

Critical Thinking Skills

World War II

Skills For Critical Thinking		Why Do We Remember WWII?	Background & Causes	Germany's Role in the War	Major Battles	New Weapons of War	The End of War
LEVEL 1 Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Details Match Sequence 	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare & Contrast Summarize State Main Idea Describe Interpret 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose Information Identify Outcomes Apply What Is Learned Make Connections 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw Conclusions Identify Supporting Evidence Make Inferences Identify Cause & Effect Identify Relationships 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prediction Design Create 	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
LEVEL 6 Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend an Opinion Make Judgements Explain 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



Germany's Role in the War

1. Match each of the words below with the correct meaning. You may use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | |
|---|------------|--|---|
| 1 | recover | people who originally came from India to Europe;
people who live a wandering type of life | a |
| 2 | propaganda | clothing worn by a specific group of people | b |
| 3 | avoid | to restore to a normal state | c |
| 4 | gypsies | a planned action for a particular purpose | d |
| 5 | ultimatum | agreement to something | e |
| 6 | tactic | a demand, that if rejected means the end of peace | f |
| 7 | uniform | to make known openly or officially | g |
| 8 | declare | to keep from happening | h |
| 9 | support | organized spreading of certain ideas | i |

2. The word **ACQUIESCE** means to give in to something, to accept something, and to go along with something. What are some things that you might acquiesce to? When have you gone along with something?



Germany's Role in the War

After the First World War, people in Europe were unsure what they should do. The Treaty of Versailles did not promote peace. Many Germans were upset about being blamed for the war. The economic depression made many people feel desperate. In Germany, people began to put their hope in a fascist group called the Nazi Party. Many people voted for the Nazis to rule Germany. The Nazis promised people jobs, increased services, and a better military.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany. He was a very good public speaker. People listened to him. People believed in him. Hitler used **propaganda** to get people to agree with him. He explained to the Germans that they were being treated unfairly. Hitler told the Germans that Jewish people and **Gypsies** should be blamed for their problems. Hitler's goal was to destroy people he called "less worthy". He



also wanted Germany to have more land. He told Germans that it was Germany's right to take land that had German-speaking people living on it. He said that Germany needed more "living space". Hitler successfully took over two countries to get more space, without starting a war.

On March 13, 1938 Germany took over Austria even though the Treaty of Versailles said that this was not allowed. In September of 1939, France and Britain agreed to give some of the land in Czechoslovakia to Hitler. By March of 1939, Hitler had taken all of it.

Great Britain and France did not want another war. They had lost many soldiers and a lot of money in World War One. People in Great Britain and France had not **recovered** from World War One. There was little **support** for another war. For these reasons, Britain and France did not put up a fight against Hitler. They believed that they could **avoid** war if they gave in to Hitler. They thought that giving Austria and Czechoslovakia to Hitler would make him happy. What France and Great Britain did not understand was that Hitler wanted much more land.

NAME: _____



Germany's Role in the War

1. Below is a list of events that took place leading up to World War Two. Put the events in order in which they occurred. Place a one on the line for the first event, a two for the second event, etc. Go back to the reading to check your answers.

- _____ a) World War Two begins on September 3, 1939.
- _____ b) March 1939, Hitler takes over all of Czechoslovakia.
- _____ c) France and Great Britain agree to give some of Czechoslovakia to Hitler.
- _____ d) Great Britain and France issue an ultimatum to Hitler.
- _____ e) August 31, 1939, a prisoner dressed like a Polish soldier is shot on the border of Poland and Germany.
- _____ f) In 1933, Adolf Hitler becomes the leader of Germany.
- _____ g) Hitler makes a deal with the Soviet Union.
- _____ h) People in Germany begin to put their hope in the Nazi Party.
- _____ i) Germany takes over Austria.
- _____ j) Hitler invades Poland.
- _____ k) People in Europe are unsure what to do.
- _____ l) Blitzkrieg attacks take place in Poland.