**Leaders during WWII:**
**Allied Powers:**
Churchill: Great Britain
Stalin: USSR
F. Roosevelt & Truman: U.S.
**Axis Powers:**
Hitler: Germany
Mussolini: Italy
Tojo and Hirohito: Japan

**Causes of WWII:**
- Economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I: Worldwide depression ⇒ High war debt owed by Germany ⇒ High inflation ⇒ Massive unemployment
- Political instability marked by the rise of Fascism: political philosophy in which total power is given to a dictator; individual freedoms are denied; and nationalism and, often, racism are emphasized.
- Appeasement: policy of Britain & France in which they gave it to Hitler to avoid war
- Japanese Expansion & Aggression in the Pacific and Asia

Some countries invaded by Germany:
- Austria
- Hungary, Czechoslovakia
- Poland, Belgium, France, USSR, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands

**American Involvement in WWII went from isolation to direct involvement:**
**Isolationism:** Great Depression and legacy of WWII
Economic and military aid to Allies (Lend-Lease program)
Direct involvement in the war:
Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941

**What events led to American involvement in the war?**
- Rising tensions developed between the U.S. and Japan because of Japanese aggression in East Asia and the Pacific region.
- On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. at Pearl Harbor.
- The U.S. declared war on Japan.
- Germany declared war on the U.S.
**World War II affected every aspect of American life.**
Americans were asked to make sacrifices in support of the war effort and the ideals for which Americans fought. (Life on the Homefront)
- Brought an end to the Great Depression. Factories and workers were needed to produce goods to win the war.
- Thousands of American women (Rosie the Riveter) took jobs in defense plants

Homefront continued...
- While many Japanese Americans served in the armed forces, others were treated with distrust and prejudice, and many were forced into internment camps in the United States.
- Americans at home supported the war by conserving and rationing resources (e.g., victory gardens, ration books, scrap drives).
- The need for workers temporarily broke down some racial barriers (e.g., hiring in defense plants), although discrimination against African Americans continued.

**The Holocaust is an example of prejudice, discrimination, and genocide taken to the extreme. It was the systematic attempt to rid Europe of all Jews.**
Hitler and his followers believed in Aryan supremacy—the superiority of a pure white race. The Nazis were also anti-Semites, so they began to persecute people of the Jewish faith. Some tactics used during the Holocaust include:
- Boycott of Jewish stores • Discriminatory laws • Segregation • Ghettoes • Imprisonment and killing of Jews and others in concentration camps and death camps
- The Night of Broken Glass: A night of terror against Jews including violence and vandalism
- Kindertransport: removal of thousands of German children from Germany to safety in Britain.
- Allied forces liberated the Jews and others who survived in concentration camps

**Despite initial Axis success in both Europe and the Pacific, the Allies preserved and ultimately defeated Germany and Japan.**

**Major Battles/Events of WWII:**
- *Germany invaded Poland, setting off war in Europe. The Soviet Union also invaded Poland and the Baltic nations. Sept. 1, 1939*
- *Germany invaded France and captured Paris. Britain is the only democracy left to fight the Axis Powers. June, 1940*
- *The United States gave Britain war supplies and old naval warships in return for military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean (Lend-Lease). March 1941-Sept. 1945*
- *Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Dec. 7, 1941 The United States declared war on Japan and Germany. Dec. 8, 1941 After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Germany & Italy declared war on the United States. Dec. 11, 1941*
- *The United States was victorious over Japan in the Battle of Midway. This victory was the turning point of the war in the Pacific. June 4-7, 1942*
- *Germany invaded the Soviet Union. This violated the Soviet-German Non Aggression Pact June 1941 The Soviet Union defeated Germany at Stalingrad, marking the turning point of the war in Eastern Europe. Aug. 1942-Feb. 1943*
- *American and other Allied troops landed in Normandy, France, on D-Day, to begin the liberation of Western Europe. June 6, 1944*
- *The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan (Hiroshima and Nagasaki) in 1945, forcing Japan to surrender and ending World War II. Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945*