**Mapping the War: World War II in Europe**

**Germany Aggression through Battle of Britain**

Work with a partner to diagram the start of World War II by following these instructions. You will follow along as Hitler begins to seize the land lost in the Treaty of Versailles, then on to Poland and the start of World War II. You will follow the German army through France and onto the Battle of Britain. Please follow the directions and color choices carefully. Use the map in the purple atlas on page 114. Use the map in the green textbook on page 311.

1. Label Germany on the map in Red for Axis Power. As you read the steps use red to outline, and then use diagonal lines to show their areas taken by the German army. Make sure and mark on your key that red equals Axis Powers and diagonal lines equal lands taken by Germany.
2. In 1936 Hitler began to show its aggression by moving his troops into the demilitarized zone between France and Germany known as the Rhineland. Use page 311 in the green textbook to draw in the Rhineland, make it with diagonal line then label it 1936.
3. The Maginot Line stood between Germany and France. Draw a thick Red line with “x’s” on it along the border between France and Germany. The Maginot Line was a series of concrete forts and barbed wire barriers, which were supposed to keep the Germans from invading France. France was preparing a defensive stand instead of an offensive one.
4. In March 1938, Hitler set out to create the union of Germany and Austria known as Anschluss. Draw in the diagonal lines on Austria and label 1938
5. Then Hitler wanted to add the German speaking area of Czechoslovakia known as Sudetenland to his German Empire. Using page 311 in green textbook, draw in the Sudetenland with diagonal lines. This alarmed France and Britain resulting in a meeting in Munich, Germany. On the bottom left of Germany put a red “M”. In your key box write a large “M” = Munich Conference Sept. 1938. At the conference Britain & France agreed to give the Sudetenland to Hitler who in turn promised not to expand Germany’s territory further. This policy of appeasement was believed to have promoted Peace in Europe.
6. This peace was shattered 6 months later when Hitler took the remaining part of Czechoslovakia and put it under German control. Label the remaining parts of Czechoslovakia with diagonal lines and March 1939.
7. August 1939, Hitler was worried about an attack from the Soviet Union as he continued to expand his empire. They reached an agreement not to attack each other and split Poland. The Soviet Union would also receive Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. This freed Hitler up to attack Poland. Label USSR in Blue.
8. September 1939, Hitler attacks Poland. Two days later Britain and France declare war on Germany. Now the war has begun, use red arrows (mark it on your key) to show the movement into the countries that were conquered by Germany. Start by splitting Poland between Germany and Soviet Union. Be sure to use a blue arrow for Soviet Union. Label Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania with blue diagonal lines. The Polish army was crushed by Hitler’s *blitzkrieg –* lightning warfare.
9. April 1940, continuing to use his blitzkrieg tactic Germany rolled through Denmark and Norway. Hitler’s war machine of tanks, planes, & ships needed steel and Norway could provide this steel. Use a red arrow to show German movement through these countries.
10. May 1940, Blitzkrieg worked well and the Netherlands and Belgium fell to Germany. Use a red arrow to show German movement through these countries.
11. June 22, 1940 Nazi tanks rolled into northern France so quickly that they surrounded 300,000 British troops at the seaport of Dunkirk. With their backs to the English Channel they had nowhere to go and would have been slaughtered had it not been for the greatest sea rescue ever. In a miraculous evacuation, the British people sent every boat they could find to rescue them including fishing boats, motorboats, and yachts. The Nazi army rolled on to take France in 6 weeks. It the top right hand corner of France on the coast put a “D”. The label the “D” on your key for Dunkirk – the great sea rescue. Then continue the red arrow into France.
12. August 1940 German air force (Luftwaffe) begins bombing Britain. This became known as the “Blitz”. Write the Blitz 1940 in red on Britain. At this point Italy joins the war in Europe on the side of Germany. Outline and label Italy in red then draw a red arrow to Albania the first country to fall to Italy. Hitler tried to bomb Britain into surrendering. The British refused to surrender. The British sent their children into the countryside, hid themselves in subway tunnels during the raids, and listened on the radio to the encouraging words of their Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The British Royal Air Force (RAF) fought bravely and used the new technology, RADAR to hold off the German Luftwaffe. The bombing of Britain lasted nearly 9 months when Hitler turns his attention to Eastern Europe.
13. Hitler goes back to his blitzkrieg tactics and rolls through Eastern Europe on his way to a new bigger target. Draw red arrows through the following Eastern European nations: Hungary, Yugoslavia, Greece, Romania, and Bulgaria.

**Questions for Mapping the War**

**German Aggression**

1. What was the Maginot Line?
2. What happened at Dunkirk, France?
3. What did the British people do for protection during the Blitz?
4. Why do you think the Battle of Britain was a turning point of World War II?
5. What possible reason would Hitler have for stopping his advance on Britain and heading through Eastern Europe?