

# EARLY WWII EVENTS ACTIVITY

## 1: Underlying Causes of WWII

Write a summary for each cause.

Totalitarianism	
Militarization	
Axis Nationalism	
Axis Imperialism	
Failure of appeasement	
Versailles Treaty	
Failure of collective security	
America was neutral	

- Which do you feel is the most crucial to the start of WWII? Why?
- Which of these underlying causes have also ignited any modern wars (last 10-20 years)? (such as: Iraq, Afghanistan, ISIS)  
How?

## 2: Characteristics of Fascism

- Define fascism (see the paragraph on the left).
- What characteristics of fascism might make it attractive to people during times of crisis such as the Great Depression?
- Which one of the characteristics of fascism do you feel is the worst for citizens? Why?

## 3: Events Leading up to WWII

- What aspects of The Treaty of Versailles did Hitler undo?
- Anschluss-
- What happened at the Munich Conference?

And after?

- Explain the Stalin-Hitler Nonaggression Pact.

## 4: Early WWII Events

- WWII began on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) when Germany invaded \_\_\_\_\_.
- Explain blitzkrieg.
- Why was it known as the phony war?

13. Why do you think Chamberlain was replaced by Churchill as British prime minister?

### **5: France Falls**

14. Why do you think France build the Maginot Line?

15. Describe France's fall to German invasion.

16. Why is France's fall dangerous to the rest of Europe?

### **6: Battle of Britain**

17. Why would Hitler invade Great Britain?

18. What two technological devices helped the RAF?

19. Who won the Battle of Britain?

20. How different do you think our world would be today if the British had not won the Battle of Britain?

### **7: Primary Sources**

21. Document 1: According to Haile Selassie, who should stop the aggressors?

What will happen if the aggressors are not stopped?

22. Document 2: What happened at this Munich Conference according to Shirer? What does he feel is the reaction in Europe and in Czechoslovakia?

23. Document 3: How does this speech demonstrate Churchill's leadership excellence?

How does the tone in which Churchill delivers the speech enhance the mood and gravity of the situation?

### **8: Political Cartoons**

24. Cartoon 1: Who is the wolf? What is he doing?

This is from the Soviet point of view. What are the Soviets saying about the Munich Conference?

25. Cartoon 2: What is the cartoon referring to?

Explain what you think the caption means.

26. Cartoon 3: Who is Dr. Seuss referring to in the cartoon—who is the bird?

What is Dr. Seuss's message in the cartoon?