

Weapons and Wider War

Trace how changing technology expanded destruction in two world wars.

10.5b "Technological developments increased the extent of damage and casualties in both World War I and World War II."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two technologies. Mark H beside a human cost and E beside environmental or urban damage. Connect each marked effect to a technology.

Technology Changes the Scale of War

- ① In World War I, machine guns fired rapidly, making exposed infantry attacks deadly. Artillery fired explosive shells over long distances, killing and injuring soldiers and destroying buildings. Shelling cratered fields and damaged forests. Poison gas injured lungs, skin, or eyes; masks reduced but did not eliminate danger. Aircraft observed enemy positions from early in the war and also developed bombing roles. Technology increased destructive capacity, but commanders' decisions shaped how weapons were used.
- ② World War II used many of the same technologies on a larger scale. Tanks, trucks, and radios helped coordinate fast-moving attacks across wide areas. Long-range bombers struck cities, factories, railways, and ports. Explosives and fire destroyed homes and infrastructure and killed civilians. In August 1945, atomic bombs devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki through blast, heat, and radiation. Survivors also faced radiation-related illness. These weapons brought severe harm beyond front-line soldiers.
- ③ Both wars damaged farmland, forests, and settlements. Unexploded shells could remain dangerous after fighting ended. World War I included attacks on civilians, not only trench warfare; World War II was not the first war to use aircraft or tanks. The later war expanded their reach and introduced atomic weapons. Comparing technologies means explaining their mechanisms and effects, while recognizing choices about targets and tactics. New equipment alone does not explain the scale or outcome of either war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did machine guns increase casualties in World War I?

2 Name one World War I technology that caused damage or casualties before soldiers met face to face. Explain its effect.

3 How did tanks, trucks, and radios increase the extent of damage in World War II?

4 What is one similarity and one difference between the effects of technology in the two wars?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences. Compare one World War I technology and one World War II technology from the passage, explain a specific effect of each, and state one similarity or difference in how they increased damage or casualties.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two technologies. Mark H beside a human cost and E beside environmental or urban damage. Connect each marked effect to a technology. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did machine guns increase casualties in World War I?	They fired repeated rounds quickly, making open attacks against defended positions extremely deadly.
2	Name one World War I technology that caused damage or casualties before soldiers met face to face. Explain its effect.	Heavy artillery sent explosive shells over long distances, destroying buildings and causing casualties before soldiers met face to face. Poison gas is also acceptable because it injured soldiers across battlefields.
3	How did tanks, trucks, and radios increase the extent of damage in World War II?	They allowed armies to coordinate rapid attacks across wide areas, bringing fighting and destruction to more places.
4	What is one similarity and one difference between the effects of technology in the two wars?	Similarity: Technology in both wars increased casualties and damage by extending the reach or force of combat. Difference: World War II technology more often struck entire urban areas and supporting industries, and atomic weapons caused immediate deaths and long-term illness.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In World War I, machine guns made open attacks against defended positions extremely deadly. Their rapid fire increased soldier casualties. In World War II, long-range bombers dropped explosives on cities and transportation centers. Both technologies increased harm, but bombers brought large-scale destruction directly to civilian areas.

Accept any accurate comparison using technologies and effects stated in the passage. The four-sentence response should identify one technology from each war, explain each effect, and include a valid similarity or difference.