

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR (1941-1945)

On June 22, 1941 Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union and the Great Patriotic War began. Though our soldiers and officers fought bravely they couldn't stop the enemy. The German army was stronger then and it was moving quickly.

In September 1941 the fascists began the blockade of Leningrad. They were bombing the city day and night. Thousands died of hunger. It took 900 days to break the blockade.

Soon the front line was near Moscow. The capital was in danger. But its defenders were ready to die but not to move back. Partisans also helped a lot.

Then came the great battles of Kursk, Stalingrad (Volgograd), Minsk, Kiev, Odessa, Sevastopol, Novorossiisk, Kerch. That's why some of these cities were named Hero-Cities.

All Soviet people are proud of our talented generals: G.K. Zhukov, I.S. Konev, K.K. Rokossovsky, A.M. Vasilevsky. We will never forget the names of Alexander Matrosov, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, twenty-eight men of General Panfilov's division, the young men from Krasnodon, the heroes of the Brest Fortress. Over 20 million people died but Hitler didn't conquer the USSR.

On May 9, 1945 the Great Patriotic War was over in Berlin.

Now Victory Day is one of the most important holidays. A parade of veterans takes place in every town and city of our Motherland. People put flowers to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There is a minute of silence to remember those who didn't come back from the war.

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR
Reading Comprehension

Choose the right variant.

1. Germany attacked the Soviet Union ...
a) in June 1941 b) in September 1941 c) in May 1945

2. a) The Soviet army was the strongest then.
b) The German army was stronger at the beginning of the war.
c) Both armies were strong.

3. a) The blockade of Leningrad wasn't too long.
b) They broke the blockade of Leningrad in 1942.
c) It took about 3 years to break the blockade.

4. a) The battle of Moscow was in May 1945.
b) The main city of the country was in great danger.
c) The fascists conquered Moscow.

5. a) After Moscow there were no important battles during the Great Patriotic War.
b) Several historic battles took place near Hero-Cities.
c) There are only two Hero-Cities: Moscow and Leningrad (Petersburg).

6. G.K. Zhukov, I.S. Konev, K.K. Rokossovsky, A.M. Vasilevsky are ...
a) famous Soviet officers
b) the men of General Panfilov's division
c) brave partisans

7. Over 20 million people died ...
a) in the Brest Fortress
b) during the blockade of Leningrad
c) during the Great Patriotic War

8. a) The Soviet Union won the Great Patriotic War.
b) Hitler won the Great Patriotic War.
c) The Great Patriotic War was over in Moscow.

9. a) Every year a parade of our veterans takes place in Berlin.
b) Every year people put flowers to the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier.
c) Every year there is an hour of silence all over Russia.

10. On May 9, 2010 we'll celebrate ... anniversary of that great victory.
a) the 60th b) the 65th c) the 69th