

KEY: STUDENT HANDOUT POWERPOINT D-DAY : JUNE 6, 1944

Use the graphic organizer below to take notes on the PowerPoint overview of D-Day.

WHO IS INVOLVED?



Britain, USA, Canada vs. Germany

WHAT HAPPENED?



Before invasion: bombing to destroy Atlantic Wall defenses, airborne troops sent into France to destroy railroads and communications

During invasion: 150,000 troops landed along 60 miles of French coast, sailed from different ports, obstacles like hedgehogs made the invasion difficult

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?



Allies needed to liberate France and then the remainder of Western Europe from German control and defeat Hitler

HOW DID IT AFFECT THE WAR?



D-day was the beginning of the end of the war. The invasion gain the Allies a foothold to liberate France.

KEY: GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ARTICLE: *IKE AT D-DAY*

As you read the article, please organize information into the following categories.

ADVANTAGES OF THE GERMANS	MISTAKES BY THE GERMANS
• Large quantities of mined obstacles were placed in the water and on the beaches along the coast of France. Made invasion very difficult • Had artillery and machine guns along the coast to defend against invasion	• Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe (German air force) to convert jet fighters into bombers rather than using them for reconnaissance – might have seen the invasion fleet if they had better information from the skies • No aircraft patrolling the Atlantic to check the weather. They do not realize that there is a break coming in the weather on June 6 and think that there is no way the Allies could invade. • Field Marshal von Rundstedt sets off on an inspection tour and allows Field Marshal Rommel to go home to Berlin for his wife's birthday. Hitler is also on vacation • von Rundstedt thought the invasion reports were a diversion and that they real invasion would come at Pas de Calais • Hitler slept in • Nobody called Rommel until 10:15 am (3 hours after the invasion started)
ADVANTAGES OF THE ALLIES	OBSTACLES FOR THE ALLIES
• Allies had control of the air so the Germans did not spot the fleet setting out to sea • Had control of the air and sent in bombers to try and strike vital targets on France • Used mini-sub with signal lights to mark the boundaries of the 5 invasion beaches • Used frogmen to demolish the underwater mines and obstacles • Used naval bombardment to pound the German defenses along the coast and try to protect Allied soldiers	• All supplies had to be well organized so they would be unloaded on the beaches in correct order (tanks facing right direction, medical supplies with troops, radios set to same channel) • Needed to invade at low tide (to see German mines and obstacles) but that left troops exposed longer to German artillery. • Needed full moon for paratroopers and gliders to land the night before the invasion. • Invasion was planned for June 5 and had to delay due to weather – troops were already out to sea in cramped ships on rough waters – seasick, toilets backed up, • Higgins landing craft were open to weather, soldiers had 100 pounds of gear, some were dropped off in water over their heads, Germans are shooting at them with machine guns