

World War II

Lesson 5



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Allies gained victory in Europe with Germany's surrender.
2. Nazis murdered millions of Jews and other people in the Holocaust.
3. Victory in the Pacific came after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan.

Key Terms and People

Battle of the Bulge key battle at the Ardennes forest; Allies were victorious after an initially successful German attack

Harry S. Truman vice-president who became president when Roosevelt died in 1945

Holocaust Nazi program of mass murder against the Jewish people

genocide extermination of an entire group of people

Manhattan Project secret American research program to develop the atomic bomb

atomic bomb weapon that produces tremendous power by splitting atoms

Lesson Summary

GERMANY SURRENDERS

After the D-Day invasion, hundreds of thousands of Allied troops landed in France. By August 1944 Allied troops had taken control of Paris from the Germans. At the same time, Soviet troops were headed for Germany from the east.

In December Hitler ordered a massive attack against the Allies, whose planes were grounded due to bad weather. Germany pushed forward about 65 miles, creating a bulge in the front lines. The Allies recovered quickly and their planes were able to fly. The Allied victory at the **Battle of the Bulge** put Germans on the defensive for the rest of the war.

The Allies began bombing raids on German cities. These raids killed thousands of civilians. As Allied troops surrounded Berlin, Hitler

How did the Allied airplanes' initial inability to fly affect the Battle of the Bulge?

Lesson 5, *continued*

committed suicide. The Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Roosevelt died before the German surrender. **Harry S. Truman** became president and faced the challenge of winning the war in the Pacific.

Underline the name of the U.S. president who accepted the German surrender.

HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

As the Allied forces liberated Europe, they discovered that stories of the **Holocaust** were true. Soon after taking power, Hitler had begun a campaign against the Jews. The Nazis destroyed or seized property and moved the Jews to ghettos and concentration camps.

Hitler's "final solution" was **genocide**. He planned to get rid of all of the Jewish people, killing millions in death camps. About 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. The Nazis also murdered millions of other people.

What was Hitler's "final solution"?

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

The Allied planners projected that an invasion of Japan could cause more than 1 million Allied deaths. They had another option, based on research results of the **Manhattan Project**. When Japanese leaders refused to surrender, President Truman gave the order to use the **atomic bomb**.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped above the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Almost 80,000 people were killed instantly. Thousands died later. Japanese leaders refused to surrender, and a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. The Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945.

Underline the name of the two cities where atomic bombs have been dropped during a war.

AFTER THE WAR

After six years World War II was over. About 50 million people had been killed. More than half of them were civilians. Economies were badly damaged, and millions of people were left without food, water, or shelter. Because the

Why did the United States have to take charge of much of the rebuilding in Europe and Asia?

Lesson 5, *continued*

United States was the strongest remaining power in the world, it took on much of the job of rebuilding.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Make Judgments Was using atomic bombs against Japanese cities the right decision? Write a paragraph supporting your view.

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Hitler's plan to eliminate the Jewish population was _____. (the atomic bomb/genocide)
2. The _____ was a temporary victory for the German army but ended in defeat. (Battle of the Bulge/Holocaust)
3. The secret American program to produce a super-weapon was known as the _____. (Holocaust/Manhattan Project)
4. The murder of millions of Jews in Europe by the Nazis is known as the _____. (Manhattan Project/Holocaust)

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

- _____ 5. About 6 million of Europe's Jewish population were victims of Hitler's planned genocide.

- _____ 6. An atomic bomb that was dropped above Hiroshima killed almost 80,000 people instantly.

- _____ 7. The Manhattan Project ended Germany's ability to fight offensive battles.

- _____ 8. Germany's "final solution" resulted in the Holocaust.
