SS5H6: The student will explain the reasons for America’s involvement in World War II.

a. Describe Germany’s aggression in Europe and Japan’s aggression in Asia.

d. Identify Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill, Hirohito, Truman, Mussolini, and Hitler.
WWII Begins

• 1931 – Japan invaded Manchuria
• 1935 – Italy took over Ethiopia
• 1937 – Japan invaded the rest of China
• 1938 – Germany took over Czechoslovakia and Austria

1939...

• September 3rd, 1939: France & Britain had enough and declared war on Germany!
Axis Powers

Germany

Leader: Adolf Hitler

Government: Fascist, Totalitarian

Year Entered WWII: 1933 Nazis in power; 1938 invaded Austria & Czechoslovakia;

Why? Germany wanted to reestablish dominance;
Believed in, Nationalism: idea that interest of a country was more important than individual citizen’s needs
Axis Powers

Japan

Leader: Emperor Hirohito; General Tojo

Government: Militaristic; military was in control

Year Entered WWII: 1931-invaded Manchuria;
1937-invaded the rest of China

Why? Japan was a small island and lacked natural resources. Since the military was in control they thought the best way to gain power and resources was to take over other countries.
Axis Powers

Italy

Leader: Benito Mussolini

Government: Fascist; Totalitarian

Year Entered WWII: 1935-invaded Ethiopia

Why? Italy was upset after the Treaty of Versailles did not give them the amount of land they wanted. Mussolini promised to restore Italy as the great and glorious power it had once been.
Allies

Great Britian

Leader: Winston Churchill – Prime Minister

Government: Democracy

Year Entered WWII: 1939 - Declared War on Germany (working with France)

Why? They wanted to stop the spread of Communism and prevent Germany from becoming too powerful.
Allies
The United States of America
Leader: Franklin D. Roosevelt; Harry Truman
Government: Democracy
Year Entered WWII: December 7, 1941
Why? Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Japan said our Naval base in Hawaii was too close to them and was a threat. They attacked without warning.

*It was the General’s decision to bomb, the Emperor did not support the decision.*

– The Japanese Admiral, Isoroku Yamamoto, made the famous statement about Japan’s choice to bomb the United States.

"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."
Allies
Russia

Leader: Josef Stalin

Government: Communist

Year Entered WWII: Signed Munich Agreement with Germany in 1939; Joined the Allies in 1941

Why? Russia was on the Axis side until Germany broke their agreement and invaded the Soviet Union; Russia joined the Allies in 1941.