War Across Continents

Trace aggression, responses, and campaigns across World War II.

MWH.C.6.5 "Examine the significant events of World War II from a global perspective. Describe aggression by the Axis powers (e.g., Italy's invasion of Ethiopia; Germany's militarization, the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939, annexation of Austria..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Axis acts of aggression, circle the first responses to them, and label two campaigns in different regions 1 and 2 so you can compare them.

A War Spreads

1. In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia. The League of Nations condemned the attack but failed to stop it. Germany rebuilt its armed forces, annexed Austria in 1938, and signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union in August 1939. When Germany invaded Poland that September, Britain and France declared war. Japan began a full-scale invasion of China in 1937. During the Nanking Massacre, Japanese troops murdered many civilians and prisoners. China kept resisting, while other powers offered limited aid.

2. The fighting spread across sea and land. In the Battle of the Atlantic, Allied sailors guarded supply ships against German submarines. Lost ships meant lost food, fuel, and lives. In 1940, British pilots defended Britain against German air raids, while civilians sheltered from bombs. Germany later besieged Leningrad, where many civilians starved as Soviet defenders held the city. In 1942, General Dwight D. Eisenhower led Operation Torch, an Allied landing in North Africa that pressured Axis forces from the west.

3. Allied forces also faced Japan across Asia and the Pacific. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States entered the war. Under Admiral Chester Nimitz, U.S. naval forces won at Midway in 1942, weakening Japan's fleet. Allied forces then captured Pacific islands to move closer to Japan. Soldiers and civilians died in bitter fighting. In Europe, Eisenhower commanded the 1944 Operation Overlord landings in France. Unlike the island campaign, these landings opened a western front against Germany.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the first international responses to Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and Germany's invasion of Poland differ?

2. Compare how the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of Britain defended people or supplies. What did each put at risk?

3. How did the locations and goals of Eisenhower's Operation Torch and Operation Overlord differ?

4. How did the fighting at Midway differ from the siege of Leningrad in strategy and human cost?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence wartime briefing. Connect one Axis act to an initial response, then compare two Allied campaigns in different regions, naming an Allied leader and a cost to soldiers or civilians.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Axis acts of aggression, circle the first responses to them, and label two campaigns in different regions 1 and 2 so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the first international responses to Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and Germany's invasion of Poland differ?	**The League of Nations condemned Italy's invasion but did not stop it. Britain and France declared war after Germany invaded Poland.**
2	Compare how the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of Britain defended people or supplies. What did each put at risk?	**Atlantic sailors guarded supply ships and risked their lives; lost ships also meant lost food and fuel. British pilots fought air raids while civilians faced bombs.**
3	How did the locations and goals of Eisenhower's Operation Torch and Operation Overlord differ?	**Torch landed Allied troops in North Africa to pressure Axis forces from the west. Overlord landed troops in France to open a western front against Germany.**
4	How did the fighting at Midway differ from the siege of Leningrad in strategy and human cost?	**At Midway, U.S. naval forces fought Japan's fleet at sea. At Leningrad, Soviet defenders held a besieged city where many civilians starved.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war. At Midway, Admiral Chester Nimitz's naval forces weakened Japan's fleet, while Eisenhower's Operation Torch landed Allied troops in North Africa. Both campaigns challenged Axis forces, but one fought at sea and the other began with a landing on land. In the wider Pacific fighting, soldiers and civilians died.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that accurately identify the campaigns' locations, strategies, and human costs. The briefing should make a comparison rather than list events.