Pushing the Axis Back

Objective: To learn about the Allied offensive in Europe and the Pacific.
Striking Back at the Third Reich

- After the success in North Africa, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to step up the bombing of Germany and attack the island of Sicily at the Casablanca Conference.
- The Allied bombings of Germany destroyed so many aircraft factories that Germany’s air force could not replace its combat losses.
- When the Allies landed in France, they had total control of the air, ensuring that their troops wouldn’t be bombed.
Dwight D. Eisenhower was placed in charge of the invasion of Italy, which took place on July 10, 1943.

Just over a week after the invasion, American forces led by General Patton captured the western half of the island.

General Patton and British General Montgomery combined to capture the rest of Sicily.

After the fall of Sicily, the king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel, placed Mussolini under arrest and later surrendered to the Allies on September 8, 1943.
Hitler responded by seizing control of norther Italy, including Rome, and put Mussolini back in power.

The Germans heavily fortified the town of Cassino and Anzio.

It took the Allies five months to break through the German lines at these towns.

On June 4th, the Allies captured Rome.
At a conference in Tehran, Stalin agreed to launch an offensive against the Germans when the Allies invaded France.

Roosevelt and Stalin also agreed to jointly defeat Japan after Germany was beaten.

Roosevelt appointed General Eisenhower to command **Operation Overlord**, the code name for the invasion of France.

Even though the Germans had fortified the French coast, they did not know when and where the Allies would attack.
On June 6th, 1944, roughly 7,000 ships carrying more than 100,000 soldiers set sail for the coast of Normandy.

The Allies also had 23,000 paratroopers dropped inland and fighter-bombers hitting bridges, bunkers, and radar sights.

The Americans were able to capture Utah beach within three hours, but 2,500 Americans were killed or wounded taking Omaha Beach.
Driving the Japanese Back

- In the Pacific, the Americans planned for a two-pronged attack.
- Admiral Nimitz would attack through the Central Pacific by island hopping and General MacArthur would advance through the Solomon Islands and then launch an invasion to retake the Philippines.
- At Tarawa, over 1,000 marines died because the shallow reef prevented ships from coming near the shore.
- Eventually, the military bought amphtrac, which allowed the troops to get ashore without high casualties.
- By August 1944, the Americans were able to capture the Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam.
MacArthur Returns to the Philippines

- General MacArthur began his campaign with the invasion of Guadalcanal in August 1942.
- In October 1944, more than 700 ships carrying over 160,000 troops began to invade on Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.
- Japanese warships clashed with Americans ships in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, which was the largest naval battle in history.
- Japanese used kamikaze (divine wind) attacks, which is where Japanese pilots would crash into American ships, killing themselves but inflicting severe damage.
- MacArthur’s troops eventually captured Manila in March 1945, after 80,000 Japanese were killed and less than 1,000 taken prisoner.
The Pacific

[Map of World War II in the Pacific showing key locations and dates such as Pearl Harbor, Midway Island, Darwin, Guadalcanal, and key battles and events such as the Battle of Midway and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.]