

The Homefront

page

World War II

Unit 8B

Key Idea:

SS.912.A.6.5: Explain the impact of World War II on domestic government policy.

A) Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

B) Read and Annotate. No Annotation, no grade.

America was the largest military power in the world — in theory.

The large population, generous natural resources, advanced infrastructure, and solid capital base were all just potential. centralization and mobilization were necessary to jump-start this unwieldy machine. Within a week of Pearl Harbor, Congress passed the War Powers Act, granting wide authority to the President to conduct the war effort. Throughout the war hundreds more alphabet agencies were created to manage the American Homefront.

First the United States needed to enlarge its armed forces. Because of the peacetime draft, the United States Armed Forces boasted over 1.5 million members. By the end of the war, that number rose to 12 million. A more expansive draft and a vigorous recruitment campaign produced these results. Prodded by Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR created women's auxiliary forces for the army (WACS), navy (WAVES), air force (WASPS), and Coast Guard (SPARS). The colossal ranks of the armed services created a huge labor shortage.

Toward this end a "Work or Fight" propaganda campaign was waged. "Rosie the Riveter" posters beckoned housewives to leave the home and enter the nation's factories. About 6.5 million females entered the workforce during the war years, many for the first time. African Americans continued the Great Migration northward, filling vacated factory jobs. Mexican Americans were courted to cross the border to assist with the harvest season in the Bracero Guest-Worker Program. Thousands of retirees went back on the job, and more and more teenagers pitched in to fill the demand for new labor.

1) What advantage did the USA have in WWII?

2) In what ways did Americans who were not in the military get involved in the war?

3) What is the central idea (main idea) of this passage?

4) During World War II, what measure did the United States government undertake to address the labor shortage on the home front?

- A) Enacting strict immigration laws
- B) Implementing a "Work or Fight" propaganda campaign
- C) Providing financial incentives for women to stay at home
- D) Encouraging retirees to stay retired

5) Which propaganda campaign aimed to encourage women to join the workforce during World War II?

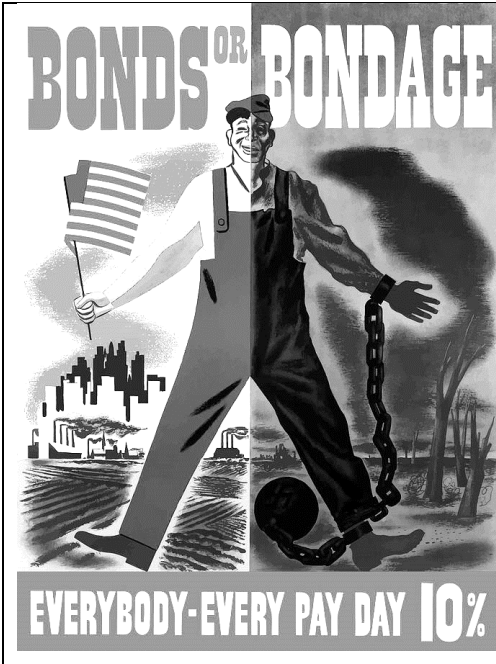
- A) "Rosie the Riveter"
- B) "Work or Fight"
- C) "Great Migration"
- D) "Bracero Guest-Worker Program"

6) What was the primary purpose of the War Powers Act passed by Congress after Pearl Harbor?

- A) To limit the President's authority in conducting the war effort.
- B) To grant wide authority to the President to conduct the war effort.
- C) To establish strict regulations on military recruitment.
- D) To allocate resources for infrastructure development.

7) During World War II, which group of people continued the Great Migration northward to fill vacated factory jobs?

- A) Hispanic Americans
- B) Native Americans
- C) African Americans
- D) Asian Americans



8) What is the significance (main idea) of this image? (Use WAVES if necessary).

9) Who is the man in the picture?

10) What is this picture asking people to do?

11) According to the picture, what will happen if they don't do it?

12) What is the central theme depicted in the "Bonds or Bondage" victory loan drive cartoon?

- A) Celebrating victory in battle
- B) Encouraging people to buy war bonds
- C) Depicting the horrors of war
- D) Promoting peace and reconciliation

13) Which two elements are juxtaposed in the "Bonds or Bondage" victory loan drive cartoon?

- A) Soldiers and civilians
- B) Chains and freedom
- C) Bombs and flowers
- D) Flags and ruins

14) What is the primary message conveyed in the "Bonds or Bondage" victory loan drive cartoon?

- A) The importance of economic freedom during wartime
- B) The need for increased government spending on the war effort
- C) The consequences of not supporting the war financially
- D) The role of propaganda in shaping public opinion

The United States government spent over twice as much money fighting World War II as it had spent on all previous programs since its creation. Tax rates were raised to generate revenue and control inflation. Some people paid 90% of what they earned toward taxes!

Still, more money was needed so the government again launched Liberty and Victory Loan Drives like those that helped finance the First World War. In addition, the size of the federal government more than tripled from about a million workers in 1940 to almost 3.5 million in 1945.

The United States managed to raise enough food and raw materials in the First World War through voluntary measures. This time, federal officials agreed that only through rationing could the demands be met. Americans were issued books of stamps for key items such as gasoline, sugar, meat, butter, canned foods, fuel oil, shoes, and rubber. No purchase of these commodities was legal without a stamp. Speed limits attempted to conserve fuel by requiring Americans to drive more slowly. Rotating blackouts conserved fuel to be shipped overseas. Groups such as the Boy Scouts led scrap metal drives. Consumer goods like automobiles and refrigerators simply were not produced. Women drew lines down the backs of their legs to simulate nylon stockings when there were such shortages. Backyard gardens produced about 8 million tons of food.

Additionally, the Office of War Information sponsored posters and rallies to appeal to patriotic heartstrings. Songs like Bing Crosby's "Junk Ain't Junk No More" and "Goodbye Mama, I'm Off to Yokohama" were on the lips of many Americans. Propaganda movies shot by famed directors such as Frank Capra inspired millions.

The accomplishments of the American public were nothing short of miraculous. The navy had fewer than 5,000 vessels prior to the bombing at Pearl Harbor. By 1945, they had over 90,000. In addition, over 80,000 tanks and nearly 300,000 aircraft were produced during the war years. Millions of machine guns and rifles and billions of ammunition cartridges rolled off American production lines. New industries like synthetic rubber flourished, and old ones were rejuvenated.

At tremendous cost to the American taxpayer, the American people vanquished two evils: the Axis Powers and the Great Depression.

15) What did the US government do to make sure our soldiers were supported?

16) What were the accomplishments of US Homefront for the war?

17) What is the central idea (main idea) of this passage?

18) During World War II, how did the United States government primarily raise funds to finance its war efforts?

- A) By relying solely on voluntary donations
- B) By implementing strict austerity measures
- C) By raising tax rates and launching Liberty and Victory Loan Drives
- D) By reducing government spending on non-essential programs

19) Which of the following measures was NOT implemented by the United States government to conserve resources during World War II?

- A) Rationing of key items such as gasoline, sugar, and meat
- B) Enforcing speed limits to conserve fuel
- C) Issuing stamps for the purchase of commodities like automobiles and refrigerators
- D) Organizing scrap metal drives led by groups like the Boy Scouts

20) What was a significant outcome of the American public's efforts during World War II?

- A) The federal government reduced its workforce by half
- B) Consumption of consumer goods like automobiles and refrigerators increased
- C) The number of naval vessels in the U.S. fleet decreased
- D) The production of military equipment and resources saw a massive increase

21) What was a significant measure taken by the government to manage resources during World War II?

- A) Encouraging consumer spending to boost the economy
- B) Implementing speed limits to reduce traffic accidents
- C) Rationing essential items such as gasoline and sugar
- D) Providing tax breaks for large corporations

The war created opportunities for women and minorities, but these groups still faced discrimination. A. Philip Randolph, the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was an important African American labor leader. He threatened to have African Americans march on Washington to demand an end to this discrimination. To avoid such a march, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, creating the Fair Employment-Practices Committee. It required employers and labor unions to end discrimination in hiring practices in any job funded with government money.

On the home front, many African Americans left the South and moved to the Midwest. There they found skilled jobs that paid well. But they also found discrimination. In 1942 civil rights leader James Farmer formed an interracial organization to fight discrimination. It was called the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

African Americans also moved into crowded cities. Tension among the races grew. In 1943 it led to race riots. The worst one was in Detroit, where more than 30 people were killed. President Roosevelt sent federal troops to restore order. In response, many communities formed committees to improve race relations.

Mexican Americans experienced prejudice during the war years as well. In 1943 Mexican Americans were beaten by white servicemen and civilians in the "Zoot Suit riots."

Native Americans faced discrimination, too. Although many had volunteered for the military, many states prevented them from voting. Also, the government reclaimed some reservations for use as military bases and weapons testing sites.

Americans in general had to make many adjustments during the war. People had to adjust to new family situations. Many fathers were in the armed forces, so women had to work and raise children.

22) Which organization did A. Philip Randolph lead, prompting President Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802?

- A) Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
- B) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- C) Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- D) Fair Employment-Practices Committee

23) In response to discrimination in hiring practices, what did Executive Order 8802 require employers and labor unions to do?

- A) Provide equal pay for equal work regardless of race or gender
- B) Implement affirmative action programs
- C) End discrimination in hiring for government-funded jobs
- D) Establish diversity training programs

24) Which event prompted President Roosevelt to send federal troops to restore order in Detroit in 1943?

- A) Zoot Suit riots
- B) Race riots
- C) Formation of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
- D) Passing of Executive Order 8802

25) Which labor leader threatened to organize a march on Washington to demand an end to discrimination during World War II?

- A) James Farmer
- B) A. Philip Randolph
- C) Cesar Chavez
- D) Eugene V. Debs

26) What was the name of the organization formed by James Farmer to fight discrimination during World War II?

- A) NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
- B) SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)
- C) CORE (Congress of Racial Equality)
- D) SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference)

27) The "Zoot Suit riots" during World War II targeted which minority group?

- A) African Americans
- B) Native Americans
- C) Mexican Americans
- D) Asian Americans



28) What is the significance (main idea) of this image? (Use WAVES if necessary).

29) Who is the main person in the picture?

30) What is the picture asking people to do?

31) What is the primary theme of the "Let's All Fight" victory loan drive cartoon?

- A) Encouraging citizens to conserve resources
- B) Promoting solidarity and support for the war effort
- C) Criticizing government policies
- D) Advocating for peace negotiations

33) What is the intended effect of the "Let's All Fight" victory loan drive cartoon?

- A) To discourage public participation in the war effort
- B) To raise awareness about the negative impacts of war
- C) To inspire patriotism and financial support for the war
- D) To criticize the government's handling of the conflict

32) What is the intended audience for the cartoon?

- A) World leaders
- B) Military strategists
- C) Ordinary citizens
- D) Financial investors

C. Summary: Rewrite the question made from the Key Idea at the beginning and summarize this worksheet by answering it below. IF YOU DO NOT REWRITE THE QUESTION, I WILL NOT READ YOUR ANSWER.

Rewrite your Key Idea as a Question:
