

Critical Thinking Skills

World Wars

World War I – World War II – Both books

Skills For Critical Thinking		Background & Causes	Major Battles	Methods of Warfare	New Weapons of War	The End of War
LEVEL 1 Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Details Match List 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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"> Predict Design Create 	✓ ✓	✓ ✓			✓
LEVEL 6 Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend An Opinion Make Judgements Explain 	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy

NAME: _____

 Before You Read



New Weapons of War



1. Write the word on the line that matches the definition. Use a dictionary to help you if needed.

victors
improve

submarine
communication

sophisticated
mounted

turret
superiority

- _____ a) to make or become better
- _____ b) the one who defeats an enemy; the winner
- _____ c) a special boat that is used underwater
- _____ d) feeling that someone is better or more important than someone else
- _____ e) a rotating structure onto which guns are mounted
- _____ f) something that is very complicated or complex
- _____ g) an exchange of information
- _____ h) to put into a certain position; to attach to something

2. During World War Two many countries spent a great deal of money building weapons. Today, many countries still spend a lot of money on weapons. Is spending money to build weapons a good idea? Explain your opinion.



New Weapons of War

Many of the weapons used in World War One were also used in World War Two. By 1939 many of the weapons had been **improved** in order to work better.

The “U-Boat” was the English short form for the German word “Unterseeboot”. This means “undersea boat”. U-boats could travel below the water’s surface. They were also called **submarines**. The main purpose for the German U-Boat was to hit ships coming to Europe from the U.S. and Canada with supplies.

When World War Two began, Germany had 57 U-Boats. Over the next six years, Germany built close to 1,100 new boats. The allies, especially Great Britain, believed that the U-Boats were their biggest threat. The U-Boats could attack from great distances. Also, they were difficult to trace because they were able to move quietly in the water.

Although many U-Boats were built for World War Two, close to 80 percent of them were destroyed during fighting. 28 000 people who worked on U-Boats were killed and 8,000 were captured during the war.

Why do you think U-Boats were popular with the Germans?



Tanks became more **sophisticated** in World War Two. Radios were installed in German tanks. This allowed better **communication** with soldiers and better control. Tanks also became larger. The United States even made a 105-ton tank! At the beginning of the war light tanks were used by most armies. As the war went on, heavier tanks became more common. **Turrets** were also used on tanks. A turret allowed a very heavy machine gun to be **mounted** on the tank. The turret made it possible for the gun to be moved all the way around to hit targets. Having a turret also meant that the gun could be fired even if the tank was hidden behind some cover.

Bombers were airplanes that were used in World War One. They were designed to attack targets on the ground by dropping bombs from the plane. In World War Two, fighter aircraft were built. These planes were designed to attack other aircraft while in the air. The fighter aircraft were small, fast and easy to move around. Countries fighting in World War Two wanted **superiority** in the air. They wanted to be the best and have control of the skies. In most wars, the countries that had control of the skies usually went on to be the winners, or **victors** in the war. Many countries spent a lot of money to build the best aircraft possible.

NAME: _____

After You Read 



New Weapons of War

1. Below are two columns. Column A has the beginning of a sentence. Column B has the ending of a sentence. Using straight lines, match column A and column B to make ten true statements.

Column A

- 1 **Some of the weapons used in World War One were**
- 2 **Radios were installed**
- 3 **Great Britain believed that**
- 4 **Fighter aircraft were**
- 5 **Countries wanted**
- 6 **German U-Boats could**
- 7 **Turrets were used to**
- 8 **Victors were**
- 9 **As the war went on**
- 10 **Tanks became**

Column B

- A mount machine guns on tanks.
- B in German tanks.
- C the people who had won the war.
- D also used in World War Two.
- E small, fast and easy to move around.
- F superiority in the air.
- G more sophisticated in World War Two.
- H U-Boats were their greatest threat.
- I heavier tanks became more common.
- J attack from great distances.