

# The U.S. Role in the WWII Allied Victory in Europe

## Student Response Guide

Story Map Link: <https://arcg.is/1G4XLv>

This story map is best viewed using the Chrome Browser. To navigate through the story map, use the dots on the left of the side panel.

### **How did the United States affect the outcome of World War II in Europe?**

#### ***Observe, Reflect, Question***

*Image: Find Your War Job*

- In what country was this produced?
- Who was the intended audience?
- What question would you ask the artist?
- Why would this be published during a war?
- Why do you think this poster was produced?

### **Axis and Allied Powers: Why and when did European countries become involved in World War II?**

#### ***Observe, Reflect, Question***

*Analyzing the Map, (1939 boundaries)*

*Click the countries on the map to obtain more information.*

- What is being shown in this map?
- Besides the Soviet Union (green) which country is the largest?
- What country is located in the center of the map?
- Click on Germany, what do you observe?
- What country divided Germany into two parts?
- If conquered, which country could unite Germany's territory?
- Where were the neutral countries located? How might their location influence their neutrality?

- What conclusion can you draw from the dates on the countries?
- What question would you ask the author of this map?

*Nazi Soviet Pact, August 1939*

- What conclusion can you draw from those events?

***Observe, Reflect, Question***

*Political Cartoon, Tribute to Moscow*

- How can you tell which man is the Nazi?
- How is he interacting with Stalin?
- How do you think the Russian seated on Stalin's right views the pact?
- Who is speaking in the caption?
- Why is the caption in Polish and not Russian?
- What do you think the caption is saying?
- Where do you think this cartoon was published?
- How does the cartoonist view the Nazi-Soviet Pact?
- Do you think this cartoon was published before or after the Nazi invasion of Poland?
- If you could ask the artist one question, what would it be?

*Based on the dates on the map*

- Which countries came to the aid of Poland?
- When do you think Hitler invaded the Soviet Union?

**Lend-Lease Program**

***Observe, Reflect, Question***

*Read the background information in the side panel.*

- What reason was given for creating the program?
- What types of materials do you think would be included?

- If you could pose a question to the committee who conducted hearing on the legislation what would you ask?

*Examine the primary and secondary source links?*

- What additional information do these sources provide?

**The Arsenal of Democracy:** *What types of materials were provided to the British under the Lend-Lease Act?*

*Review all image links in the side panel before answering the questions.*

- Where do you think these pictures were taken?
- Which goods surprised you?
- How were women involved?
- Do you think female war correspondents took the photographs? Why or why not?
- How do these supplies support president Roosevelt’s statement “And so our country is going to be what our people have proclaimed, it must be the arsenal of democracy?”

### **Lend-Lease Aid Recipients**

*Examine the map on the main stage. Use the Bookmark icon to examine other parts of the world. Use the filter icon and enter a dollar amount such as 20 (in millions) to identify countries receiving that much aid. Click the green button in the upper left of the window to apply the search*

*Observe, Reflect, and Question*

- Which countries received aid from the United States?
- Which country in Europe received the most?
- Where are other countries with high amounts of aid located?
- Why do you think some countries did not receive aid?

### **Poster**

What connections can you make between the countries on the poster and lend-lease aid?

## **Women at Home and Abroad**

*Examine the story map tour, by clicking on the images across the bottom of the app. If you click on the arrow in the upper right of each image a larger view will appear.*

*Observe, Reflect, and Question*

- What do you see in the Women at Work cartoon?
- What do you think was the cartoonist's message?
- What types of jobs did women perform?
- How were these jobs related to the war efforts?
- Which jobs relied on skilled workers?
- How are the war industries distributed throughout the United States?
- What could account for the distribution you observe?

## **Americans Ready for a Mission**

*Observe, Reflect, and Question*

- What do you see in the picture?
- Why would the pilots be supplied with cyanide pills?

## **Areas Occupied by Germany, May 1944**

*Examine the map and its pop-ups. Examine the legend to help you understand how Italy could be labeled as Allied.*

*Observe, Reflect, Question*

- Which parts of Europe were not occupied by Germany?
- What do you think the people of the time thought would happen?

- What advantages and disadvantage did the location of Great Britain provide?

*Read the excerpt from Churchill's speech.*

- To what extent do you think Churchill's words predicted D-Day formally known as Operation Overlord?
- Where would be the best location for staging a landing to push the Germans out of Europe?
- How would having the Soviet Union on the side of the Allies help in defeating Germany?

### **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

*Read Eisenhower's note*

- What did Eisenhower "not know"?

How did Eisenhower prepare for D-Day?

- Why do you think Eisenhower drafted the note?
- What do you think would have happened if the D-day invasion failed?
- What you think Eisenhower was saying to the men in the picture on the right?

### **The Landing at Normandy**

*When, where, and why did the Allies land at Normandy?*

*Examine the map in the left side panel. Click the arrow in the upper right for a closer view.*

- What three groups of military forces does the does the map in the side panel show?
- What is the date of the map?

*Examine the map on the window to the right. Click the arrows on the map for additional information.*

- If you were a German general where would you expect the allied troops to land?

- Military forces from which countries were involved in the invasion?
- Refer to Churchill's speech. Which statements applied to this invasion?
- What were the names of the landing areas? Why do you think they were given those names?

*The aerial photograph shows the actual landing at Normandy. Click the arrow in the upper right to enlarge the image.*

- How does the scene differ from the representation in the map?

*Click the link to the Commemorative map in the side panel.*

- What does the commemorative map show?
- Why was D-Day a turning point in World War II?

### **Eyewitnesses to History**

*Examine the legend for the map.*

- Which states contributed a high percentage of their population to serve in the Armed forces?
- What conclusions can you draw from this map?

*Use the links in the side panel to zoom to different regions of the United States. Read the information contained in the pop-ups.*

- What evidence do the accounts provide to support the claim that the people of the time did not know how things would turn out?

### **Allied Victory in Europe**

*View the movie, this Day in History, May 8, 1945: The War Ends in Europe*

- How did the American people react to the victory in Europe?
  
- Did the surrender of Germany mark the end of World War II?

### **Costs of the War**

*Explore the Death in the Wake of World War II Application. Click the Infographic symbol at the bottom of the app to view a chart of war deaths.*

- In which countries did civilian deaths outnumber military deaths?
  
- In addition to direct attack and bombing of cities, what else could account for the high number of civilian deaths in Poland?