**US History**

**Measurement Topic 6: America’s participation in WW2**

**Level 3: Learn it, study it**, and then test it

Learning Target #3: How did the war affect people living in America?

Even though the American people did not want to join the war and the American government had taken an isolationist position, the USA still put precautions into place to prepare for war if the USA did at some point join. The USA military power was expanding with 50,000 planes, tanks, and jeeps being produced a year. Congress also passed the draft, which made it mandatory for all men 18 years or older to register with the government, so in the future if the government needed soldiers, they would draft soldiers based on their social security numbers. Once the United States joined ww2, the USA government needed materials immediately, so the USA government tuned to private business, in a program called the **COST-PLUS** PROGRAM. The US government paid private companies (ford, nestle, Coca-Cola) to produce military equipment, and the faster a company produced military goods, the more money it would make. It was expensive for the US government, but they were well prepared for war.

Prior to the war, most of the women that did work were from the lower working classes. There were a variety of attitudes towards women in the work force. Some thought they should only have jobs that men didn’t want while others felt that women from the middle class or above should never lower themselves to go to work. These and other viewpoints would be challenged with the United States’ entry into World War II. With men off to fight a worldwide war across the Atlantic and the Pacific, women were called to take their place in factories. Women were hired to build, ships, airplanes, rifles, bullets and etc. Women also joined the military as nurses and secretaries.

In the 1940’s when ww2 started, segregation and racism were norms in the USA. African Americans were drafted but not allowed to be part of the “normal” population. African American’s joined the military but were only allowed to join segregated (separate) units. Only two units were allowed to participate in combat, while the rest of the African American units were expected to preform service jobs, cooking, delivering, building, etc. African Americans were encouraged to join the war based on a DOUBLE VICTORY, an idea that they could beat racism in Europe and in the United States by showing that they were equal. African American’s also began working in factories, but were usually hired after Caucasian (white) women.

A shortage of workers in the agriculture area led to the creation of a new worker program called, the **BRACERO PROGRAM (1942-1965**). This was a temporary importation of workers from Mexico to provide labor in agriculture. Mexican workers were allowed entry into the United states for a limited time to work. Mexican workers would work on farms throughout California and other western states. Mexican’s and other Hispanics also volunteered to fight in ww2.

Young Latinos, unlike their elders, were not content to stay within their barrios, but were spilling into downtown dance halls and clubs. Many young Latino males distinguished themselves with distinctive hairdos ("duck tails") and apparel (**"zoot suits"** - wide-brimmed hats, broad-shouldered long coats, high-waisted peg-legged trousers and long dangling chains). They called themselves pachucos. They came into contact with swarms of other young men, military men. The war had caused Los Angeles to swell with military personnel at local bases, many of them from other parts of the country with no prior experience with Latinos and Latino culture. On June 4, 1943, a mob of about 200, hired a fleet of cabs and rolled into East Los Angeles to beat up and strip the clothing off any young Latino male they could find. For several subsequent nights, the swelling mobs of sailors invaded the *barrio*, invading bars and movie houses, assaulting and humiliating any and all young Latino males, many not attired in "zoot suits." This ended when the navy called Los Angeles off limits to sailors. Los Angeles city outlawed the wearing of the zoot suits.

Native Americans lives also changed as a result of WW2. When WW2 started, Native American’s volunteered at a higher rate than any other group. Many Native American’s became code talkers. They talked in their native tongue to keep the codes secret from the enemy.

When the USA joined ww2, certain people living in the USA became enemies of the State. President Roosevelt signed **Executive Order 9066** on Feb. 19, 1942. This required all people of Japanese dissent to leave their homes and be relocated to internment camps, so that the government could watch them. Japanese had to sell their homes, land, and possessions. Some people fought against the internment. One man Fred Korematsu was a Japanese-American who decided not to follow the order. He was arrested, but he took his case to the Supreme Court, **Korematsu v. United States**. The court sided against him arguing that race did not factor into the internment of the Japanese Americans and that internment was a military necessity to keep Americans safe. At the end of the war, internment ended. The Japanese were expected to just go back to their lives, but they had no lives to return too. In 1988 congress passed the civil liberties act in which the government apologized for the internment, and paid 20,000 to each internment survivor.

A group of people not living the USA but trying to gain entrance were the Jews. The Jewish population in Europe had always been a target for persecution and during ww2 the Germans began to slowly destroy the Jews in Germany. At first Jews were allowed to voluntarily move out of Germany; however other nations began to refuse entry to Jews. With no place to go Germans began putting the Jewish people into concentration camps, camps meant to slowly eradicate (get rid of) the Jews. In one last attempt to escape Germany, 800ish Jews boarded a boat, the SS St. Louis headed to Cuba and the USA, however they were refused entry and forced to return to Germany. 90% who returned perished in concentration camps.

World War 2 affected many different groups in the USA. Men were drafted in large numbers to fight the war, women began working to replace the men drafted, African Americans began working and joined the military. The bracero program was created to solve the shortage of agricultural workers, while Mexican Americans dealt with riots in Los Angeles with sailors over their zoot suits. Native Americans left the reservations to voluntarily join the military, while Japanese Americans were forced to leave their lives as they became enemies of the state and were placed in internment camps. The lives of many people in America changed as a result of World War 2.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Explain the Cost-plus program.
2. Why did women start working during ww2 and where did they work? What did they make?
3. How did ww2 effect African Americans?
4. What was the Bracero program? Why was it started? Who worked for the Bracero program?
5. What were the zoot suits riots? Who was involved? Why did they start? Where did they take place?
6. Explain how the lives of Native Americans changed during WW2.
7. Why were the Japanese seen as enemies of the state?
8. What was executive order 9066?
9. What was the result of Korematsu v. United States?
10. How did the USA government attempt to fix the wrong of the internment of the Japanese?
11. What happened to the SS St. Louis? Who was on it? Where did they go? What happened to them?

Write a summary explaining how WW2 effected the lives of Americans , **specially the Japanese Americans. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**