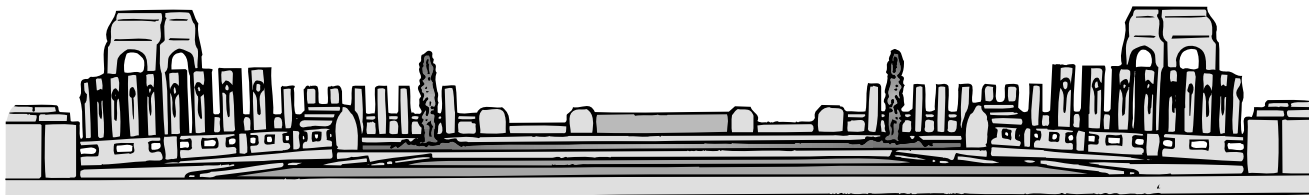


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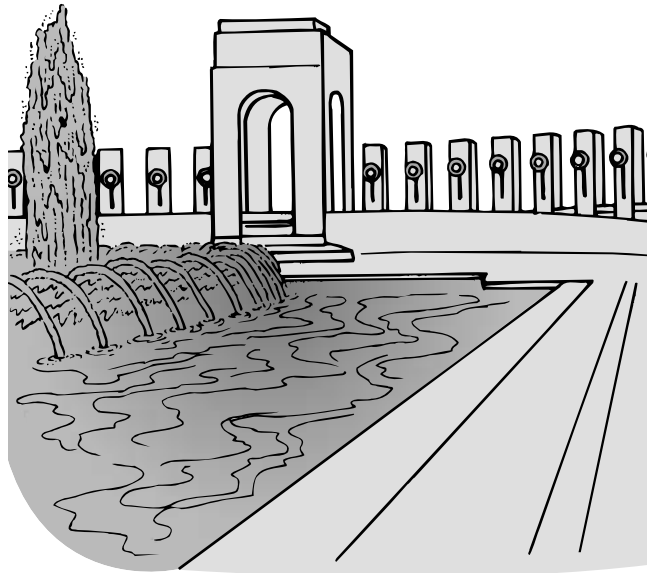
National World War II Memorial

During World War II, more than 16 million United States men and women served their country in military uniforms. Of those who served, more than 400,000 died, and another 671,000 were wounded. This war was the biggest event of the 20th century and a turning point in the United States' advancement to the position of a world superpower. Yet until now there was no national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., as there are monuments to commemorate more recent wars.

Congress authorized the memorial in 1993. National Chairman Bob Dole and Co-chairman Frederick W. Smith have been working to raise money for the memorial. Donations and pledges have reached \$180,000,000. A ceremonial groundbreaking finally occurred in November 2000, and actual construction began on August 27, 2001.

The site of the memorial will be the Mall in Washington, D.C., between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Fifty-six granite pillars will represent the states and territories of the U.S. at the time of the war. At the north and south entries to the oval plaza will be two 43-foot arches. Each arch contains four bronze pil-

lars topped by four American eagles that hold up a victory laurel. One arch stands for the war in the Atlantic and Europe, while the other represents the war in the Pacific. Other features include the historic Rainbow Pool, 24 bas relief panels showing the U.S. during the war and a Freedom Wall with gold stars for those who died serving their country.



World War II Memorial Questions

1. World War II ended in 1945. How many years passed before Congress authorized a national memorial to the war and the people who served in it? _____

2. Who led the memorial fund-raising campaign and how much money has been donated? _____

3. Where is the memorial to be located in Washington, D.C.? _____

4. What are two reasons why it is important to honor the people of World War II this way? _____

Events Leading to U.S. Declaration of War Time Line

- 1922** October—Mussolini takes control of the government of Italy.
- 1931** September—Japan begins the military takeover of Manchuria from China.
- 1933** January—Hitler becomes Germany's Chancellor.
March—Franklin Roosevelt becomes President of the United States.
- 1935** October—Italy begins invasion of Ethiopia.
- 1936** March—Germany reoccupies neutral Rhineland in violation of Versailles Treaty.
July—Spanish Civil War begins between Communists and Fascists.
October—Germany and Italy sign treaty forming Axis Powers.
November—Japan joins Germany in anti-Communist agreement.
- 1937** January—Roosevelt inaugurated for second term as U.S. President.
May—Congress passes Neutrality Act to prevent U.S. from getting into a war.
July—incident on Manchurian border begins war between Japan and China.
December—Japan attacks U.S. gunboat *Panay* and three oil tankers in China; several Americans killed and more wounded.
- 1938** March—Germany takes over Austria peacefully in a union called the Anschluss.
September—Munich Conference held; Britain and France agree to give Germany the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia.
- 1939** March—Germany invades the rest of Czechoslovakia.
March—Fascist General Franco wins civil war and becomes dictator of Spain.
April—Italy invades Albania.
August—Germany and Russia sign an agreement not to attack each other.
September 1—Germany begins invasion of Poland.
- September 3—Britain and France declare war against Germany.
- September—Germany and Russia divide Poland between them; Soviet Union begins to put pressure on Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.
- November—Soviet Union invades Finland.
- November—Congress passes “Cash and Carry” Act; any country can buy weapons from the U.S. as long as they use their own ships to carry them; actually favors the Allies.
- Winter—”phony war” during which fighting ceases for a time.
- 1940** Spring—Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.
June—France surrenders to Germany.
July—Germany begins the bombing of England known as the Battle of Britain.
September—U.S. Congress passes draft law requiring men 21 to 35 years old to register for the military.
- 1941** January—President Roosevelt inaugurated for a third term as U.S. President.
March—Lend-Lease Act passed; U.S. agrees to build and send weapons to nations fighting aggression; done to help Britain, fighting alone against Germany.
May—Germany sinks U.S. merchant ship *Robin Moor*.
June—Germany invades Soviet Union breaking their treaty of 1939.
October—U.S. destroyer *Reuben James* sunk by German submarine with loss of about 100 American lives.
December 7—Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor; more than 2000 Americans are killed.
December 8—U.S. declares war on Japan.
December 11—Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S.; U.S. declares war against Germany and Italy.

Name _____

Events Leading to U.S. Declaration of War Time Line Questions

1. What two nations did Italy invade before World War II began in September 1939? _____

2. What event caused the United States to declare war against Germany and Italy? _____

3. How long had Britain and France been at war when the U.S. declared war on Japan? _____

4. In President Roosevelt's speech on December 8, 1941, asking Congress to declare war against Japan, he said, "The Japanese government had asked us to continue discussing peace in the Pacific." What event on the time line shows why the U.S. would be involved in peace talks with Japan? _____

5. The United States followed a policy of isolationism during the 1920s and '30s. *Isolationism* means "staying out of events outside one's own country." a. Give an example of an event from the time line that shows the U.S. was trying to stay out of international events. b. What is the first event on the time line that shows the U.S. giving up its policy of isolationism in order to help the Allies?

6. The U.S. might have been provoked into declaring war against Germany even before December 1941. What two events on the time line were direct attacks on the U.S. that might have caused a war against Germany? _____

7. Russia became an ally of the U.S., Britain and France in the war against Germany and Italy. a. Give two events from two different dates on the time line that show that the Allies (U.S., Britain and France) had little reason to trust the Soviet Union. b. What event forced the Soviet Union to seek help from the Allies? _____

8. *Appeasement* means "to give in to a bully and give him what he wants so he won't hurt you." What event on the time line is an example of the Allies appeasing the fascist bullies? _____
