

Life on the Homefront

Big Idea

As you read through this document, complete the time line below by **listing opportunities for women and African Americans before and during the war. Also evaluate what progress still needed to take place after the war.**

	Opportunities		
	Before the War	After the War	Still Needed
Women	1	2	3
African Americans	4	5	6

Women and Minorities Gain

Evaluating Information

Does the passage do a good job explaining how women and minorities gained ground? Circle your answer. Then explain it.

Yes No

Before the war, most Americans believed married women should not work outside the home. However, the labor shortage during the war forced factories to hire married women. “Rosie the Riveter” was the symbol of the campaign to hire women. Images of Rosie appeared on posters and in newspaper ads. Although most women left the factories after the war, their work permanently changed American attitudes about women in the workplace.

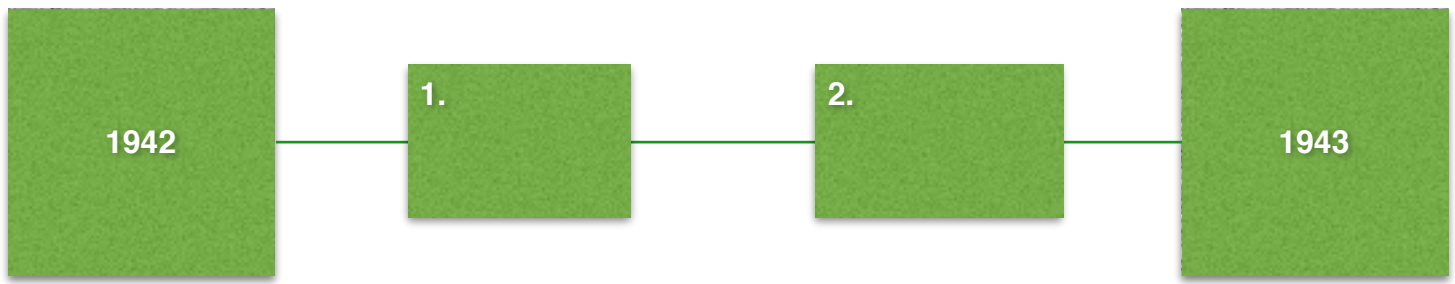
Many factories did not want to hire African Americans. A. Philip Randolph was the head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—a major union for African American railroad workers. He told President Roosevelt that he was going to organize a march on Washington. Roosevelt responded by issuing an order saying that discrimination in hiring workers in defense industries would not be tolerated. He created the Fair Employment Practices Commission to enforce the order.

To help farmers in the Southwest overcome the labor shortage, the government started the Bracero Program in 1942. It arranged for Mexican farm workers to help in the harvest.

The Early Battles

Big Idea

As you read through this document, complete the time line below by **listing some of the major battles discussed and the victor in each.**



Holding the Line Against Japan

Making inferences

Make an inference about how poor conditions affected the outcome at Bataan.

The Japanese continued to win victories in the Pacific until the Battle of Midway. Two days after their attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese troops landed on the Philippine Islands, strongly outnumbering American and Filipino forces. General Douglas MacArthur decided to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula.

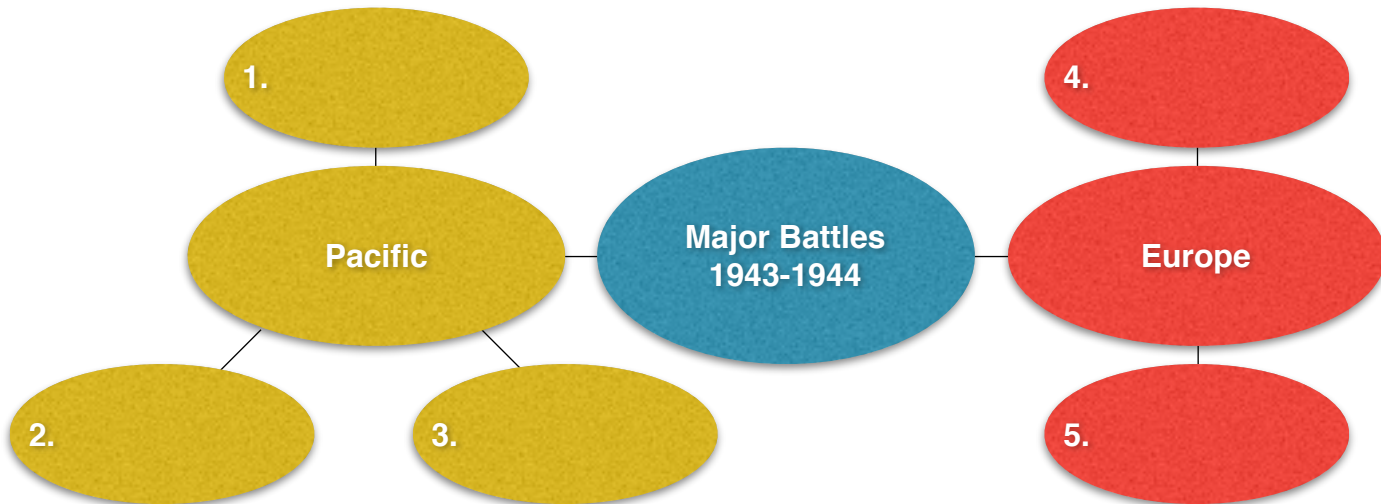
Conditions were horrible. Soldiers starved, and malaria, scurvy, and dysentery ran rampant. Eventually the defenders of Bataan surrendered. They were forced to march 65 miles to a Japanese prison camp. Almost 10,000 troops died on the way. The march was later called the Bataan Death March.

By early 1942, the United States was preparing to drop bombs on Tokyo. President Roosevelt ordered Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle to command the mission. America bombed Japan for the first time in April of that year. Doolittle's raid sent Japanese strategy into a tailspin. Thanks to the work of code breakers, American forces were able to decode Japan's plan to attack both New Guinea and Midway. This allowed Admiral Chester Nimitz to ambush the Japanese fleet at Midway and win the battle. The Battle of Midway was a turning point.

Pushing Back the Axis

Big Idea

As you read through this document, complete the time line below by **listing some of the major battles discussed and the victor in each.**



Striking Germany and Italy

Predicting

Skim the passage.
Make two predictions
about what the section
will be about.

In January 1943, President Roosevelt met with Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the Casablanca Conference in Morocco. The two leaders agreed to step up the bombing of Germany. The Allies also agreed to attack the Axis forces in Sicily.

Between 1943 and 1945, the air forces of Britain and the United States dropped about 53,000 tons of explosives on Germany every month. The bombing created an oil shortage and destroyed the railroad system, as well as many German air-craft factories. Germany's air force could not replace the planes they lost. The Allies now had total control of the air.

General Eisenhower was in charge of the Sicily invasion. Allied troops captured the western half of the island. The Germans were defeated in Sicily. Italy's king arrested Mussolini and began to negotiate a surrender to the Allies. But German troops seized northern Italy and returned Mussolini to power.

Roosevelt and Churchill met with Stalin in late 1943. They reached several agreements—one being that Germany would be broken up after the war. Stalin also agreed to attack Germany once the Allies landed in France.

Landing in France

Determining Cause and Effect

Fill in the effect.

Cause: The Allies placed inflated rubber tanks and dummy landing craft in the water near Calais.

Effect:

Roosevelt and Churchill met in Egypt to continue planning the invasion of France—otherwise known as Operation Overlord. Roosevelt selected General Eisenhower to command the invasion. The Germans knew the Allies were planning to invade France, so Hitler fortified the coast. The Germans guessed that the Allies would land in Pas-de-Calais. To fuel this misconception, the Allies placed inflated rubber tanks and dummy landing craft along the coast across from Calais. They actually planned to land on five Normandy beaches code-named “Utah,” “Omaha,” “Gold,” “Sword,” and “Juno.”

By the spring of 1944, the Allies were ready to invade France. Effect: There were some restrictions. They could only invade at night in order to hide the ships crossing the English Channel, and they could only invade in certain weather conditions. The Allies attacked June 6, 1944—a day that became known as D-Day. Most of the attack went smoothly, but the German resistance at Omaha Beach was intense. General Omar Bradley made plans to evacuate, but American forces soon began knocking out the German defenses. By the end of the day, the invasion was successful.

Driving Japan Back

Identifying the Main Idea

Write the main idea of this passage.

The United States also developed a strategy to defeat Japan. It had two parts. In the first, Admiral Nimitz commanded the Pacific Fleet as it hopped from one central Pacific island to the next. This campaign started in the fall of 1943, but the Pacific’s geography posed a problem. Many of the islands were coral reef atolls, and the water over the reefs was often shallow. U.S. ships ran aground before reaching the shore, forcing troops to wade to shore. Many died from Japanese gunfire before reaching the shore. One vehicle, called an amphibtrac, successfully crossed the reefs to deliver troops.

In the second part of the plan, General MacArthur’s troops invaded Guadalcanal, in the southwest Pacific, in 1942. By early 1944, MacArthur’s troops had captured enough islands to surround Japan’s main military base in the region. U.S. troops turned their focus to recapturing the Philippines. In response, Japan attacked from the north and west. Some Japanese fighters were kamikaze pilots—those who deliberately flew their planes into American ships. The pilots died, but also inflicted severe damage. The Japanese eventually retreated, but the battle to recapture the Philippines was long. It was still going on when word came in August 1945 that Japan had surrendered.

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. How did the wartime economy create opportunities for women and minorities?

2. What were the goals of the two major offensives the Allies launched in Europe in 1943?

3. What was the American strategy for pushing back the Japanese in the Pacific?

4. Why was the Battle of Midway a Turning Point for the War in the Pacific?