World War II from its causes to its lasting effects.

IS.1.23 "Examine the causes and course of World War II, the effects of the war on Indiana's society and culture, and the consequences of the war on United States involvement in world affairs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two events that changed the course of the war, circle two changes in Indiana, and number two postwar U.S. actions to trace how events led to consequences.

From Battlefronts to Indiana

1 In the 1930s, Germany and Japan sought territory by force. Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939 led Britain and France to declare war. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 brought the United States into the fighting. American forces helped stop Japan's advance at Midway in 1942. In June 1944, Allied troops landed in Normandy and pushed toward Germany. Germany surrendered in May 1945. After the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet Union entered the war against Japan, Japan announced its surrender in August and signed it in September 1945.

2 In Indiana, the war reached far beyond military bases. At the Evansville shipyard, workers built landing ships that carried troops and equipment onto beaches. Studebaker's South Bend plants made military trucks. Demand for workers opened industrial jobs to many women and Black Hoosiers, although discrimination still limited opportunities. Families planted victory gardens and used ration books because food and materials were needed for the armed forces. These shared routines changed daily life, while shift work and service overseas disrupted family schedules. When war contracts ended, many workers faced another adjustment as factories shifted back to civilian products.

3 The fighting also changed what Americans expected their government to do beyond U.S. borders. The destruction in Europe and Asia convinced many leaders that peace required lasting cooperation. The United States helped found the United Nations in 1945, where countries could discuss disputes. As tension with the Soviet Union grew, the United States funded the Marshall Plan in 1948 to help rebuild Western European economies. In 1949, it joined NATO, a military alliance that promised collective defense. Rather than return to the limited international commitments of the years after World War I, the United States took a continuing role in diplomacy, aid, and security.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Germany's pursuit of territory lead to a wider European war?

2. How did the attack on Pearl Harbor change U.S. participation, and what later event helped stop Japan's advance?

3. How did the need for military supplies change work in Indiana, and what limit remained?

4. How did destruction abroad and growing Soviet tensions shape the U.S. role after the war? Give two actions from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label for an Indiana-built landing ship. Connect the war's causes and course to the ship's work, its effects on Indiana workers, and one postwar U.S. commitment, using at least two clear cause-and-effect links.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · IS.1.23

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two events that changed the course of the war, circle two changes in Indiana, and number two postwar U.S. actions to trace how events led to consequences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Germany's pursuit of territory lead to a wider European war?	**Germany invaded Poland in 1939, prompting Britain and France to declare war.**
2	How did the attack on Pearl Harbor change U.S. participation, and what later event helped stop Japan's advance?	**The attack brought the United States into the war. American forces helped stop Japan's advance at Midway in 1942.**
3	How did the need for military supplies change work in Indiana, and what limit remained?	**Factories and shipyards needed workers, opening industrial jobs to many women and Black Hoosiers, but discrimination still limited opportunities.**
4	How did destruction abroad and growing Soviet tensions shape the U.S. role after the war? Give two actions from the passage.	**Destruction encouraged lasting cooperation, including the founding of the United Nations. Amid growing Soviet tensions, the United States funded the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Western Europe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Germany's invasion of Poland widened the war in Europe, and Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into it. As Allied forces pushed toward Germany, landing ships carried troops and equipment onto beaches. Building those ships in Evansville created jobs for Hoosiers, including women and Black workers, though discrimination limited opportunities. The destruction of the war persuaded many U.S. leaders that peace required lasting cooperation. After the fighting, the United States helped found the United Nations, taking a continuing role in world affairs.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for five sentences that connect all four requested elements rather than list them separately.