

World War II, 1939-1945

Battle scenes from the greatest conflict in human history

For six long, bloody years, 1939 to 1945, World War II engulfed the Earth. Thanks to powerful navies and long-range bombers, barely a corner of the globe was safe. In the end, some 50 million people died, well over half of them unarmed civilians.

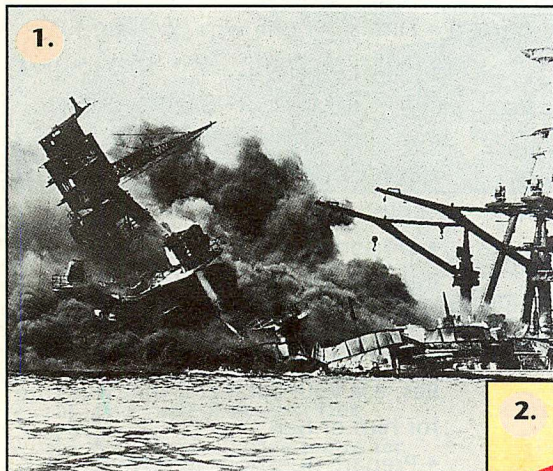
Although no fighting ever took place on the U.S. mainland, the war reached deep into American life. Women worked in factories, kids collected scrap metal

for recycling, older men watched for enemy planes. People who lived through the war were marked forever by the experience.

Those of us born after the war have some of the most striking images in all of history to help bring it to life. Here are a few of them. What kind of overall impression do they give?

Get the Picture?

Write your own caption for each of the pictures on these two pages. Try to explain 1) what the image represents, and 2) why it's important to the time period. If you don't know what the image is, see how much you can guess from the picture itself.



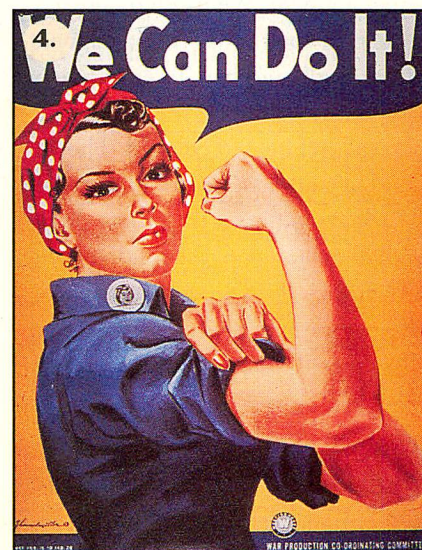
1. _____

2. _____



3. _____

4. _____

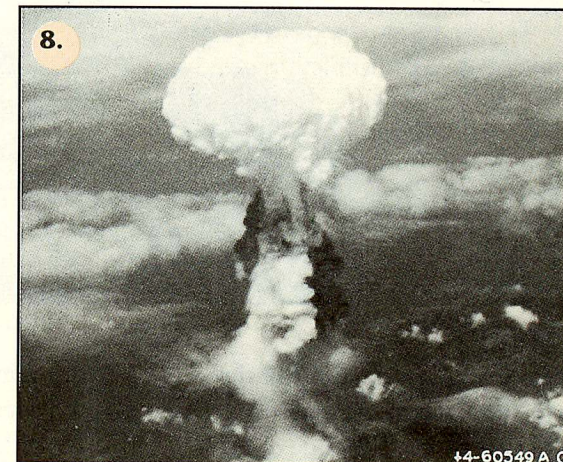


5. _____

6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Between the Lines

Some images become so well known that they take on a symbolic meaning that reaches beyond what is actually pictured. An oil-soaked bird, for instance, has come to signify pollution. See if you can identify the symbolic meanings of the following three photos.

9. American flag. _____

10. People wrapped in blankets. _____

11. Cloud. _____

Taking It Further

Become a historical detective and track down the story of each of these pictures. Where was it taken? When? What is in the image? Why is it significant? What is the larger story of the event represented? After doing your research, write a 1,000-word paper on one of the pictures—it's surely worth at least that much.