

Name_____

Retaking Europe - Worksheet

Chapter 18 section 2: Pages 600-608

1. Identify the major European conflicts that occurred on the subsequent dates:

Sept 1942: Battle of Stalingrad

June 6, 1944: D-Day (Normandy France)

Nov 1942: Battle at El Alamein

Dec 1944-Jan 1945: Battle of the Bulge

May 1944: Battle of Anzio

April 1945: Soviet capture of Berlin

Answer all completion questions using complete sentences.

2. Describe the state of the war in Europe and North Africa when the United States finally entered the war in December of 1941.

The German Blitzkrieg had extended Nazi control across most of Europe. The Battle of Britain had resulted in major damage of London and other major British cities.

3. Describe what the Battle of the Atlantic consisted of. Include a description of allied and axis goals as they related to this conflict. Be sure to explain allied and axis successes in this conflict.

Britain and the U.S. desperately tried to control the trade routes necessary to sustain the Allies. Britain was reliant on U.S. shipments. German U Boats operated in wolf packs to destroy Allied merchant vessels. Allied vessels traveled in convoys for protection. The Allies used sonar, depth charges, sub hunting aircraft and smoke screens to defend themselves. The Axis were very effective until 1943 at which time the Allies developed tactics better able to defend themselves.

4. Identify the countries in which fighting occurred in North Africa. Also identify countries that had soldiers involved in combat in North Africa. Identify the names of the American (2), British (1) and German (1) commanders involved in the North African campaign. Describe the final outcome of the fighting in North Africa.

In North Africa fighting took place in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. American British, Italian French and German troops participated in the fighting in North Africa.

American - General Dwight Eisenhower and General George Patton

British - General Bernard Montgomery

German - General Erwin Rommel (the Desert Fox)

By May of 1943 the Allies had trapped Axis forces in North Africa. 240,000 German and Italian troops were captured. Rommel and the Afrika Korps had been able to flee to Italy.

5. When the Allies invaded Sicily in 1943, what was the reaction of the Italian people and their King? Describe the fighting in Italy from 1943 – April of 1945.

Italian's lost faith in Mussolini and Fascism. Mussolini was removed from office and King Emmanuel had him arrested. The Fascist Party was disbanded. Italy's government surrendered and declared war on Germany.

Despite the move by Italy, the country remained under the control of Germany. The Allies landed first on Sicily and then the Italian peninsula. The Peninsula was rugged and well defended by the Germans. Intense fighting occurred at places like Anzio, Cassino and Salerno (Italian towns). The Allies eventually captured Rome. Mussolini was arrested and executed by Italians as he attempted to flee the country.

6. What was Hitler's rationale for invading the Soviet Union? Describe the early stages of Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. Discuss Stalin's message to his people during the German advance.

He wanted additional living space and resources. He discussed the concept in *Mein Kampf*. He in particular wanted the farmlands of the Ukraine. The German's using the tactic of Blitzkrieg drove swiftly and brutally deep inside the Soviet Union facing little resistance. Stalin called upon his people to not leave anything behind that might be utilized by the enemy. (scorched earth policy). Food, munitions, trains, crops, livestock, shelter etc. were destroyed by the Soviet people as they retreated.

7. Why did the city of Leningrad receive the "Order of Lenin"? What was the cost of defending this city against the Nazi's?

Hitler's armies laid siege to the city of Leningrad for three years. There were constant artillery attacks, disease and starvation but the people of Leningrad did not relent. It is believed that nearly 600,000 civilians in Leningrad died from starvation and disease.

8. Several key products emerged from the Casablanca Conference. Identify the key decisions made at this meeting between Churchill and FDR in North Africa.

They committed to defeating the Axis in Europe first and then focus on Japan. They agreed to accept nothing less than unconditional surrender from Germany, Italy and Japan. They agreed that after North Africa they would focus on Sicily/Italy.

9. Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, what did Stalin desperately want from Churchill and FDR? Why didn't they comply with Stalin's request?

Stalin desperately wanted the allies to launch an attack on Western Europe. He believed this action would take pressure off the Soviet Red Army by forcing Hitler to fight a war on two fronts at one time.

10. What factors enabled the Soviets to prevail in the Battle of Stalingrad? Your answer should address more issues than just weather. How did the results of the Battle of Stalingrad effect the war ahead?

The cold Russian winter stopped Germany's advance into the Soviet Union. The Germans had advanced so far into the Soviet Union that they were unable to resupply or reinforce their troops. Hitler had underestimated the weather as well as the will of the Russian people to defend their homeland.

11. What was the name of the allied invasion of the Nazi occupied French coastline? The forces that participated in this attack were multinational. What countries were a part of this allied effort? Describe the goals of the allies on D-Day as well as the resistance that was presented by the axis. Where did the Axis expect the invasion to occur and conversely where did it occur?

The invasion of Nazi occupied France is known as Operation Overlord. American, British, Canadian, French, Polish, Dutch and Belgian forces participated in the attack. The goals of the Allies was to utilize ground, air and naval attacks to drive the Axis from the French coastline. The Axis plan was to defend the coastline. Massive fortifications had been placed along the coast. The goal of the Nazi's was to blast the Allies back into the sea when they arrived.

12. By September what had happened to axis control of France? Who was the French General that returned to take control of Paris?

In August the city of Paris was liberated from the Nazi's. By September France was free of Nazi control and American forces were beginning to cross into Germany