

Fighting World War II

36

What military strategies did the United States and its allies pursue to defeat the Axis powers in World War II?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Allies	Holocaust
Axis powers	Battle of Midway
Battle of Stalingrad	Battle of Okinawa
D-Day	Manhattan Project

PREVIEW

You are the head coach of a high school basketball team. Your team is about to play the top-ranked team, which has last year's most valuable player (MVP) on its roster. You just found out that half of your team is caught in traffic and will not make it in time for the start of the game. What strategy will you pursue?

Choose one of these strategies. In your notebook, write a paragraph explaining your choice.

- Play defense, stall, and try to keep the score close in hopes that your other players will arrive soon.
- Go on the offense and attack the opponent's MVP, hoping to tire him or her and get him or her to foul.
- Attack the weakest player, even if that allows the MVP to stay rested and remain on offense.

READING NOTES

Set up your Reading Notes by cutting out the maps of Europe and the Pacific from Notebook Handout 36. Tape each map to the center of a page in your notebook. Label each page with the appropriate section number and title.

Section 36.2

Read Section 36.2. Annotate the map for this section as follows:

- Identify North Africa, Poland, and the Soviet Union and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

Section 36.3

1. Read through the subsection "Soviets Fight Alone at Stalingrad." Annotate the map for Section 36.3 as follows:

- Identify southern Italy and Stalingrad and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

2. Read the remainder of the section. Finish annotating the map as follows:

- Identify Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

Section 36.4

Read Section 36.4. Annotate the map in your notebook as follows:

- Identify the Philippines, Tokyo, and the Coral Sea and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

Section 36.5

1. Read through the subsection “Truman Faces a Decision to Drop the Bomb.” Annotate the map for Section 36.5 as follows:

- Identify Midway and Okinawa and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

2. Read the remainder of Section 36.5. Finish annotating the map for this section as follows:

- Identify Hiroshima and Nagasaki and label each with a star.
- Write three facts about events that occurred in these areas.

PROCESSING

In two well-written paragraphs, respond to the following question: *Should the United States be praised or criticized for the military strategies or actions it pursued during World War II?* Your response should address at least two of the military strategies and actions listed below.

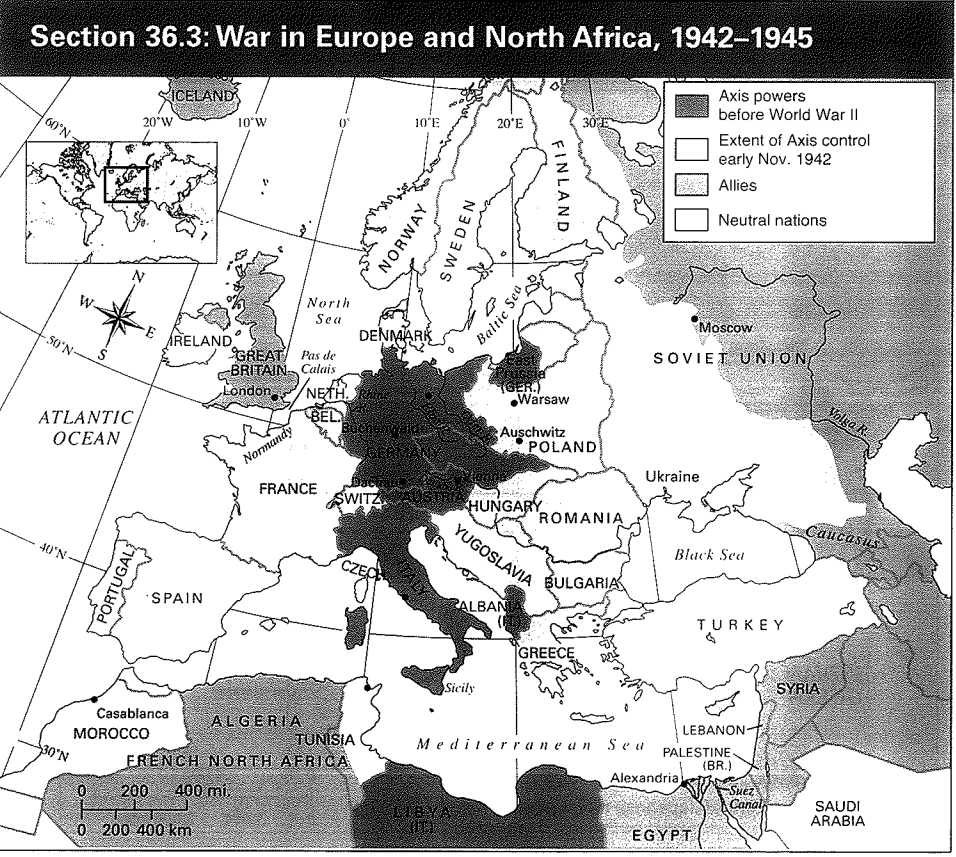
World War II Military Actions and Strategies

- “Europe First” strategy
- postponement of an invasion of France
- decision not to bomb the concentration camps
- Operation Overlord
- liberation of the concentration camps
- leapfrogging strategy
- battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan

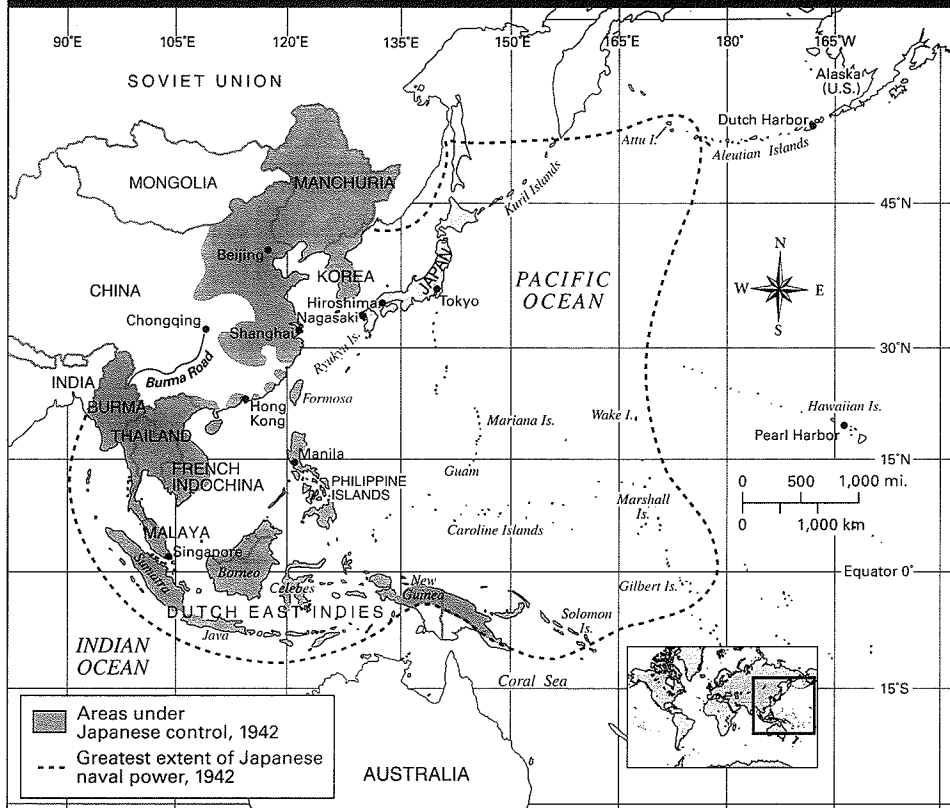
Make sure each paragraph includes

- a clear topic sentence that communicates the main idea of your paragraph.
- one or two pieces of evidence (facts, data, quotations, examples) from the reading to support your topic sentence.
- one or two sentences that explain how your evidence supports your topic sentence.

Battlefront Maps



Section 36.4: War in the Pacific, 1942



Section 36.5: War in the Pacific, 1942–1945

