

# How to Win a War Comprehension Answers

1. Give two alternative names for D Day.

**D Day is also referred to as the Normandy Landings, Operation Neptune and the overarching Operation Overlord.**

2. What exactly was D Day?

**D Day was the day the Allies invaded the beaches of northern France at Normandy. Huge numbers of Allied troops were sent across the channel to fight against the Nazis, eventually pushing the Germans out of France. It occurred on June 6th, 1944.**

3. List three reasons for the weather being important during the D Day operations.

**Strategists agreed that the tide had to be as high as possible (at dawn). This meant a full moon was best. Calm seas were necessary, so no storms could occur. The skies needed to be as clear and well-lit throughout the night as possible for the Allied aircraft.**

4. Why did the Allies think they might have to delay the Normandy landings?

**The weather predicted for June 5th was not good. June 6th looked much better and so the Allies decided to proceed on this day.**

5. Why did the weather play a part in the Battle of Agincourt?

**It had rained constantly for 2 weeks, making the field of battle very muddy. The French had very heavy armour which made wading through the mud almost impossible.**

6. Why did the Spanish try to attack England in 1588?

**They wanted to overthrow Queen Elizabeth I and put a Catholic monarch on the throne of England.**

7. What were the 'Protestant Winds'?

**The storms from the Atlantic that caused the Spanish fleet to sink and be dashed against the shore of Ireland.**

8. What is a kamikaze? What is the word most associated with today?

**A 'divine wind'. This was first the name given to the typhoons that sprang up when Kublai Khan tried to invade Japan. Later the word was used to describe those pilots who sacrificed themselves by hurling their planes into Allied war ships.**

9. Give two reasons Napoleon's forces suffered defeat in Russia.

**Napoleon's troops were ill equipped for the winter, their uniforms were not thick enough. The Russians had burned everything as they left their villages, leaving the French with little food. The weather became colder and colder.**

10. Why did the German forces have to retreat from Russia?

**The Germans were ill prepared for the harsh conditions of a Russian winter. The temperatures plummeted to -50 Celsius and the troops had no winter clothing. The Panzer tanks were not built for such cold weather.**

**Extension:**

Research one of the military events mentioned in the article. You might choose to write about the D Day landings, the Spanish Armada, the Battle of Agincourt or the Battle of Moscow. Create a fact file about the event you research.

**Students can use the attached fact file template or create their own in workbooks. There is plenty of information about each of these events in history textbooks and on the internet.**

Find out about another key decisive military campaign affected by the weather. There are several battles of the Civil War in America for example: Battle of Gettysburg, Battle at Fredericksburg. How did the weather affect the outcome of events?

**A Maths professor with an interest in meteorology kept a careful weather diary during the Civil War in America. He was at the Battle of Gettysburg and his notes have given historians an interesting perspective on how the good weather on the days of fighting and the torrential rain on the days just after it affected the outcome of the battle. The Confederate soldiers were prevented from retreating quickly because of the heavy rain which raised the levels of the Potomac and caused the Plum Run Creek to overflow. Many wounded soldiers, left on the field of battle, drowned when the creek overflowed.**