

After War's Damage

Trace how World War II led to new efforts for peace and rights.

8.6c "The nature and consequences of warfare during World War II transformed the United States and the global community. The damage from total warfare and human atrocities, including the Holocaust..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how World War II harmed people or places. Circle the three postwar actions meant to respond to war crimes, protect rights, or prevent future wars.

From Destruction to Cooperation

- ① World War II became a total war, meaning governments used factories, science, workers, and armed forces on a huge scale. Allied air power bombed military targets and cities in Germany and Japan. In August 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The blasts and later radiation killed many people and destroyed large areas. These attacks showed that modern weapons could harm civilians as well as soldiers and could cause damage far beyond a battlefield.
- ② The Nazi government and its collaborators carried out the Holocaust, the systematic persecution and murder of six million Jewish people. Nazis also targeted Roma, people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, gay men, and other groups. Survivors and liberating soldiers found camps where people had been imprisoned, forced to work, starved, and murdered. After the war, the Nuremberg trials prosecuted major Nazi leaders. The trials established that people could be held responsible for crimes against humanity, even when they claimed they were following orders.
- ③ During and after the war, leaders in many countries recognized that peace required nations to work together before conflicts grew. In 1945, 51 countries founded the United Nations, or UN. Its goals included preventing war, helping nations cooperate, and promoting human rights. In 1948, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which described rights and freedoms that every person should have. The UN could not erase the destruction or suffering of World War II, but it created a place for countries to negotiate and address shared problems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What details from the first paragraph show that total warfare harmed civilians, not only soldiers?

2 Name two groups, besides Jewish people, that Nazis targeted. Then name two abuses people experienced in the camps.

3 What principle did the Nuremberg trials establish about people accused of crimes against humanity?

4 How did the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights respond to the problems revealed by World War II?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that trace a cause-and-response chain from World War II. Include one detail about wartime damage or an atrocity and two postwar actions that addressed the need for justice, human rights, or peace.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how World War II harmed people or places. Circle the three postwar actions meant to respond to war crimes, protect rights, or prevent future wars. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details from the first paragraph show that total warfare harmed civilians, not only soldiers?	The atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed many people through blasts and radiation and destroyed large areas. The passage says modern weapons could harm civilians as well as soldiers.
2	Name two groups, besides Jewish people, that Nazis targeted. Then name two abuses people experienced in the camps.	Answers may name any two: Roma, people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, gay men, or other groups. Camp abuses included imprisonment, forced labor, starvation, and murder.
3	What principle did the Nuremberg trials establish about people accused of crimes against humanity?	People could be held responsible for crimes against humanity, even if they said they were following orders.
4	How did the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights respond to the problems revealed by World War II?	The UN was founded to help prevent war, encourage cooperation, and promote human rights. The declaration described rights and freedoms that every person should have.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Holocaust involved systematic persecution and the murder of six million Jewish people. After the war, the Nuremberg trials held major Nazi leaders responsible for crimes including crimes against humanity. The UN later adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to describe the rights and freedoms every person should have.

Accept equivalent details and explanations that are supported by the passage. For the open response, check for one accurate wartime cause, two accurate postwar actions, and a clear connection between them.