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; fartherest 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*

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*

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*