Leading a Coalition

Examine Roosevelt's wartime leadership at home and abroad.

USH.C.5.1.E "Examine President Franklin Roosevelt's leadership, including how he motivated Americans with the Day Which Will Live in Infamy speech, his role as commander in chief, and his diplomatic efforts to maintain the Grand Alliance."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail showing how Roosevelt rallied Americans, circle one decision he made as commander in chief, and number two details showing how he worked with Allied leaders. Use your marks to compare the different parts of his leadership.

Three Parts of Wartime Leadership

1. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to Congress after Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. He called December 7 "a date which will live in infamy" and described the attack as sudden and deliberate. His speech gave Americans a shared account of what had happened, turning shock into a call for action. Rather than list every military detail, Roosevelt asked Congress to declare that a state of war existed between the United States and Japan. Congress quickly approved. His words helped unite a nation that now faced a war across oceans.

2. Roosevelt's leadership did not end at the microphone. As commander in chief, he chose broad military priorities and worked with senior officers rather than directing each battle. Although Japan had attacked the United States, Roosevelt and British leaders agreed to focus on defeating Germany first while still fighting in the Pacific. Germany's armies threatened much of Europe, and the Allies feared a long war if they divided their strongest efforts. Roosevelt approved major operations and selected commanders, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, who led the Allied invasion of France in June 1944. Such choices shaped where troops and supplies went.

3. Military plans depended on partners. Britain and the Soviet Union fought alongside the United States in the Grand Alliance, even though their leaders disagreed about the future of Europe. Roosevelt supported sending American weapons and other supplies to both countries through Lend-Lease. He also met British prime minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin at Tehran in 1943. There, the leaders discussed a Western invasion of France and Soviet operations against Germany in the east. Roosevelt's diplomacy sought to keep these governments working toward Germany's defeat despite their distrust of one another. Cooperation made a two-front struggle against Germany possible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Roosevelt's description of the Pearl Harbor attack help him call Americans to action?

2. Why did Roosevelt and British leaders focus on defeating Germany first, even though Japan had attacked the United States?

3. How did Lend-Lease and the Tehran meeting each help Roosevelt maintain the Grand Alliance?

4. How did Roosevelt's speech and his diplomacy address different needs in the war effort?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence museum label explaining how Roosevelt used a speech, a military decision, and diplomacy to pursue the same wartime goal. Include one specific action in each role and explain one challenge he had to manage.

ANSWER KEY

Leading a Coalition

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.5.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail showing how Roosevelt rallied Americans, circle one decision he made as commander in chief, and number two details showing how he worked with Allied leaders. Use your marks to compare the different parts of his leadership. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Roosevelt's description of the Pearl Harbor attack help him call Americans to action?	**By calling the attack sudden and deliberate, Roosevelt gave Americans a shared reason to support action against Japan.**
2	Why did Roosevelt and British leaders focus on defeating Germany first, even though Japan had attacked the United States?	**Germany's armies threatened much of Europe, and the Allies feared a longer war if they divided their strongest efforts.**
3	How did Lend-Lease and the Tehran meeting each help Roosevelt maintain the Grand Alliance?	**Lend-Lease supplied Britain and the Soviet Union. At Tehran, Roosevelt met their leaders to coordinate military plans despite disagreements.**
4	How did Roosevelt's speech and his diplomacy address different needs in the war effort?	**The speech helped unite Americans behind action against Japan. His diplomacy helped keep Britain and the Soviet Union cooperating with the United States against Germany.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Roosevelt sought to defeat the Axis while holding together support at home and abroad. In his December 8 speech, he described Japan's attack as deliberate and asked Congress to recognize a state of war. As commander in chief, he backed a strategy that put Germany first while the United States also fought Japan. He sent supplies to Britain and the Soviet Union and met their leaders at Tehran to coordinate plans. Keeping the alliance together was difficult because its leaders disagreed about the future of Europe.

Accept responses that accurately connect each action to its purpose, even if students choose different details from the passage. The museum label should distinguish public communication, military leadership, and diplomacy.