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MAKING LIFE BETTER

Knowing about history helps us understand why things happen the way they do.

As time goes by, things change, but people still do things for the same reasons. Some people are kind and work to make the world a good place. Some people are greedy and want power. They can make life hard for others.



When we study history, we learn about the past. Past events are part of what makes us who we are today. The past has shaped our lives and the lives of everyone around us. Past events have shaped our country too.

Each choice you make is important. It's smart to think about the choices you have made in the past. You can make good choices to have a better life.

The Game: Check the things you have or want to have.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> nice car | <input type="checkbox"/> friends who lie to you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no money | <input type="checkbox"/> lots of money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good friends | <input type="checkbox"/> nice home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> strong body | <input type="checkbox"/> loving family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good job | <input type="checkbox"/> fun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ugly home | <input type="checkbox"/> safe country |



Name one event in the past that changed your life.

PEARL HARBOR

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Six Japanese aircraft carriers, 25 submarines, and more than 30 other ships were north of Hawaii. The carriers launched more than 180 Japanese warplanes in the first wave, or part, of the attack. In the next wave, 70 planes attacked. U.S. ships and airfields were hit. An armor-piercing bomb struck the battleship Arizona and exploded the ammunition section. The ship was blown apart. In minutes, the huge ship sank, and 1,177 crew members died.



Overall, 21 ships were sunk or beached and over 180 aircraft were destroyed. Luckily, the U.S. aircraft carriers were not in port at the time, so they were safe. Japanese bombers did not seriously damage the base or hit the large fuel tanks. Americans fought back and were able to take down 29 Japanese planes. About 2,400 Americans were killed. About 100 Japanese were killed.

The next day, December 8, the U.S. declared war on Japan. Britain and Canada declared war on Japan the same day. Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. on December 11. By the end of 1941, the war was worldwide.

The Game: Look at the map.

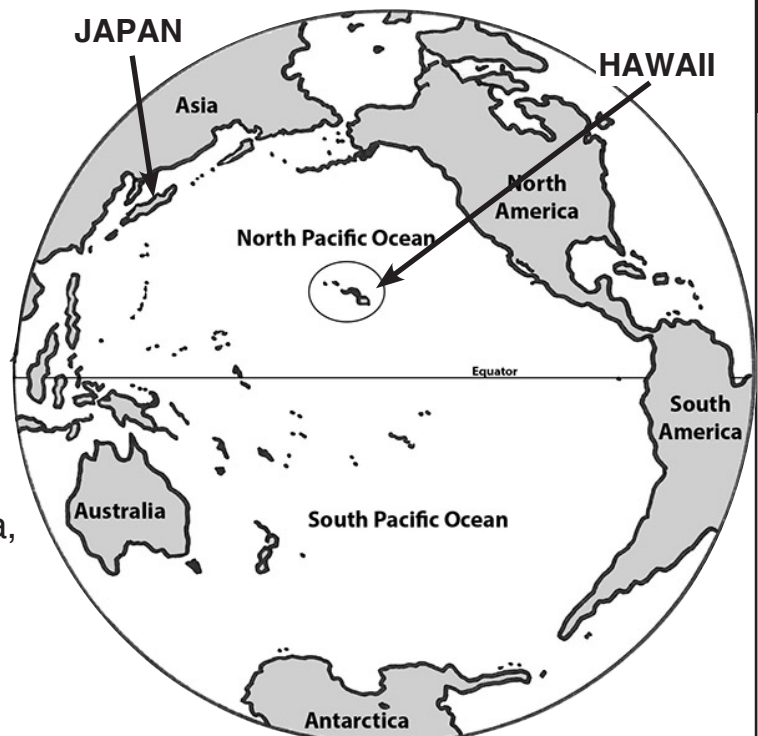
1. Is Hawaii located in the North or South Pacific Ocean?

2. Is Japan part of Asia or North America?

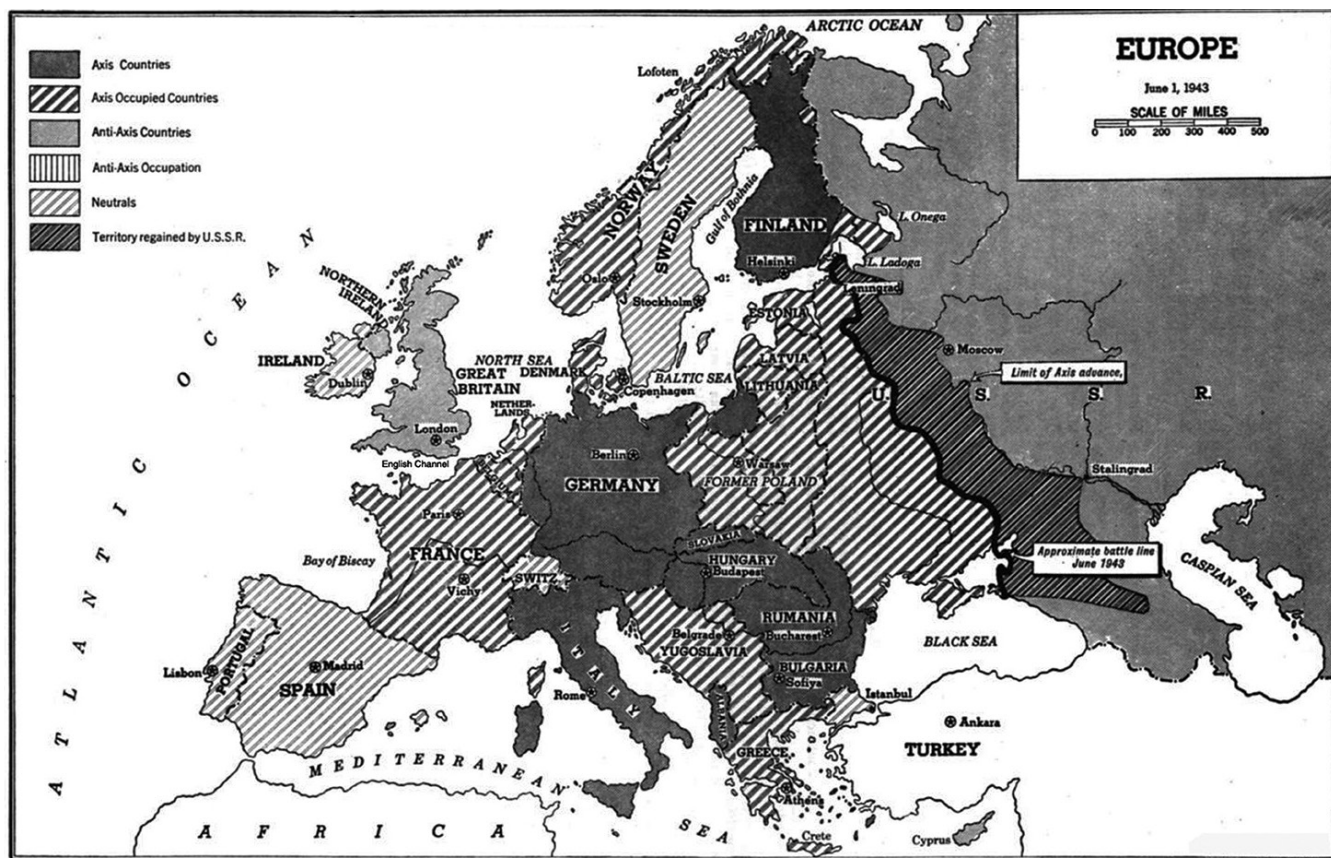
3. Which is closer to the Equator, Japan or Hawaii?

4. Which is closer to North America, Japan or Hawaii?

On a separate paper, draw a picture of a warship.



THE TWO SIDES



What were the two sides in World War II? The war was fought mainly between two major alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers.

THE ALLIES

Belgium	Lithuania
Brazil	Malta
Canada	The Netherlands
China	New Zealand
Czechoslovakia	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	South Africa
France	United Kingdom (Britain)
Greece	United States
India	United Soviet Socialist Republic
Latvia	Yugoslavia and others

THE AXIS POWERS

Germany
Italy
Japan
Slovakia
Hungary
Romania
Bulgaria

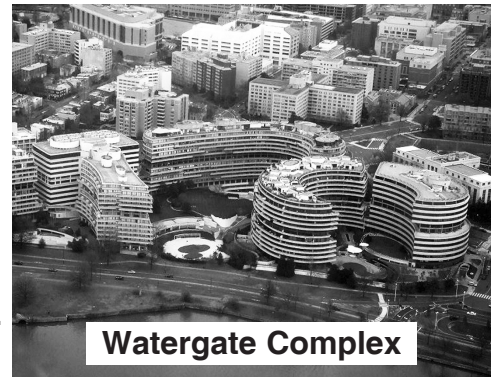
The Game: Write ALLIES or AXIS in the blanks.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. United States _____ | 6. China _____ |
| 2. Germany _____ | 7. France _____ |
| 3. Canada _____ | 8. Italy _____ |
| 4. Japan _____ | 9. Poland _____ |
| 5. United Soviet Socialist Republic _____ | 10. United Kingdom (Britain) _____ |

WATERGATE 1972

Watergate is the name of the biggest political scandal in U.S. history.

In June 1972, a security guard at the Watergate Hotel saw that a door was not locked. There was some tape over the latch. He pulled the tape off. Later, he saw that someone had re-taped the door. He called the police. Five men were arrested. They were caught with wiretapping equipment.



Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were two reporters from the *Washington Post*. They kept digging into the facts. Then, a secret friend called "Deep Throat" gave them information. The reporters soon found links to the White House. The burglars were on the White House payroll!

Americans were shocked to learn that the burglars were on President Nixon's re-election team. The burglars had bugged the Democratic headquarters to steal information. The information was used to help get Nixon re-elected. People were given large amounts of money to cover up or hide the facts about the break-in.

Nixon's office told America that none of Nixon's staff was part of the break-in. The following November, Americans re-elected Nixon for a second term as U.S. President.

The Game: Answer the questions.

1. Where did the break-in happen?

2. Who gave the reporters information?

3. What were the burglars stealing?

4. Who were the burglars working for?

5. What is the Watergate scandal?

9/11

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the world changed forever. Nineteen terrorists took control of four American planes. Two of the hijacked planes were flown at top speed to New York City. The planes, along with the passengers, slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The buildings burst into flames. Less than two hours later, the skyscrapers collapsed into a huge pile of smoldering rubble. New York firefighters and rescue workers rushed to save lives. Many of these heroes died while helping others.

A third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The plane slammed into the side of the U.S. military headquarters and exploded.

The fourth plane was headed for either the White House or the U.S. Capitol. Several people on board the plane had made phone calls, and they knew about the other attacks. The passengers and crew fought the terrorists. The plane went down in Pennsylvania. Everyone on board died. However, many lives were saved because of their brave actions.

Americans united to help. Firefighters and medical workers rushed to the disaster areas. All non-emergency aircraft were grounded. The military went on high alert. The National Guard called in troops to patrol major cities. Donations of food, money, supplies, and blood were sent to help the victims and their families. Funds were set up too. Aid poured in from all over the world.

More than 3,000 people died as a result of the 9/11 attacks.



The Game: Look at the top photo showing the twin towers of the World Trade Center on fire. Write a good sentence telling about 9/11. Use these words: terrorists, World Trade Center, died.
