



**THE NATIONAL
D-DAY MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS**

D-Day by the Numbers Charting and Graphing WWII Data

A Lesson Plan from
The Department of Education of
The National D-Day Museum

“America’s World War II Museum”

The National D-Day Museum
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-527-6012

www.ddaymuseum.org

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D-Day by the Numbers

Charting and Graphing WWII Data

Organizing and interpreting data is an important skill when analyzing historical events. Raw data are the building blocks for interpreting what happened in the past, what is going on in the present, and what may occur in the future. The following lesson plan asks students to create three types of graphs using statistics from D-Day and World War II and then analyze their results by answering interpretive questions.

OBJECTIVE: Students will analyze the size and scope of World War II and D-Day by charting and graphing statistics and interpreting their findings.

BENCHMARKS: **Grades 7-8:** H-1A-M4; H-1A-M6; H-1B-M17

Grades 9-12: H-1A-H3; H-1A-H4; H-1A-H5; H-1B-H13;
H-1C-H13

DIRECTIONS:

1. Use the statistical data from the three activities below to lead a short discussion of the size and scope of World War II and D-Day.
2. Copy and pass out the work sheets and have students use the given data to create a line graph, a pie chart, and a bar graph, then answer the questions that follow. This activity can be an individual or group activity depending on your specific needs in the classroom.

ASSESSMENT: Components for assessment include the completed worksheet.

ENRICHMENT: Have students collect data (such as poll numbers, statistics, or forecasts) about any current event from the newspaper, magazines, or the Internet and organize that data in a graph, which includes a short essay explaining their source, their data, and their analysis.

D-Day by the Numbers

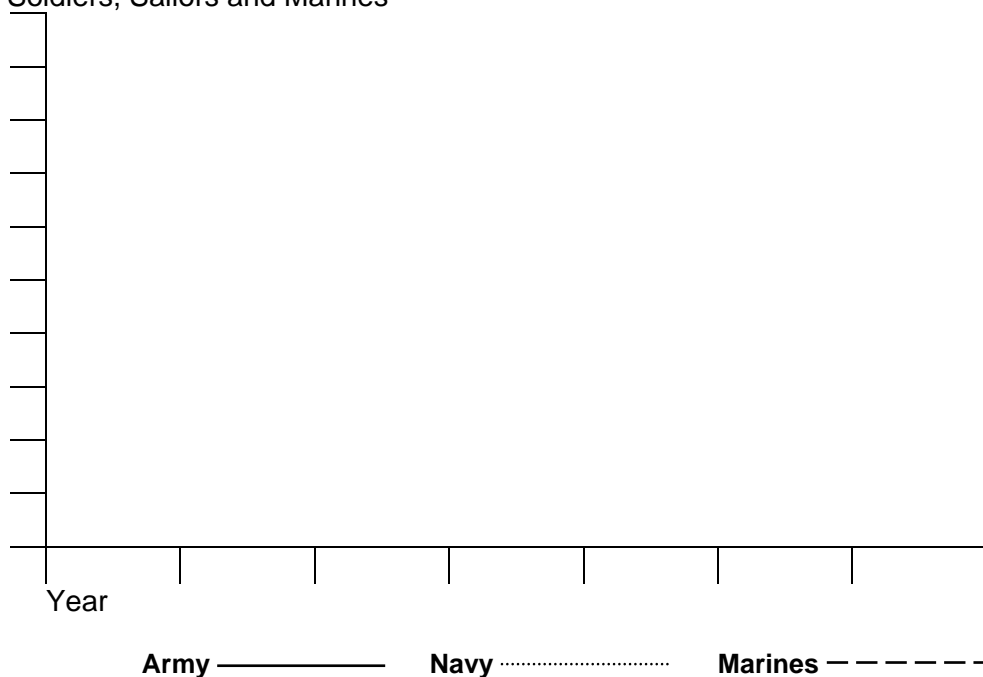
Charting and Graphing WWII Data

1. On a line graph below, fill in both axes and plot and label the growth of each branch of the U.S. military during World War II. Use the type of lines shown for each branch. Then answer the questions below.

U.S. Active Military Personnel (1939-1945)

Year	Army	Navy	Marines	Total
1939	189,839	125,202	19,432	334,473
1940	269,023	160,997	28,345	458,365
1941	1,462,315	284,427	54,359	1,801,101
1942	3,075,608	640,570	142,613	3,585,791
1943	6,994,472	1,741,750	308,523	9,044,745
1944	7,994,750	2,981,365	475,604	11,451,719
1945	8,267,958	3,380,817	474,680	12,123,445

of Soldiers, Sailors and Marines



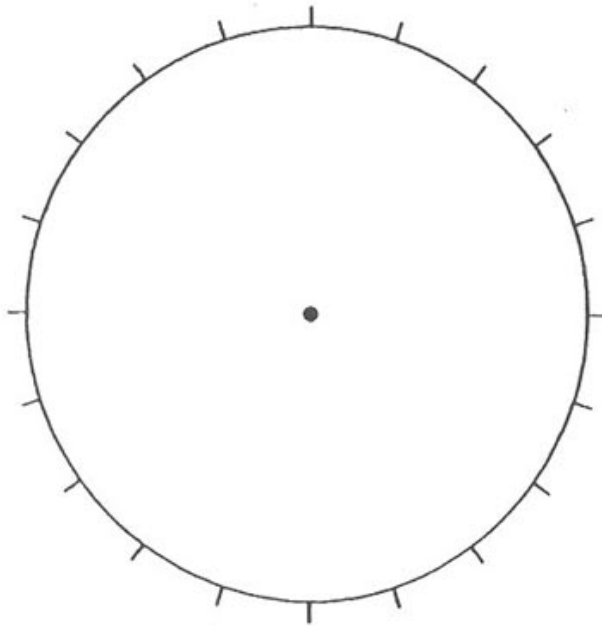
- A. What was the trend in the size of the U.S. military between 1939 and 1945?
- B. What year saw the largest increase of military personnel and what event(s) brought about this increase?
- C. From the data in this graph, what branch of service do you predict had the highest casualty rate during World War II?

2. Use these statistics from June 6, 1944—D-Day—to fill in and label the percentages of each country's military force in Normandy on the pie chart. Then answer the questions below.

D-Day Combatants

Country	# of Soldiers on D-Day	Percentage
*United States	95,000	34%
*Great Britain	60,000	21%
*Canada	20,000	7%
Germany	105,000	38%

*Allies



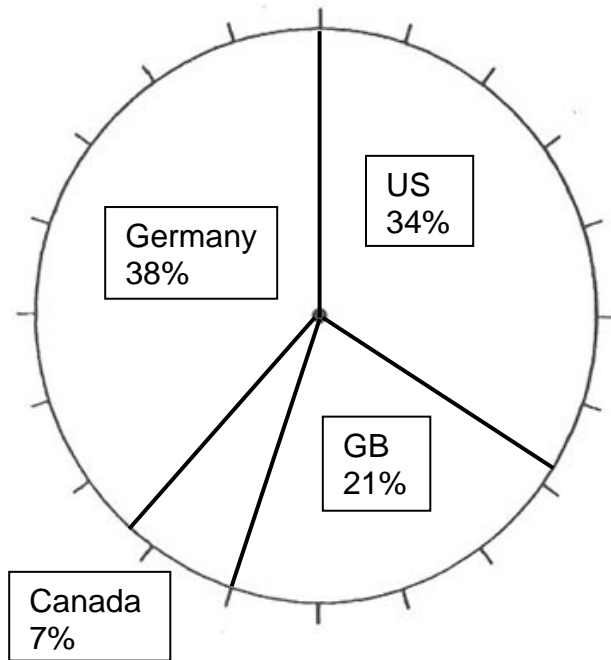
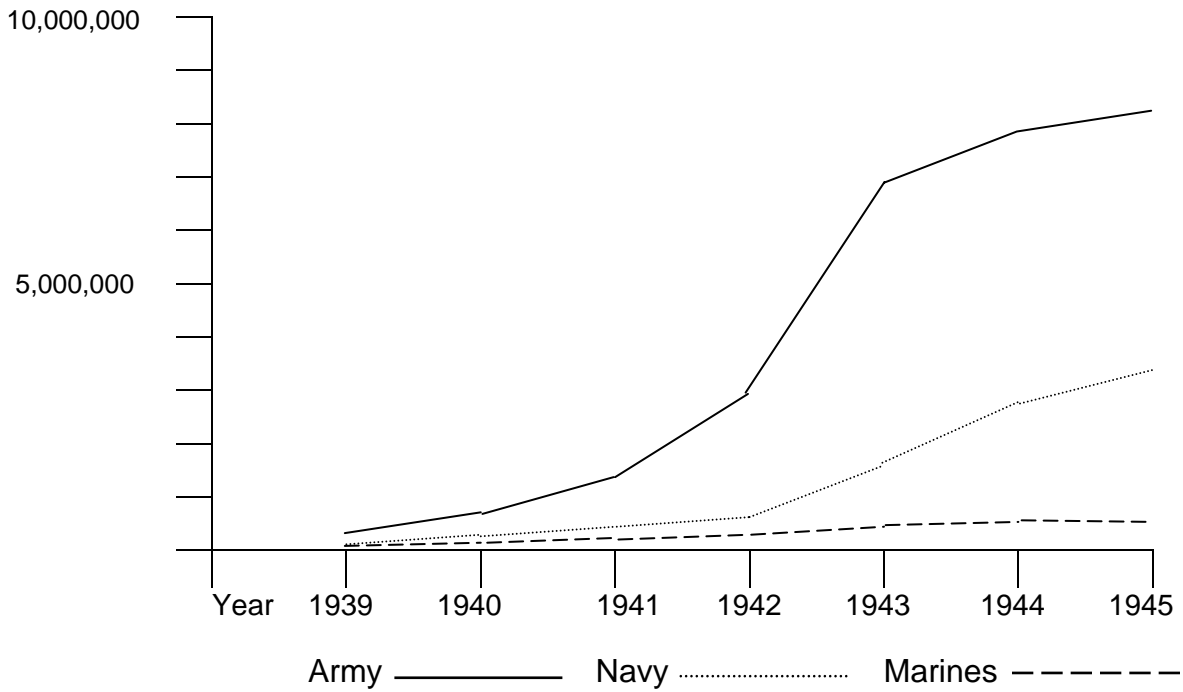
- A. What country had the most troops in Normandy on D-Day?

- B. What percentage of the troops at D-Day were Allied troops?

- C. Why did the Allied commanders think it was necessary to attack with the large number of soldiers they did?

Answers:

of Soldiers, Sailors and Marines



of Casualties

