

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Code-Breaker's Lunch: A 7th Grade WWII Home Front and Strategy Quiz

Examine 10 complex scenarios ranging from the Navajo Code Talkers' syntax to the strategic economic shift of 'Executive Order 8802' in American factories.

1. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed almost entirely of Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans), became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. What complex social irony did their service highlight?

Answer: A) They were drafted from internment camps to fight for freedoms they were being denied at home.

The 442nd fought heroically in Europe while many of their families were simultaneously relocated to domestic internment camps under Executive Order 9066.

2. The United States used the _____ language to create an unbreakable code in the Pacific, as its complex syntax and lack of a written form made it impossible for Axis cryptographers to decipher.

Answer: B) Navajo

Navajo Code Talkers used their native tongue to transmit secret tactical messages, providing a decisive communicative advantage during island-hopping campaigns.

3. During the war, A. Philip Randolph's threat to march on Washington led to Executive Order 8802, which ended segregation in the entire U.S. military.

Answer: B) False

Executive Order 8802 prohibited racial discrimination in the national defense industry, but the military itself remained segregated until 1948.

4. How did the 'Double V' campaign influence the social fabric of the United States during the 1940s?

Answer: C) It advocated for victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home.

Launched by the Pittsburgh Courier, the Double V campaign highlighted the paradox of African Americans fighting for democracy abroad while facing Jim Crow laws at home.

5. To counter the German 'Wolfpacks' of submarines in the Atlantic, the U.S. and its allies utilized _____, which involved grouping merchant ships together with naval escorts.

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Answer: B) The Convoy System

The convoy system was a critical logistical strategy that allowed the U.S. to successfully transport 'the arsenal of democracy' to Europe despite heavy U-boat presence.

6. Which scientific endeavor, led by Robert Oppenheimer, represented the ultimate synthesis of theoretical physics and military application during the war?

Answer: B) The Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was a top-secret research program that developed the first nuclear weapons, fundamentally changing global warfare and diplomacy.

7. The 'Bracero Program' was an agreement between the U.S. and Mexico to bring Mexican laborers to the U.S. to remedy wartime agricultural labor shortages.

Answer: A) True

To maintain food production while American men were fighting overseas, the government turned to the Bracero Program, which brought millions of Mexican guest workers to U.S. farms.

8. General _____ was known for his mastery of tank warfare in North Africa and Sicily, often utilizing aggressive, high-mobility maneuvers to outflank Axis forces.

Answer: A) George S. Patton

Patton was a controversial but brilliant commander of the Third Army, instrumental in the sweep across France after the Normandy landings.

9. The Battle of the Bulge (1944) was strategically significant because it represented what specific moment for the German military?

Answer: C) The final major German offensive move on the Western Front.

The Battle of the Bulge was Hitler's last-ditch attempt to split Allied lines; its failure exhausted Germany's remaining resources and personnel.

10. The GI Bill, passed in 1944, provided veterans with tuition-free education and low-interest mortgages, essentially creating the modern American middle class.

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The Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill) was a transformative piece of social legislation that helped integrate returning soldiers back into the economy.