

World War II Possible Research Topics & Guiding Questions:

Battle of the Coral Sea:

- a. Why was the Battle of Coral Sea important or unique?
- b. Explain the strategies and sequence of event involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Omar Bradley

- a. What was Omar Bradley's significance or contribution to WWII?
- b. What battles and strategies was Omar Bradley involved in and what did he accomplish in WWII?

Dwight David Eisenhower

- a. What was Dwight David Eisenhower's significance to or contribution to WWII?
- b. What battles and strategies was Dwight David Eisenhower involved in and what did he accomplish in WWII?

Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

- a. How did the American position on World War II change when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor?
- b. Why were the Japanese so successful when they attacked Pearl Harbor?

Battle of the Bulge

- a. What was unique about the Battle of the Bulge?
- b. What was the significance of the Battle of the Bulge in the outcome of WWII?

Lend Lease Act

- a. What was the Lend Lease Act and what were the terms that it included?
- b. What was the impact of the Lend Lease Act on World War II?

Japanese Internment

- a. Why did our government intern Japanese Americans?
- b. How did Japanese Internment affect the lives of Japanese Americans?

Battle of Britain

- a. What was the chronology of events involved in the Battle of Britain?
- b. Why or how was the Battle of Britain an important Battle in WWII?

Atomic Bomb

- a. How did the use of the atomic bomb at Nagasaki and Hiroshima end the war?
- b. How did the atomic bomb change the perspective of warfare?
- c. What were the factors that President Truman had to weigh in deciding to use the atomic bomb?

General George Patton

- a. What was the role of General George Patton in WWII?
- b. What battles and strategies was General George Patton involved in and what did he accomplish in WWII?

Battle of Midway

- a. Why was the Battle of Midway important?
- b. How was the Battle of Midway unique?

Invasion of Normandy (D-Day)

- a. Why was the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day important to the outcome of WWII?
- b. How was the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day a turning Point in WWII?
- c. Compare and contrast the five different invasion beaches and the subsequent battles.

Erwin Rommel

- a. What was the role of Erwin Rommel in WWII? Specifically describe his involvement in North Africa.
- b. In which battles was Erwin Rommel involved and what strategies did he use?

Prime Minister Winston Churchill

- a. Who was Prime Minister Winston Churchill?
- b. What was his involvement in the war?
- c. How did his strategies affect the outcome of the war?

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

- a. What was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's involvement in WWII?
- b. Why did President Franklin Delano Roosevelt feel that eventually the U.S. would have to enter the war? How did the American people feel about this?

Bernard Montgomery

- a. What was the role of Bernard Montgomery in WWII?
- b. What strategies did Bernard Montgomery initiate in the Battle of El Alamein?

General Douglas MacArthur

- a. What was the role of General Douglas MacArthur in WWII?
- b. Explain the significance of the quote "I will return!" Explain the sequence of events that led up to this statement and the chronology leading up to his return.

The War in the Pacific

- a. Compare and contrast the events in Okinawa and the Philippines during the War in the Pacific?
- b. Why was Japan anxious to expand its territory and risk conflict with much larger countries to obtain its goal?
- c. Select three different personal accounts of WWII veterans that served in the Pacific during WWII compare their experiences.

Military Weaponry in WWII

- a. What technological advances were made in military weaponry during WWII?
- b. Compare the military weapons of Germany and Great Britain; or Japan and the United States.

US Women

- a. How did WWII change the lives of women in the United States?
- b. How did WWII change the role of women in the United States military?

Joseph Stalin

- a. What was Joseph Stalin's role in WWII?

- b. How did a totalitarian dictator like Joseph Stalin end up as one of the Allies during WWII?

Submarine Warfare

- a. What role or part did submarines play in WWII?
- b. How did submarines change naval warfare in WWII from what had been experienced in earlier wars?

Luftwaffe

- a. What was the role of the Luftwaffe in WWII?
- b. In what ways was the Luftwaffe superior to other air forces in WWII?

US Manhattan Project

- a. What was the Manhattan Project and what was the chronology of its development?
- b. What impact did the Manhattan Project have on WWII?

Heinrich Himmler

- a. What was the role of Heinrich Himmler in WWII?

The Nuremberg Trials

- a. What were the Nuremberg Trials?
- b. Who was tried at the Nuremberg Trials and what were the results of the trials?

Gestapo

- a. What was the Gestapo and what was its role in WWII?

Charles DeGaulle

- a. What was the role of Charles DeGaulle in WWII?
- b. What role did he play in France after France was defeated?

Aircraft: Specifically the uses of specific aircraft and their involvement in particular battles. (This is more than a list of planes.)

- a. What role did aircraft play in WWII?
- b. What technological advancements in aircraft design and performance was achieved during WWII?

Anne Frank

- a. How did Anne Frank's life represent the Jewish experience during the Holocaust?

The Home Front

- a. What was life like in the United States during WWII?
- b. How did life change for Americans during WWII?

Warships

Specifically their uses and roles in particular battles. (This must not be a list of ships.)

- a. What role did warships play in WWII?
- b. What technological advancements in ship design and performance was achieved during WWII?

Battle of El Alamein

- a. What was the Battle of El Alamein?
- b. Describe the chronology and strategy of the Battle of El Alamein?
- c. Compare and contrast the strategies of British General Montgomery and Russian Field Marshall Rommel.

Bataan Death March

- a. What was the Bataan Death March? Describe the chronology of events of the March.
- b. Compare two or more soldier's perspectives on the Bataan Death March.

The Battle of Stalingrad

- a. Explain the significance of the Battle of Stalingrad.

Tank Warfare

- a. How was tank warfare used in WWII and what were the major tank battles.
- b. Compare and contrast the tanks of Germany, Russia, and the United States.

WWII Timeline

- a. Create a timeline of all major events leading up to WWII, occurring throughout WWII, or immediately following WWII. The timeline research question should center on linking major and critical events to final outcomes.

Major Battles in European Theater

a. Detail the outcomes of the major battles in the European theater. Give specifics of major turning points.

Major Battles in Pacific Theater

a. Detail the outcomes of the major battles in the Pacific theater. Give specifics on major turning points.

WWII Letters Home

a. Present a series of letters home from soldiers and develop a list of common themes from all branches and countries.

POW personal accounts

a. Research personal accounts of POW's on all sides of the WWII conflict and compare and contrast POW experiences in the various prison camps.

Pearl Harbor

a. Give a background to the development of the Pearl Harbor plan, the success of its execution, and its future ramifications in the war.

Economics of the War

- a. How did the major countries fund the war?
- b. What was the financial picture of the countries before the war, during the war, and after the war?

WWII Novel

research historical facts that pertain to a WWII novel

Compare and Contrast Two WWII Accounts (Fiction or Non-Fiction)

Read two accounts or novels to compare and contrast the stories. Use research to help explain what happened in each book.

Dutch Resistance/Rescue of the Danish Jews

United States' Policy on accepting Jewish refugees/plight of the Jews

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Holocaust Survivor's Accounts

Stalin and the Gulag

Solzhenitsyn

Primo Levi

Yalta Conference

Post-War Europe or Japan