

Victory and Peace

Trace how World War II ended and how leaders planned for peace.

USII.6.i "describing the events that led to the surrender of the Axis powers and America's role in the Allied victory including, but not limited to the Manhattan Project, as well as events that shaped post-war peace."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline events that led to an Axis surrender. Circle America's actions, and write a 1 beside each action meant to shape peace after the war.

Ending the War, Building Peace

- ① By early 1945, Allied forces were closing in on Germany from west and east. American, British, Canadian, and other Allied troops crossed into Germany after pushing back Nazi forces in western Europe. Soviet forces moved toward Berlin from the east. As fighting reached Berlin, Adolf Hitler died. Germany's leaders signed an unconditional surrender on May 7, and the surrender took effect May 8. The defeat ended the war in Europe, but Japan continued fighting in the Pacific.
- ② In the United States, scientists and engineers worked on the secret Manhattan Project. This project produced the first atomic bombs. After Germany's surrender, President Harry S. Truman decided to use the new weapon against Japan. The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and another on Nagasaki three days later. The bombings caused enormous destruction and increased pressure on Japan's leaders. Japan announced its surrender on August 15 and formally signed on September 2. The bombings contributed to Japan's decision to surrender.
- ③ After the fighting stopped, leaders faced the hard work of building a safer peace. The United Nations began in 1945, giving countries a place to discuss problems and try to prevent future wars. In Germany and Japan, Allied occupation forces helped remove military control and support democratic governments. At the Nuremberg Trials, major Nazi leaders were tried for war crimes. These steps did not erase conflict, but they shaped postwar peace by promoting cooperation, accountability, and democratic rebuilding.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What movements by Allied and Soviet forces helped lead to Germany's surrender?

2 How did the Manhattan Project and the atomic bombings affect Japan's surrender?

3 Give one way the United States helped the Allied victory in Europe and one way it helped in the Pacific.

4 Name two actions that shaped postwar peace and explain the goal they shared.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption titled "From Victory to Peace." Put events in order, explain how one United States action helped bring an Axis surrender, and explain how one postwar action sought peace.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline events that led to an Axis surrender. Circle America's actions, and write a 1 beside each action meant to shape peace after the war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What movements by Allied and Soviet forces helped lead to Germany's surrender?	Allied forces moved into Germany from the west, while Soviet forces moved toward Berlin from the east.
2	How did the Manhattan Project and the atomic bombings affect Japan's surrender?	The Manhattan Project produced the atomic bombs. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused enormous destruction, increased pressure on Japan's leaders, and contributed to Japan's decision to surrender.
3	Give one way the United States helped the Allied victory in Europe and one way it helped in the Pacific.	In Europe, American troops crossed into Germany with other Allied forces. In the Pacific, the United States used atomic bombs produced by the Manhattan Project against Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
4	Name two actions that shaped postwar peace and explain the goal they shared.	Answers may name the United Nations, Allied occupations supporting democratic governments, or the Nuremberg Trials. Their shared goal was to build a safer peace through cooperation, democracy, or accountability.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From Victory to Peace Allied troops entered Germany from the west while Soviet forces approached Berlin from the east. Germany surrendered in May 1945, ending the war in Europe. The United States Manhattan Project produced bombs whose use on Hiroshima and Nagasaki increased pressure and contributed to Japan's surrender. Afterward, the United Nations gave countries a place to work for peace.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations based on the passage. For Japan's surrender, students should state that the atomic bombings increased pressure and contributed to the decision, rather than claiming they were the only cause.