Activity One

Reaction to the War News Broadcast

World War One was called “the war to end all war”. When World War Two broke out, people around the world felt nervous.

For this activity you are to work in a group. INVESTIGATE how people around the world reacted to the news of another war breaking out. Each person in the group will choose a country. For example, Germany, Great Britain, France, United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, Italy, etc.

Using the chart below, for each country find out:

- how people reacted to the news of war
- what was happening at the time of the outbreak of war
- other information about your specific country such as:
  - language
  - government
  - location in the world
  - size
  - religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name:</th>
<th>Language:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events in 1940:</td>
<td>Government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Reaction:</td>
<td>Religion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Info:</td>
<td>Size/Location:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create a NEWS BROADCAST using each member of your group as a news correspondent in the country that they have investigated. Each group member needs to come up with a news report or story about their country. Be ready to share your newscast with the class.

Extension Option 1: If you are able to, VIDEO RECORD your newscast. Include diagrams, pictures and maps. View your newscasts with the class.

Extension Option 2: Create an AUDIO RECORDING of your newscast for a radio show. Listen to your newscast with the class.
Activity Two

Mapping Activity

Below are two maps. The first is a map of Europe around 1940 before World War Two began. It is labeled for you. The second is a map of Europe today. Using the country names listed as well as an atlas, LABEL the European COUNTRIES on your map. Notice what has changed and what has stayed the same.

1. Europe 1940

2. Present-day Europe

Countries of present-day Europe:

- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Portugal
- Italy
- France
- Albania
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Spain
- Luxembourg
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Austria
- Russia
- Macedonia
- Czech Republic
- Poland
- Denmark
- Ukraine
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Estonia
- Belarus
- Yugoslavia
- Greece
- Turkey
- Lithuania
- Latvia
Activity Three

Women of World War II Poster

Similar to World War One, many women took part in World War Two. Women played an important role in World War Two, even though they are sometimes overlooked.

In this activity you will investigate the ROLE OF WOMEN in World War Two. You will need to gather information to answer the following questions:

- How did women participate in the war?
- Were women involved in direct battle?
- What jobs did women have that helped the war?
- Which women were most involved?
- How did the war change women’s role?
- How did women’s roles change from World War I to World War II?
- At least three other points of interest

You can use a graphic organizer, like the one below, to help you organize your information.

Once you have gathered the information, create a POSTER to share the information.

Your poster will:

- Be creative
- Have a border
- Share information in an easy-to-read way
- Be accurate
- Catch the reader’s attention

Be ready to put your posters up in your classroom!
Activity Four

Holocaust Fact Cards

During World War Two six million Jewish people were killed. This is known as the Holocaust. Hitler and the Nazis believed that the Jewish people were to blame for their problems. They decided to kill Jews.

The Nazis opened up CONCENTRATION CAMPS as early as 1933, where Jews were sent to work and eventually to be killed. The Nazis targeted Jewish people as well as people who had a disability, Gypsies, homosexuals, Polish people, Jehovahs’ Witnesses and Catholics. These people were targeted because their ideas and beliefs and physical defects were not “ideal”.

Using the library, textbooks, Internet sources, and talking with other people, conduct some RESEARCH to find out more about the Holocaust.

Consider these questions as you research this topic:

- What was the Holocaust?
- When did it happen?
- What are concentration camps?
- Who was involved?
- How many people died?
- How could such a terrible thing happen?
- Why didn’t anyone stop it?
- Who knew about the concentration camps?
- Who survived?

Once you have gathered your information, you are going to make FACT CARDS. Each card will have TWO sides. On one side write an important detail or fact. On the other side create a drawing, diagram, picture or symbol. The two sides of the card should match. Create SIX fact cards and be ready to share them.

An example of a Holocaust Fact Card:

One side:  

The Star of David is associated with Jewish people. It is also on the Israeli flag.

Other side:
Activity Five

New Weapon of War Essay

During World War Two a new weapon of war was used for the first time. It was called an ATOMIC BOMB. The atomic bomb was dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in August of 1945.

Use a chart like the one below to help you organize information you collect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT is it? (Provide background details)</th>
<th>WHEN was it used? (Not just World War Two, but at any time in history)</th>
<th>WHO was it used by? (Not just World War Two, but at any time in history)</th>
<th>What DID it do? What CAN it do?</th>
<th>OTHER important or interesting details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Atomic Bomb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Using the information from the chart, write a FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY. Use the column titles as the topic of each paragraph. Be sure to include an introductory paragraph.

You may present your information in an alternate form such as a BOOKLET or a PAMPHLET if you wish. Check with your teacher first.

If you are going to create a booklet or a pamphlet, be sure to ILLUSTRATE your work with drawings, pictures, diagrams or clippings. Be ready to share your work with your class.
Activity Six

Major Figures in World War II Biography Activity

There were many important people in World War Two. Some were leaders of countries, some were ordinary people, some soldiers, and some were villains.

In this activity, you will INVESTIGATE a major personality from World War Two. Some suggestions include:

- George Marshall
- Leni Reifenstahl
- Benito Mussolini
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- George Patten
- Joseph Stalin
- Harry Truman
- Niels Bohr
- Eva Braun
- George W. Bush
- Charles deGaulle
- Winston Churchill
- General D. Eisenhower
- Mitsuo Fuchida
- Paul Josef Goebbels

You can choose someone else but check with your teacher first.

Use the following chart to help you organize your research. You can use textbooks, library materials, interviews, the Internet, or any source your teacher has available to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Death:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthplace:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to War:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interesting Fact:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other important details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have gathered your information, create a TWO-SIDED POSTER. On the front, include the person’s name and their picture. On the back, include details about his or her life. Be sure that you display your information clearly. You may consider using a chart or point form to share your information.