War's Wider Reach

Trace causes, turning points, and global effects of World War II

WH.6.4 "Identify the causes (i.e., social, political, militaristic, and economic) and key events of World War II, and analyze the impact this war had on the global community."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the war, circle two wartime events, and label two postwar effects 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace how the war began, spread, and changed the world.

From Crisis to Global War

1. After World War I, Germany faced territorial losses and reparations under the Treaty of Versailles. During the Great Depression, unemployment and poverty made promises of jobs and national strength appealing. Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party gained power in 1933 and built a dictatorship. Its racist ideas targeted Jews and other groups, while German leaders rebuilt the armed forces in violation of the treaty. Japan's military leaders sought resources and control in Asia, and invaded China in 1937.

2. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany, turning a European crisis into a wider conflict. German forces conquered much of Europe. Nazi authorities murdered six million Jews in the Holocaust and millions of other people. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 brought the United States into the war. Allied victories at Midway in 1942 and in Normandy in 1944 helped reverse Axis advances.

3. By 1945, Germany had surrendered, and the United States had dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki before Japan surrendered. The war killed tens of millions and left cities in ruins and people displaced across continents. Countries founded the United Nations to encourage cooperation and prevent another global war. European empires weakened, strengthening independence movements in Asia and Africa. Yet the United States and Soviet Union emerged as rival powers, beginning a long Cold War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Great Depression help the Nazi Party gain support?

2. Name one social idea and one military action described as causes of rising tensions before 1939.

3. How did the invasion of Poland widen the conflict?

4. Identify two different ways the war changed international relations after 1945.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining why World War II was a global turning point. Include one cause in Asia, one key event in the Pacific, and two effects after the war; explain how these details support your claim.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the war, circle two wartime events, and label two postwar effects 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace how the war began, spread, and changed the world. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Great Depression help the Nazi Party gain support?	**Unemployment and poverty made the party's promises of jobs and national strength appealing.**
2	Name one social idea and one military action described as causes of rising tensions before 1939.	**Nazi racist ideas targeted Jews and other groups; Germany rebuilt its armed forces. Japan's invasion of China also qualifies as a military action.**
3	How did the invasion of Poland widen the conflict?	**Britain and France declared war on Germany after the invasion.**
4	Identify two different ways the war changed international relations after 1945.	**Countries founded the United Nations, and the United States and Soviet Union became rival powers. Weakened European empires and stronger independence movements also qualify.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

World War II was a global turning point because conflict in Asia grew into a war involving countries across the world. Japan's military leaders sought resources and control in Asia and invaded China. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States entered the war. When the war ended, European empires weakened and countries founded the United Nations, changing both who held power and how nations worked together.

Accept other accurate causes, events, and effects named in the passage when they fit the question. For the museum label, look for an explained connection among the Asian cause, Pacific event, and two postwar effects.