

Steps Toward War

Trace the choices and events that brought the United States into World War II.

USII.6.b "explaining the causes and events that led to American involvement in the war, including the attack on Pearl Harbor;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions or conditions that pushed the United States closer to war. Circle the events that directly led to the United States declaring war, then number those circled events in order.

From Neutrality to War

- ① During the 1930s, many Americans wanted to stay out of wars overseas. Congress passed neutrality laws that limited selling weapons or making loans to nations at war. Yet President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed the Axis powers threatened democracy. Germany invaded Poland in 1939 and then conquered much of Europe. After France fell in 1940, Britain fought Germany largely alone. The United States remained officially neutral, but it began helping Britain with increasingly valuable supplies and ships.
- ② In 1941, Congress approved Lend-Lease, a program that sent food, weapons, and other supplies to Britain and later the Soviet Union. Roosevelt also ordered U.S. warships to protect supply ships crossing the Atlantic. German submarines attacked some of these ships. These steps did not mean that the United States had declared war, but they showed growing support for nations fighting Germany. Events in Europe made it harder for Americans to remain separate from the conflict.
- ③ Meanwhile, Japan expanded its empire in Asia and moved into French Indochina in 1941. The United States opposed this expansion and restricted Japan's access to oil and other materials. Japanese leaders planned a surprise attack to weaken the U.S. Pacific Fleet. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing more than 2,400 Americans and damaging or destroying many ships and aircraft. The next day, Congress declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Lend-Lease and protecting supply ships show that the United States was moving away from strict neutrality?

2 What Japanese action caused the United States to restrict Japan's access to oil and other materials?

3 Why did Japanese leaders plan to attack Pearl Harbor?

4 What happened after the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into the war?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that explain a chain of events leading to U.S. involvement in World War II. Include one event before Pearl Harbor, the attack on Pearl Harbor, and one event after it. Use *because* or *so* to show cause and effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions or conditions that pushed the United States closer to war. Circle the events that directly led to the United States declaring war, then number those circled events in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Lend-Lease and protecting supply ships show that the United States was moving away from strict neutrality?	The United States sent supplies to Britain and the Soviet Union and used warships to protect supply ships. These actions supported nations fighting Germany.
2	What Japanese action caused the United States to restrict Japan's access to oil and other materials?	Japan expanded its empire in Asia and moved into French Indochina.
3	Why did Japanese leaders plan to attack Pearl Harbor?	They planned a surprise attack to weaken the U.S. Pacific Fleet.
4	What happened after the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into the war?	The next day, Congress declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy then declared war on the United States.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Germany's victories in Europe led the United States to send supplies to Britain because leaders feared the Axis powers. Japan's expansion led the United States to limit Japan's oil, so Japanese leaders attacked Pearl Harbor. After the attack, Congress declared war on Japan, and the United States entered the war.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, look for an accurate event before Pearl Harbor, the attack itself, an event after it, and clear causal language.