

Major battles of World War II

- Intro: There were 2 major **fronts** that the Allied powers fought on during World War II- these are known as the **European** and **Pacific** theaters of the War.
- A. Major battles of European theater
 - 1. **North Africa** campaigns (1940-1943)- series of battles fought for control of North Africa and to keep control of the **Suez Canal** away from Germany. (This canal was the shortest sea route to Asia and the oil fields of the Middle East.)
 - a. The Allies took complete control of North Africa in 1943
 - b. They set up bases to attack southern **Europe**.

Major battles of World War II

- 2. Battle of **Stalingrad**- (Sept. 1942-Feb. 1943)
 - a. Germany broke their pact and invaded the **Soviet Union**.
 - b. The Germans were eventually cut off from food and supplies and many **froze** in the harsh winter or starved to death.
 - c. This is considered by many to be the **turning point** of World War II when the Nazis were stopped and pushed back towards Germany.

Major battles of World War II

- 3. **D-Day** (June 6, 1944)
 - a. The Allies invade France to seek to take control of **France** back from the Germans.
 - b. It was the largest **land-sea-air** operation in history.
 - c. Many **casualties** were suffered but the operation was a success.