

The European Theater

Use your America: History of Our Nation text book pages 811-812 and 821-822 to fill in the blanks below. When you are finished, you will have a summary of the end of the war in Europe and North Africa.

I. The Soviets Resist

- Hitler had expected a quick takeover of the Soviet Union and was unprepared for the Russian winter.
- In December 1941, the Soviets were able to stop the Germans just a few miles from the Soviet city of MOSCOW.
- The Germans attacked again in mid-1942 and a major battle took place in Stalingrad. From this point on, the Soviets slowly pushed the Germans back.

II. North Africa

- Erwin Rommel was Germany's most respected general. He was able to win many quick victories in North Africa.
- In 1942, the British defeated Rommel's forces in the country of Egypt and began driving the Germans westward.
- In November 1942, the first American troops landed in North Africa. They were under the command of Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- The Americans occupied Morocco and Algeria.
- Rommel was forced to surrender North Africa in May, 1943.

III. Italy Surrenders

- In 1943, the Americans and British crossed the Mediterranean and took control of the island of Sicily.
- Mussolini was losing popularity, and the king of Italy dismissed him from office.
- On September 8, 1943, the new government surrendered to the Allies.
- The Allies would still continue to fight the German troops in Italy.

IV. D-Day

- a. Took place on this day: June 6, 1944
- b. The Allies were commanded by General Eisenhower
- c. More than 155,000 American, British, and Canadian troops crossed the English Channel and landed on five beaches at Normandy, in western France.
- d. Americans met an particularly harsh German defense on Oman Beach.
- e. The Allies were successful, and they liberated Paris on August 25, 1944.

V. Battle of the Bulge

- a. On December 16, 1944, the Germans counterattacked in Belgium.
- b. The Germans came close to breaking through the Allied lines, creating a "bulge" in the American lines.
- c. Even though both sides lost many men, the Allies were successful.

VI. Victory in Europe

- a. In January 1945, the Soviets invaded Germany in the east. The Allies also soon entered in the west. Planes bombed Germany.
- b. On April 12, 1945, FDR died of a stroke. Vice President Harry S. Truman took his place.
- c. In April, Soviet troops began an attack on Berlin.
- d. Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945.
- e. German representatives surrendered unconditionally at Eisenhower's headquarters in France on May 8, 1945.
- f. This victory is known as V-E Day, Victory in Europe.