

Worksheet 2. *Memory of the generations: the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Task 1. Do you know the Days of Military Glory in the Russian Federation? Find the pairs.

- | | | |
|---|-------|---------------------|
| 1. The Day of the Complete Liberation of Leningrad from the Nazi Siege | _____ | A. 3 September 1945 |
| 2. The Day of the Defeat of the Nazi German Troops in the Battle of Stalingrad | _____ | B. 12 May 1944 |
| 3. Defender of the Fatherland Day | _____ | C. 5 December 1941 |
| 4. The Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 | _____ | D. 7 November 1941 |
| 5. The Day of the Defeat of Nazi German Troops in the Battle of Kursk | _____ | E. 9 May 1945 |
| 6. The Day of Victory over Militaristic Japan and the End of the Second World War | _____ | F. 23 August 1943 |
| 7. The Day of the Defeat of Nazi German Troops in the Battle of the Caucasus | _____ | G. 23 February 1918 |
| 8. The Day of the Military Parade on Red Square in Moscow | _____ | H. 9 October 1943 |
| 9. The Day of the Beginning of the Counteroffensive of Soviet Troops against Nazi German Troops in the Battle of Moscow | _____ | I. 27 January 1944 |
| 10. The Day of the Victorious Completion of the Crimean Offensive Operation by Soviet troops | _____ | J. 2 February 1943 |

Task 2. Read the information in the poster about the Rzhev Memorial and answer the questions.

1. How high is the statue of the Soviet soldier?

- A. 2 meters
- B. 15 meters
- C. 25 meters
- D. 88 meters

2. How many pieces does the statue consist of?

- A. 600
- B. 88
- C. 25
- D. 2

3. What material is the statue of the Soviet soldier made of?

- A. copper
- B. steel
- C. concrete
- D. bronze

4. How long did it take to erect the statue?

- A. 1 year
- B. 2 years
- C. 3 years
- D. 4 years

5. How many names of soldiers who died in the Battle of Rzhev are listed on the panels?

- A. 11,781
- B. 17,181
- C. 18,171
- D. 18,711

THE RZHEV MEMORIAL

A MEMORIAL TO THE SOVIET SOLDIERS,
BUILT UPON THE PLACE
WHERE FIERCE BATTLES AGAINST THE NAZIS
TOOK PLACE IN 1942-43
IN THE TVER REGION
(NEAR THE CITY OF RZHEV)

25 m HIGH

600 PARTS MELTED TOGETHER

88 TONNES TEMPERED BRONZE USED

THE CONSTRUCTION TOOK 2 YEARS

BUILT SOLELY ON DONATIONS OF THE PEOPLE

CRANE
A SYMBOL OF THE FALLEN WARRIORS

17181 NAMES OF HEROES INSCRIBED

Тверская обл.
Тверь
Ржев
М-9

6. What does a flock of cranes symbolise?

- A. souls of fallen soldiers
- B. peace
- C. sorrow
- D. bravery

Task 3. Answer the questions.

- 1. How important is it to remember historical events like wars through memorials?
- 2. Can you name any specific memorials built after World War II to honour those who fought or died during this conflict?
- 3. Are digital memorials effective compared to traditional stone/brick memorials?
- 4. Which memorial(s) related to World War II have you visited personally? What did you feel there?

Task 4. Match the words to form pairs of synonyms.

1. fight	●	●	decisive
2. seize	●	●	occupation
3. invasion	●	●	forces
4. important	●	●	ally
5. troops	●	●	capture
6. enemy	●	●	battle

Task 5. Match the words to form pairs of antonyms.

1. attack ●

● occupation

2. surrender ●

● lose

3. win ●

● offensive

4. liberation ●

● defeat

5. defensive ●

● resist

6. victory ●

● retreat

Task 6 (a). Read the first paragraphe of the text. What is the text about?

Task 6 (b). Match the words taken from the text with their meanings. Translate them into Russian.

1. counteroffensive

A. someone or something that is likely to cause harm or damage

2. target

B. any surprising and unexpected event

3. advance

C. to accept responsibility for something and have control over it

4. defensive line

D. to die

5. a threat (to)

E. a geographically recognizable line of troops and armament, fortified and set up to protect a high-value location or defend territory.

6. to take charge (of something)

7. to perish

F. impossible to defeat

8. invincible

G. something that you intend to achieve

9. miracle

H. a movement forward, especially by an army

I. a set of attacks that defend against enemy attacks

The Battle of Moscow took place on the Eastern Front against the forces of Nazi Germany during World War II. It lasted from October 1941 to January 1942. The battle included a defensive period, from 30 September to 5 December 1941, and the offensive period. The latter consisted of the **counteroffensive** from 6 December 1941 to 7 January 1942 and the all-out Soviet offensive, which took place from 8 January to 20 April 1942.

Adolf Hitler believed that the German Army could capture Moscow within three or four months. For Hitler, Moscow was the most important military and political **target**, as he anticipated that the city's surrender would shortly afterwards lead to the general collapse of the Soviet Union. However, the original blitzkrieg invasion plan, which the Germans called "Operation Barbarossa", failed. The **advance** of Hitler's troops was slowed by Soviet defenders at the Battle of Smolensk, which lasted from July until September 1941. It delayed the German offensive towards Moscow for two months. Later, a new battle took place. In the Nazi generals' view, it was only the bad weather that stopped the Moshaisk **defensive line** from being taken quickly.

By early December, the lead German Panzer Groups stood less than 30 kilometres from the Kremlin, and Wehrmacht officers were able to see some of Moscow's buildings with binoculars, but the German forces were unable to make further advances. On 5 December 1941, Soviet troops attacked the German forces outside Moscow, and by January 1942, the Wehrmacht had been driven back 100 to 250 kilometres, ending **the threat to** Moscow.

The Soviet military commander Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov, who **took charge of** Moscow's defence, wrote, "Nazis did not expect Soviet resistance to be so strong. The deeper they moved into the country's territory, the more fierce it became. When Hitler's armies approached Moscow, every man and woman here thought it was imperative to resist the enemy. Moreover, that resistance grew day by day. The enemy was sustaining heavy losses, one after another. In fact, Hitler's best troops **perished** here. Nazis believed the Red Army was not capable of defending Moscow, but their plans failed."

Military historians firmly believe that the Battle of Moscow marked **a turning point** in the war, as it was the first time since the Wehrmacht began its conquests in 1939 that it had been forced into a major retreat. According to Evgeny Aleksandrovich Shilovsky's book "The defeat of the German forces near Moscow", "the whole world was excited by the unexpected turn of events. Foreign newspapers were in complete perplexity. The **"invincible"** German army, which was constantly attacking, finally reached almost the very gates of Moscow and suddenly ran back. Foreign newspapers could not explain it and wrote about the **"miracle** near Moscow."

Task 6 (c). Read the text again and mark the statements (1-8) as True or False. Prove your answers using the text. Correct false statements.

1. The Battle of Moscow was a significant event during World War II.

- A. True
- B. False

2. Adolf Hitler underestimated the strength of the Soviet resistance.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The Battle of Smolensk helped to delay the German offensive towards Moscow.
 - A. True
 - B. False

4. The German forces successfully captured Moscow within a few months.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. The Soviet counteroffensive began in early December 1941.
 - A. True
 - B. False

6. The weather conditions helped the German troops advance quickly towards Moscow.
 - A. True
 - B. False

7. The Battle of Moscow was a turning point in the war.
 - A. True
 - B. False

8. The international press was surprised by the German army's retreat from Moscow.
 - A. True
 - B. False

Task 7. Read the text "Victory Parade 1945" and choose the right answers to the questions.

The first parade commemorating the victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War was held in Red Square at 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 1945. The procession took place a month after 9 May, the day Nazi Germany surrendered.

The procession was commanded by Marshals of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov and Konstantin Rokossovsky. They rode black and white horses around the parade ground.

The historic Victory parade lasted two hours. It was the longest and largest military parade ever held in Red Square, with 40,000 Red Army soldiers, 1,850 military vehicles, and other military equipment.

Twelve combined regiments were formed to take part in the parade. The combined regiments of the Soviet Army and the Navy, including the Heroes of the Soviet Union and Cavaliers of the Order of Glory, marched across Red Square. The commanders of fronts and armies marched in front of the regiments.

At the end of the parade, a column of soldiers marched solemnly, carrying 200 lowered banners of the defeated enemy's troops. The banners were dropped on the ground near Lenin's Mausoleum to symbolize a complete enemy capitulation. The soldiers carrying them wore gloves to demonstrate their hate for Nazi Germany.

The Victory parade included not just people but also bomb-sniffing dogs. Dzhulbars, a shepherd dog, successfully detected 7,500 mines and 150 bomb shells. The dog was awarded the "For Battle Merit" medal.

1. When did the Victory parade take place?

- A. 8 May 1945
- B. 9 May 1945
- C. 24 June 1945
- D. 2 September 1945

2. Who commanded the Victory parade?

- A. Marshal Konev
- B. Marshal Govorov
- C. Marshal Vasilevsky
- D. Marshals Zhukov and Rokossovsky

3. What was unique about the first Victory parade in Red Square?

- A. It was the longest and largest military parade ever.
- B. The parade lasted more than an hour.
- C. Only infantry soldiers participated.
- D. It was held exactly on 9 May.

4. How long did the historic Victory parade last?
 - A. One hour
 - B. Two hours
 - C. Three hours
 - D. Four hours

5. How many soldiers participated in the parade?
 - A. 200
 - B. 1,850
 - C. 7,500
 - D. 40,000

6. How many combined regiments participated in the parade?
 - A. 10
 - B. 12
 - C. 15
 - D. 20

7. What symbolised the complete enemy capitulation?
 - A. The military vehicles
 - B. The gloves worn by soldiers
 - C. The lowered enemy banners thrown near Lenin's Mausoleum
 - D. The parade itself

8. Why did the soldiers wear gloves when carrying enemy banners?
 - A. To demonstrate their hatred for Nazi Germany
 - B. It was a part of the uniform.
 - C. To protect the banners
 - D. To keep warm

9. What made the dog Dzhulbars special during the war?
 - A. It was the largest military dog.
 - B. It won many battles.
 - C. It detected 7,500 mines and 150 bombs.
 - D. It fought alongside soldiers.

10. What special recognition did the dog Dzhulbars receive?

- A. A special military award
- B. The "For Battle Merit" medal
- C. A personal commendation from Joseph Stalin
- D. A special military treatment

Task 8. Discuss the questions in pairs. Share your ideas with the class.

- 1) What does Victory Day mean to you personally?
- 2) Do you have any family members who are war veterans?
- 3) How do people usually honor war veterans on Victory Day?
- 4) How do you and your family celebrate Victory Day?
- 5) Have you ever visited any historical sights related to WWII? If so, what sights did you visit?
- 6) Why is it important to remember and commemorate historic events like Victory Day?
- 7) Do you think younger generations understand the importance of days like Victory Day?
- 8) How do we make sure that future generations appreciate their history?

Task 9. Comment on the following quotation. *"To be proud of the glory of one's ancestors is not only possible, but also a must; not to respect it is shameful cowardice."* A. S. Pushkin

Write 200–250 words.

Use the following plan:

- make an introduction, explaining how you understand the author's point of view;
- express your personal opinion and give reasons to support it;
- give examples from literature or history to illustrate your reasons;
- make a conclusion restating your position.

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ANSWER KEY

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- B. 15 meters
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3. What material is the statue of the Soviet soldier made of?

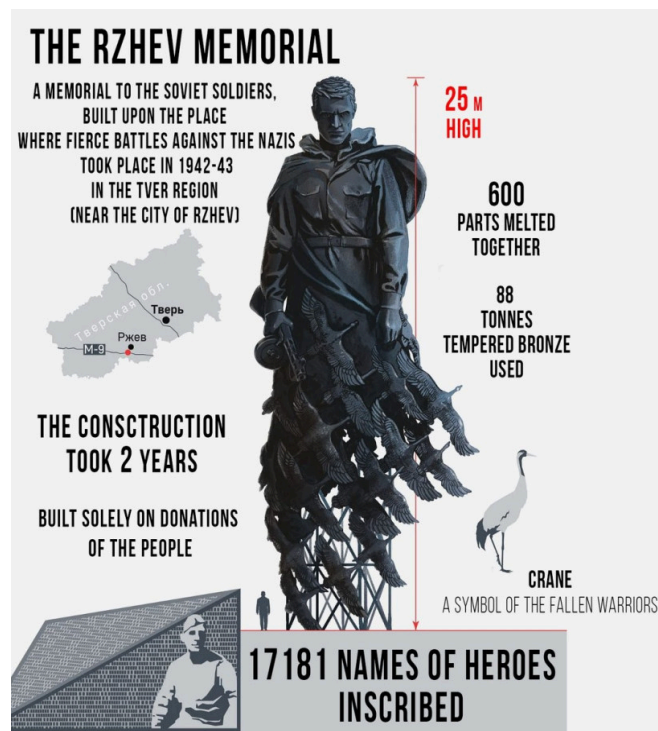
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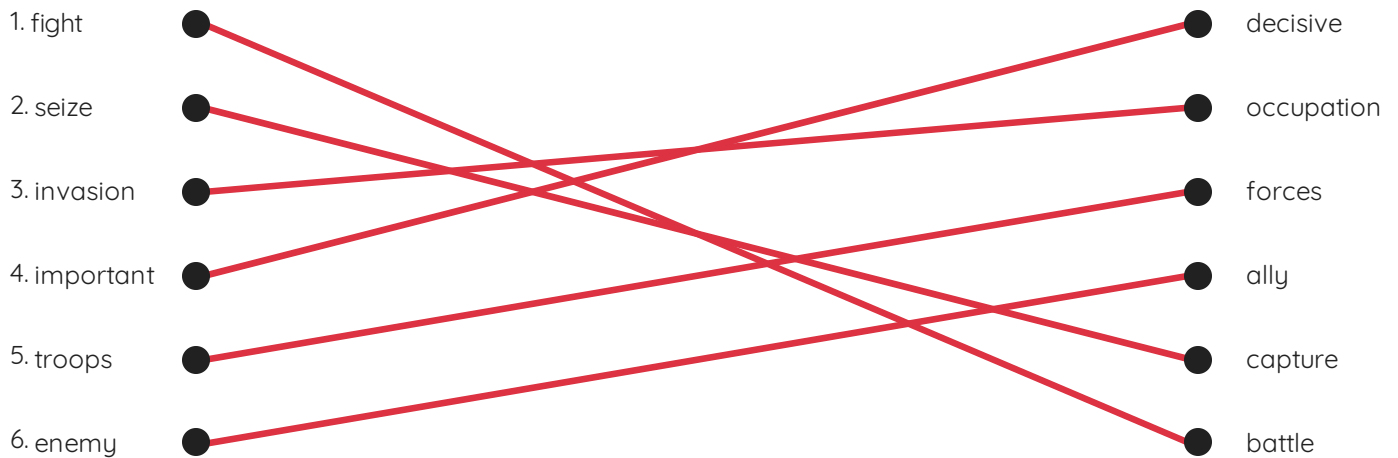
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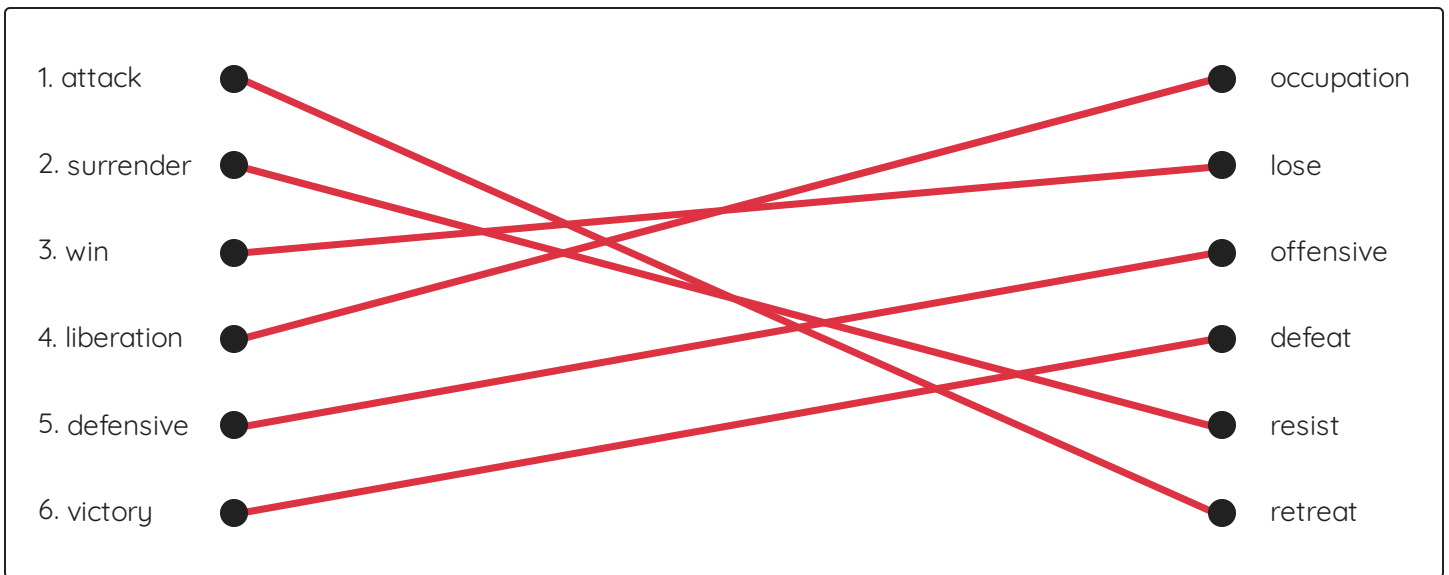
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1. The Battle of Moscow was a significant event during World War II.

☒ A. True

B. False

2. Adolf Hitler underestimated the strength of the Soviet resistance.

☒ A. True

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ANSWER KEY

3. The Battle of Smolensk helped to delay the German offensive towards Moscow.
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ANSWER KEY

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The historic Victory parade lasted two hours. It was the longest and largest military parade ever held in Red Square, with 40,000 Red Army soldiers, 1,850 military vehicles, and other military equipment.

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The Victory parade included not just people but also bomb-sniffing dogs. Dzhulbars, a shepherd dog, successfully detected 7,500 mines and 150 bomb shells. The dog was awarded the "For Battle Merit" medal.

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