
STUDY GUIDE FOR EBZB PRODUCTIONS' SONGS AND LETTERS OF WORLD WAR II : A CABARET'

Questions About World War II

Knowing the answers to the following questions will enhance your theatre experience . . .

WW II RECRUITING POSTER



1. Who was the President of the United States when World War II began? Who was president when WWII ended?
2. What started WWII? What year did WWII begin? What year did the United States enter into WWII? Why? What year did WWII end?
3. During WWII, Who was the Prime Minister of England?
4. What countries were allies of the United States?
5. Who was Adolph Hitler? Who was Benito Mussolini? Who was Joseph Stalin? What are the dangers of dictatorships?
6. Name three countries included in "The Axis" – enemies of the United States.
7. What's the difference between a concentration camp and a death camp? What kind of people were sent to these camps by the Nazis? Why?
8. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and George S.

Patton were Generals. Why are they notable?

9. The Atomic bomb was introduced in WWII. The United States dropped the bomb on Japan, which helped to end the war. The destruction was devastating. What were the pros and cons of the US decision to use atomic weapons?
10. How many people died during WWII? How many Americans were wounded? Which country suffered the most human loss? What single religious group was the most persecuted by Hitler?

ACTIVITIES

Interview a Veteran. Find a family member or friend who lived during WWII (or another war) and ask them five questions about their service and memories. Record the interview with a digital video camera or take notes. Then make a multi-media presentation on your computer, or write about the person you interviewed.

Draw a War Poster, or two. What images will you choose? Use words like: freedom, duty, fight, win, liberty, victory, allies, work. Remember the point is to inspire people to help in the war effort.

Create a Code. Come up with your own special code, perhaps it's substituting numbers for letters, or prearranging with the recipient of your mail to use a special phrase to mean something else. For example: instead of saying, "I'm shipping out

to Europe tomorrow." write "I sure miss the roosters crowing."

Make a Timeline. List the dates of major events during WWII. Find pop-culture information to correspond with the same dates. Use a Powerpoint or Keynote software to make a presentation. Or draw the timeline on poster board.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Axis, allies, atomic bomb, blackouts, D-Day, draft, fascist, Glenn Miller, Iwo Jima, kamikaze bombers, kindertransport, Nazi, Normandy, patriotism, Pearl Harbor, pin-up girls, propaganda, rationing, rhetoric, swastika, U-boat, USO, Veteran, VE Day, VJ Day, victory garden, WAC's, WAV's, war bonds.

WEB SITES

America's Story

<http://www.americasstory.com/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/wwii>

Rosie The Riveter

www.rosietheriveter.org

The Holocaust Children –

www.annefrank.dk/Default.htm

World War II Posters -

<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/collections/wwii-posters/>

BOOKS

World War II for Kids

by Richard Panchyk
Chicago Review Press

Elsie's War

By Frank Dabba Smith
Frances Lincoln Ltd.

STUDY GUIDE ANSWERS

Tie Songs and Letters of WWII into your curriculum...English, Drama, History, Music, Politics, Religion, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Women's Studies. For more ideas, contact us at ebzb@earthlink.net.

1. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The only four term president. 1b) Harry S. Truman.
2. The German invasion of Poland, authorized by Germany's leader, Adolph Hitler. 2b) 1939. 2c)1941. 2d) The U.S. Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. 2e)1945.
3. Sir Winston Churchill. Known as a tough bulldog of a leader with a soft spot inside for the British people. He guided Britain through air raids that killed thousands. His relationship with president Roosevelt helped the Allies overcome the Germans. Churchill remains famous for his poetic writings and orations. He was a rhetorical master.
4. France and England.
5. Adolph Hitler was the dictator of Germany. 5b)Benito Mussolini was the dictator of Italy. 5c)Joseph Stalin was the dictator of the Soviet Union. 5d) Dictators take control of a country and do not allow elections. Sometimes they use force to get rid of political enemies. An unkind or unwise dictator could harm the citizens of his country without punishment for his actions.
6. The Axis was made up of Germany, Italy, and Japan (among other countries). They were the enemies of the Allied Forces of the United States, France and Britain.
7. Both camps were run by Nazi's and served as "jails" for political prisoners and Jews, but prisoners of concentration camps performed heavy labor under cruel conditions, while prisoners of death camps were put to immediate death, usually in gas chambers. 7b) Jews, mentally handicapped, Gypsies, Poles, homosexuals, and those who were considered by the Nazis to be social deviants of any kind. 7c) Hitler wanted a "pure" society. His racist attitudes condemned thousands to death.
8. Dwight D. Eisenhower was the five-star general in charge of the D-Day landings and he was the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe after the invasion. He was later elected president of the United States. Douglas MacArthur led the Allies to victory in the Pacific. George S. Patton led the United States Forces in Northern Africa, Sicily, and then Europe making rapid progress in 1944.
9. This is a discussion question. Pros: Atomic Bomb put an early end to the war by making the Japanese Surrender. Some argue that this early ending may have saved tens of thousands of American lives. Cons: The atomic bomb set a precedence for warfare. Thousands of innocent civilians were killed. Discuss the finely tuned implications of both sides of the argument and how they have impacted politics and warfare in our time.
10. It's estimated that 48 million people were killed in World War II. Over three hundred thousand Americans were wounded. Russia and the Ukraine lost the most citizens. The Jews were the most persecuted religious group of the time. Hitler's orders resulted in the deaths of six million Jews.

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