Major Turning Point Battles During WWII

Title of Battle/Event: **Battle of Britain**
Date(s) of Battle/Event: **July – October 1940**
Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea): *Air raids; bombs dropped through German blitzes (blitzkrieg*
Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **European**
How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **Britain = island**
Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? *Churchill refused to surrender, like France had, which forced Hitler to turn towards the USSR. Radar & decoding provided defenses for the British.*
What were the outcomes? **Victory for British; 70,000 British civilians died; children traumatized, and British cities destroyed**
How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **1st Allied Victory; Stopped German aggression in western Europe**

Title of Battle/Event: **Pearl Harbor**
Date(s) of Battle/Event: **December 7, 1941**
Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea): *Air & sea*
Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **Pacific**
How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **isolated island; miles from mainland USA**
Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **Brought the US into the war**
What were the outcomes? **US Navy crippled; 18 ships sank or destroyed; 300+ planes destroyed or damaged; 2388 dead**
How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **US involvement helped the Allies win the war**

Title of Battle/Event: **Battle of Guadalcanal**
Date(s) of Battle/Event: **August – December 1942**
Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea): *land, air, & sea; amphibious craft very important*
Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **Pacific**
How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **island in the Pacific, part of the Soloman Islands; farthest point away for Japan & US; hot, humid; jungle & beach**
Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **1st US Offensive in Pacific; US almost withdrew; Japan had taken over almost all of the islands and territory in the Pacific**
What were the outcomes? **Allied victory; Battle of Savo Island one of the worst defeats in US Navy; Americans dead — 6,015; Japanese dead — 25,400**
How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **Guadalcanal became an important naval & air base for the US and Allies in the Pacific; led to Allied Victory in the Pacific**

Title of Battle/Event: **Battle of Stalingrad**
Date(s) of Battle/Event: **September 1942- February 1943**
Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea): **land**
Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **European**
How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **harsh winter, proved advantageous for Soviets**
Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **Biggest turning point of WWII; beginning of “victory path” for Allies; Germany had won almost all of the battles before Stalingrad; Hitler lost because he let his hatred for Stalin get in his way of good strategy**
What were the outcomes? **Allied victory; 1 million Germans & Soviets killed, wounded, or captured; 80% of city destroyed; bloodiest battle in history**
How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **stopped Germany’s advances east; now, German’s aggression has almost ended**

Title of Battle/Event: **Battle of Normandy, “D-Day”**
Date(s) of Battle/Event: **June 6, 1944**
Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea): *land, sea, & air (planes provided cover as troops moved on land)*
Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **European**
How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **beaches 1st, hills slowed Allies advances toward Paris**

Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **Allies successfully invaded German-occupied France, liberating France and pushing the Germans out; Allies gained a base in mainland Europe for fighting against the Axis Powers**

What were the outcomes? **Allied victory; 4700 Allied causalities; 50,000 Germans dead & 200,000 captured (by August)**

How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **helped lead to Allied victory in war, as German territory shrunk**

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**Title of Battle/Event:** *Battle of the Bulge*

**Date(s) of Battle/Event:** *December 1944- May 1945*

**Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea):** *land*

Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **European**

How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **cold, harsh winter, mountain forests**

Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **1st time in war Germans retreated & surrendered; start of the end for Germany & other Axis powers**

What were the outcomes? **Allied victory; American losses = 81,000 & German losses = b/w 60,000 & 100,000**

How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **helped lead to Allied victory in war; last big battle in Europe; leads to armistice**

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**Title of Battle/Event:** *bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki*

**Date(s) of Battle/Event:** *August 6 & 9, 1945*

**Type(s) of Combat used in Battle/Event (land, air, sea):** *air*

Identify the theater battle/event took place in: **Pacific**

How did geography impact the outcomes of this battle/event? **Islands of Japan**

Why was this battle/event a turning point in the war? **forced Japan to surrender; saved thousands of lives**

What were the outcomes? **9 out of 10 people within a ½ mile or less of “ground zero” were killed; less than 10% of the buildings remained w/o damage; 100s of thousands died years later from radiation**

How did this affect the ultimate outcomes of WWII? **Japanese surrendered; September 2, 1945 Victory in Japan Day; end of WWII**