



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 11.7.2**

Allied Strategy in World War II

Specific Objective: Understand U.S. and Allied wartime strategy, including the major battles of Midway, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

Overall Allied Strategy

- Allies at serious disadvantage when United States enters war in late 1941— France under German control, Great Britain still under attack, USSR fighting German invasion, Northern Africa under German and Italian control.
- Allies decide war in Europe must be won first.
- Attacks in North Africa and Italy 1942–1943 brought some Allied success.
- War in Pacific (U.S. vs. Japan) would not be first priority until victory in Europe.

Normandy • June 6, 1944

A total of 3 million troops from United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Invasion of Normandy was largest land-sea-air operation in military history—called D-Day. German resistance strong. Allies held while more troops landed; after one month 1 million troops in France. Paris liberated in August and all of France taken from Germany by September.

Battle of the Bulge • December 16, 1944–January 21, 1945

Allied troops advanced east towards Germany in late 1944. Germany launched surprise counterattack in December. German troops penetrated into Allied territory and created a “bulge” in Allied lines. After month of furious battles, Allies pushed back bulge to previous line. German losses severe and Germans retreated for remainder of war.

Midway • June, 1942

Japan took Pacific islands, Southeast Asia, Philippines, much of China by early 1942. Allies prevented attack on Australia. Allies destroyed Japanese planes and ships before they could attack Midway. Severe Japanese losses a turning point in Pacific; Allies moved to take back islands.

Iwo Jima • February–March, 1945

Allies used strategy of island hopping to take back Philippines and other islands. Iwo Jima very important as a fueling spot. More than 6,000 marines died taking the island.

Okinawa • April–June, 1945

Last obstacle before Allied assault on Japan. Fighting lasted almost 3 months. Number of casualties raised questions about costs of invading Japan.

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 The *first* priority of the Allies, once the United States entered World War II, was winning the war in**
 - A Europe.
 - B the Pacific.
 - C Russia.
 - D Southeast Asia.

- 2 What was the immediate result of the invasion of Normandy?**
 - A Allied losses prevented them from continuing their attacks for several months.
 - B Paris and all of France were liberated from Germany within a few months.
 - C Germany increased its air attacks against Great Britain.
 - D German losses were so severe that they retreated for the remainder of the war.

- 3 Why was the Battle of the Bulge important to the Allied strategy?**
 - A It was the first Allied victory on the European continent since the fall of France.
 - B It was the beginning of the combined Allied assault on Japan.
 - C It marked the last significant attack by the Germans against the Allies.
 - D It showed the superiority of Allied air power in the Pacific.

- 4 The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war in the Pacific because**
 - A it was the first time Japan had used aircraft carriers to launch an attack.
 - B General MacArthur returned as he had promised he would.
 - C both sides realized there was little hope for victory.
 - D heavy Japanese losses allowed the Allies to begin retaking Pacific islands.

- 5 The battle of Okinawa affected Allied plans for the war by**
 - A leading the Allies to abandon their strategy of “island hopping.”
 - B forcing the Allies to wait until the USSR could fight in the Pacific.
 - C shifting the Allied strategy from a ground war to an air war.
 - D making the Allies consider the potential cost of an invasion of Japan.

- 6 The Battle of the Bulge began in 1944 when**
 - A the Allies launched a surprise attack against advancing German troops.
 - B Germany successfully penetrated into Allied territory creating a “bulge.”
 - C French troops weren’t able to protect Paris after it had been liberated.
 - D Allied troops attacked a key port located at a “bulge” on the German coast.