World War II Research topics

1. Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

a. How did the American position on World War II change when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor?

b. Why were the Japanese so successful when they attacked Pearl Harbor?

2. Battle of the Bulge

a. What was unique about the Battle of the Bulge?

b. What was the significance of the Battle of the Bulge in the outcome of WWII?

3. Lend Lease Act

a. What was the Lend Lease Act and what were the terms that it included?

b. What was the impact of the Lend Lease Act on World War II?

4. Japanese Internment

a. Why did our government intern Japanese Americans?

b. How did Japanese Internment affect the lives of Japanese Americans?

5. Auschwitz

a. What was Auschwitz and its significance in WWII?

b. How was Auschwitz different from other concentration camps?

6. Battle of Britain

a. What was the chronology of events involved in the Battle of Britain?

b. Why or how was the Battle of Britain an important Battle in WWII?

7. Atomic Bomb

a. How did the use of the atomic bomb at Nagasaki and Hiroshima end the war?

b. How did the atomic bomb change the perspective of warfare?

8. Battle of Midway

a. Why was the Battle of Midway important?

b. How was the Battle of Midway unique?

9. Invasion of Normandy (D-Day)

a. Why was the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day important to the outcome of WWII?

b. How was the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day a turning Point in WWII?

c. Compare and contrast the five different invasion beaches and the subsequent battles.

10. The Causes of World War II

a. What events occurred from 1935 to 1938 that causes war to break out in Europe? Be specific and explain the details of each event and how each of the events contributed to the start of the war. (Minimum of five events discussed in detail.)

11. The Holocaust

a. What was the purpose of the Holocaust and what were the results of it?

b. Why have we established memorials and museums to commemorate the memory of those who died in the Holocaust?

12. Adolf Hitler

a. How did Adolf Hitler gain power and what were his goals?

b. What steps did Adolf Hitler take to achieve his goals in WWII?

13. The War in the Pacific

a. Compare and contrast the events in Okinawa and the Philippines during the War in the Pacific?

b. Why was Japan anxious to expand its territory and risk conflict with much larger countries to obtain its goal?

c. Select three different personal accounts of WWII veterans that served in the Pacific during WWII and compare their experiences.

14. Submarine Warfare

a. What role or part did submarines play in WWII?

b. How did submarines change naval warfare in WWII from what had been experienced in earlier wars?

15. Dachau

a. What made Dachau different from other concentration camps?

16. US Manhattan Project

a. What was the Manhattan Project and what was the chronology of its development?

b. What impact did the Manhattan Project have on WWII?

17. Nazis

a. How did the Nazis rise to power?

b. What was the role of the Nazis in WWII?

18. The Nuremberg Trials

a. What were the Nuremberg Trials?

b. Who was tried at the Nuremberg Trials and what were the results of the trials?

19. Gestapo

a. What was the Gestapo and what was their role in WWII?

20. Aircraft: Specifically the uses of specific aircraft and their involvement in particular battles. (This is more than a list of planes.)

a. What role did aircraft play in WWII?

b. What technological advancements in aircraft design and performance was achieved during WWII?

21. Warships: Specifically their uses and roles in particular battles. (This must not be a list of ships.)

a. What role did warships play in WWII?

b. What technological advancements in ship design and performance was achieved during WWII?

22. Bataan Death March

a. What was the Bataan Death March? Describe the chronology of events of the March.

b. Compare two or more soldier’s perspectives on the Bataan Death March.

23. The Battle of Stalingrad

a. Explain the significance of the Battle of Stalingrad.

b. How the background and details of the battle, how it was on and by whom, and what was its major significance?

24. Tank Warfare

a. How was tank warfare used in WWII and what were the major tank battles.

b. Compare and contrast the tanks of Germany, Russia, and the United States.

25. Hitler Youth

a. Who were the Hitler youth and how were they trained and used in WWII?

b. What were the outcomes of individuals who served in the Hitler youth, particularly their assimilation back into post WWII society?

26. Major Battles in Europe Theater

a. List and detail the outcomes of the major battles in the European theater.

b. Give specifics on major turning points.

27, Major Battles in Pacific Theater

1. List and detail the outcomes of the major battles in the Pacific theater.
2. Give specifics on major turning points.