

The World Wars Episode 1

1. Which nations made up the Central Powers and the Allies during World War I? (Create a chart of these nations to refer back to as you study WWI and WWII.)
2. What was George Patton's innovation in the battle against Pancho Villa in Mexico? Why was this invention such a big turning point in modern warfare?
3. What were some of the characteristics of trench warfare?
4. Why do you think the "stalemate" continued for so long?
5. When did the United States enter World War I? What was the significance of the entry of the U.S. into the war?
6. What was the Gallipoli campaign and why was it so important? What role did Churchill play and how do you think it affected his life and career?
7. What role did Russia play during World War I? How do you think Stalin was shaped by the Russian Revolution?
8. What is a "war of attrition" and how does this phrase apply to WWI?
9. What were some of the leadership characteristics of George Patton and Douglas MacArthur? Do you think they had characteristics common in many leaders? Discuss.
10. How did World War I finally end? What were the major outcomes of the war?
11. How do you think Hitler's experiences in WWI shaped him as a person and a leader?
12. What ideological philosophies did he develop after the war?

The World Wars Episode 2

1. Who were the Axis and Allied powers during World War II?
2. Why do you think Hitler was so successful in mobilizing others to follow him?
3. What were his main goals and how did he plan to achieve them?
4. Why did FDR choose to curb military funding during the New Deal? Do you think this was the correct decision at the time? Discuss.
5. Why did Mussolini decide to invade Ethiopia? How did this decision tie in with his larger plans for Italy?
6. Why do you think Stalin decided to form a pact with Hitler in August 1939?
7. What was the political strategy known as “appeasement”? Do you think it was effective during World War II? Why?
8. How would you describe the differences between Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill in their approach to leadership during the early years of World War II?
9. Why do you think Roosevelt did not push to involve the U.S. in World War II right away? Do you think this was the right decision? Discuss.
10. What were some of the main goals of Japan in the years before and during World War II?
11. Who was Hideki Tojo and how did he help achieve these goals during this era?
12. This episode ends right before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. At this moment in the war, what would you predict as the outcomes of the conflict? Discuss.