

LEADERS OF WORLD WAR II ESSAY QUESTIONS



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT
THE LIVES OF 25 LEADERS
FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA,
CHINA, FRANCE, GERMANY,
IRELAND, NEW ZEALAND,
THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND
THE UNITED STATES

BY BONNIE ROSE HUDSON



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Leaders of World War II Essay Questions

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Leaders of World War II Essay Questions

Following are brief biographies of twenty-five influential leaders of World War II. With each biography are questions to answer in essay form. The first pages give you the biographies and the questions. Assorted notebooking pages you can use for your answers follow. You can print or copy the notebooking pages as many times as you like for your answers.

General Andrew McNaughton

Born on February 25, 1887, in Saskatchewan, Canada, Andrew McNaughton graduated with a degree of Master of Science, with Honors in Electrical Engineering from McGill University. He served as a gunnery officer in World War I, was wounded twice, won the Distinguished Service Order, and became a brigadier general by the end of the war. During the 1930s, he worked to establish army-administered work camps for the unemployed. The work accomplished at these camps helped create a network of air fields, which ultimately helped allow the creation of Trans Canada Airlines. He took command of the First Canadian Division at the beginning of World War II and went on to command the Canadian Corps and then the Canadian Army. He developed techniques for locating enemy artillery in order to disable it and was instrumental in the invention of the cathode ray direction finder, a forerunner of radar. Because of his fierce nationalism, he clashed with the Canadian government over civilian decisions he felt would fragment the Canadian Army by placing his soldiers under Allied command. He served as Canadian representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, as a permanent delegate to the United Nations from Canada, and in many other positions after the war. He died on July 11, 1966.

Although he was deeply involved in the science of soldiering, it is said he never completely mastered the relationship between politics and military leadership in war. What do you think the relationship between politics and military leadership in war should be? Do you think General McNaughton's approach of being involved in the science of war was the correct approach?

Lieutenant General Bernard Montgomery

Born November 17, 1887, in London, England, Bernard Law Montgomery attended the Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst). He was wounded twice while serving in World War I, and was appreciated for his ability to train troops. Early in World War II, he commanded troops in the southeastern section of England where an invasion of German troops was expected. In 1942, he was appointed commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa. He worked with the troops who had recently been defeated by German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, helping them gain the confidence necessary to force Rommel to retreat. He led troops in pursuit of Rommel across North Africa until Rommel finally surrendered in Tunisia in 1943. After other successful campaigns, he was called back to help lead the Allied armies into France in the Normandy invasion. He made recommendations to General Eisenhower which helped the invasion be successful, and he led his troops to many victories throughout the remainder of the war. After the war, he was knighted. He died on March 24, 1976.

Bernard Montgomery was known for being cautious and thorough in his strategy. While this often made other Allied leaders impatient, he was very popular with the troops, as he insisted that both the men and the material needed for a strike be completely ready. This outlook brought slow, steady success. What is your opinion of slow, steady success in war, as compared to being less cautious at the risk of not being ready for the unexpected? Do you think it is best to be content with slow, steady progress in other life situations, such as a career? Why or why not?

German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

Born on November 15, 1891, in Heidenheim, Germany, Erwin Rommel joined the German army in 1910. He served in World War I and demonstrated great courage and leadership. He remained in the army after Germany was defeated. When World War II began in 1939, Rommel served in Poland before leading an attack in France. He was transferred to North Africa in 1941 and became known as the "Desert Fox" because of his daring surprise attacks. He remained in command in North Africa until a final defeat in 1943, at which time he returned to Europe. Rommel made suggestions concerning the German defense of the beaches before the Normandy invasion, but others in power disagreed and placed troops elsewhere. This placement of troops in the coastal areas caused the German response to be less effective when the invasion came. As Rommel realized more fully the superiority of the Allied air forces, he reported to Adolf Hitler that he did not feel Germany could win the war. Rommel's friends, who were conspiring against Hitler, suggested Rommel would be the best one to take over Germany after Hitler was overthrown. Rommel did not disagree, but he did not know there was a plan to assassinate Hitler. Rommel did not accept the idea of murder for political reasons and had, in the past, disobeyed orders given to him by Hitler that called for the execution of someone for political purposes. When an attempt on Hitler's life failed, it was revealed that Rommel had had contact with those who tried to kill Hitler. Hitler sent two generals to see Rommel, who was recovering from serious injuries. The generals presented him the choice of a trial, where Rommel's name and that of his family would be ruined, or suicide. Rommel took his own life on October 14, 1944.

Why do you think Hitler gave Rommel the choice? Was it to protect Rommel's name and family or his own? What do you think motivated Rommel's choice? Was he protecting his family, and if so, why do you think their name and survival was more important to him than his own life? Did he make the decision out of pride? Fear? Something else entirely? Explain your answers.

Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle

Born on December 14, 1896, in Alameda, California, USA, James Doolittle was an Army aviator and flight instructor in World War I and continued his education after the war. He continued his service in the Army Air Corps until 1930 and then worked in aviation in the public sector. He returned to active service when World War II began. Just over four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, James Doolittle led a bombing mission, often referred to as the "Doolittle Raid," that started from the deck of the aircraft carrier *Hornet*. This was the first time bombers were launched from an aircraft carrier. Sixteen B-25s attacked Japanese cities, including Tokyo. Most of the crews arrived safely on the Chinese mainland, which allowed them safe return to the United States. There was not much damage done from the raid, but it was a huge boost to

American morale, and it caused the Japanese to move some of their resources to air defense. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor after leading this attack and was promoted. He led air operations for the army on the European, North African, and Pacific fronts of the war and was promoted to lieutenant general in 1944. In 1944 and 1945, he commanded the 8th Air Force in attacks on Germany. After the war, he returned to work in the public sector. He was also active in the aerospace industry. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1989. James Doolittle died on September 27, 1993.

The ships used for the "Doolittle Raid" were discovered by Japan, forcing the aircraft to launch 650 miles from Japan rather than the 400 miles as originally planned. It was unclear if there would be enough fuel for all the crews to return safely. Do you think the men did the right thing in launching the raid anyway, or should they have waited until they were closer or more certain of the fuel?

As of the time of the "Doolittle Raid," it had been less than 39 years since the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk. Not only did the bombers that took part in this raid have to be well-handled by the crews, the crews had to be trained to take off on a runway far shorter than what they were used to. Why do you think advancements were made so rapidly to aircraft after they were invented? Explain your answers.

Sir Frank Horton Berryman

Born on April 11, 1894, in Victoria, Australia, Frank Horton Berryman attended the Royal Military College. After graduation, he was appointed lieutenant in the Australian Imperial Force on July 1, 1915. He served in World War I in various areas of the Field Artillery Brigade. He continued his service after the war, along with continuing his education. In April 1940, he was assigned to the 6th Division of the Australian Imperial Force. He was often praised for his supervision, planning, and leadership. As the war continued, his main duty became acting as liaison to General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters. While serving as liaison, he safeguarded Australian interests and gained the admiration of the American troops. He was present at the Japanese surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay and when the Japanese Second Army surrendered at Morotai. After the war, his primary assignment was to make the army an important part of the community while stationed at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. He worked tirelessly with community projects, including drives to send food parcels to Britain and help provide support for war widows and children. Even after being placed on the retired list, he kept busy with many community projects. He died on May 28, 1981. His portrait is at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

While serving in the military and after retirement, Sir Frank Berryman gave every bit of energy possible to everything he did. He was admired by many because of that quality. Which is a better way to attack life, with Sir Frank Berryman's dedication or with an attitude of doing only what is necessary to "get by"? What light does Colossians 3:23 shed on the question?

British Air Marshal Arthur William Tedder

Born on July 11, 1890, in Stirlingshire, Scotland, Arthur Tedder saw many parts of Great Britain as his family traveled due to his father's employment. He later attended college and spent some time studying German. He joined the British army in 1913 and fought in World War I, where he

received a serious injury. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, later known as the Royal Air Force or RAF. He continued serving in the RAF after World War I ended and became the commander of the Far East Command. He was appointed head of the RAF Middle East Command in 1941, and thereafter took control of all Allied air operations in North Africa and Italy. His contributions were invaluable to defeating the German forces in North Africa, to helping with the success of the evacuation of Crete, and to the Allies succeeding in the landings in Sicily and Italy. He oversaw the destruction of enemy supply lines and gave support to the ground troops. Arthur Tedder was appointed as the deputy supreme Allied commander to General Eisenhower in 1944 and became responsible for coordinating all Allied air operations in Western Europe. In this capacity, he successfully coordinated air operations to keep German reinforcements from reaching the Allied beachhead in Normandy. He also helped the Allied advance during the latter part of the war in Europe, coordinating the bombing of the German transportation network. He was appointed the first Chief of the Air Staff during peacetime in 1946 and, later, put into practice the arrangements for the Berlin Airlift. Arthur Tedder died on June 3, 1967.

How do you think the destruction of enemy supply lines helped the Allies win a foothold as they were fighting to retake Europe? Do you think the damage caused by interrupting the supply of ammunition, fuel, and equipment was more, less, or equal to the damage caused by interrupting the food resources of the army? Explain your answers.

Lieutenant General Bernard Freyberg

Born on March 21, 1889, in London, England, Bernard Freyberg was raised in New Zealand after his family moved there in 1891. He was educated by his mother and later attended Wellington College. He was a competitive swimmer, becoming the 100-yard champion in New Zealand in 1906 and 1910. He apprenticed with a dentist and was admitted to the Dentists' Register of New Zealand on May 22, 1911. In 1914, he left Wellington, New Zealand, for San Francisco, California, USA, spent some time in Mexico, and headed for England when he heard about the beginning of World War I in 1914. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves. He put his swimming background to work when he swam ashore and set flares as a diversionary tactic during the early part of the Gallipoli campaign. He was badly wounded twice in World War I and in 1916, he transferred to the British Army. He was wounded twice while serving with the British Army. He spent time in New Zealand recovering from his wounds, but his health was suffering. When doctors discovered a heart problem, he was forced to retire from the army. When World War II began, he was able to have his medical grading changed so that he could again be in active service. He was appointed to lead the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, which was to serve with British forces. It was clear, however, that Freyberg had the right to disobey any command by British superiors if he felt it did not agree with the commands of the New Zealand government. His troops took part in many battles during the war, notably in Crete, the second battle of El Alamein, the battle of Cassino, and many others in campaigns in Greece, North Africa, and Italy. He was wounded more than once and finally gave up command of his division on November 22, 1945, after accepting the post of New Zealand's governor general. He was the first governor general of New Zealand who had actually been raised there. He died on July 4, 1963, from complications of wounds suffered in World War I.

Bernard Freyberg is often considered to be New Zealand's greatest soldier. In addition to the fact that he was often in the thick of the battles with his troops, as shown by the many times he was seriously wounded, he was known to be extremely concerned about his troops and went to great

lengths to ensure their welfare. How do you think a commanding officer balances the concern for his troops and the necessity to lead them into battles where he knows many will not survive?

Sir Edmund Herring

Born on September 2, 1892, in Maryborough, Victoria, Australia, Edmund Herring won scholarships to attend Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. He went on to Trinity College, University of Melbourne, and then to New College, Oxford, England. He fought with the Royal Field Artillery in World War I in France and then in Macedonia, where he won the Military Cross. He was commanding the brigade by the end of the war and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He intended to be a lawyer and returned to school after the war. He began to practice law in 1921. Because he was concerned about the spread of communism, he felt the regular army should be reinforced with civilians able to respond in case of invasion. When World War II began, Edmund Herring accepted an invitation to join the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF). Fighting in North Africa, his artillery division played an important part in the victories achieved in Bardia and Tobruk. His artillery division was also vital in delaying the German advances in Greece while the Allies were retreating. He then returned to Australia to aid in its defense against the threat from the advancing Japanese. Beginning in the Northern Territory in March 1942, one month after an air raid had laid waste to Darwin, he worked to reorganize the defenses in the Territory. He later was stationed as a commander in Papua and New Guinea.* Edmund Herring had a reputation of looking for the best in people, requiring respect from those who served with him, and not trying to be popular. He also had the quality of correcting mistakes with a firm constant tone, without the need to raise his voice. After he left the service, he became chief justice of Victoria and worked to reform the effectiveness of the court system. Edmund Herring served in many positions, including lieutenant-governor and chancellor of the Church of England Diocese of Melbourne. Edmund Herring died on January 5, 1982.

As a Christian, Sir Edmund Herring had a firm belief that problems, whether they be economic or political, would only be solved when people paid attention to moral values. He felt that indifference to moral values and not taking action was one of the major dangers people faced when threatened by outside forces. What do you think of that viewpoint? Do you think he was right? Why or why not? What do you think is a major danger faced by people today when threatened by outside forces?

* "Papua and New Guinea" is not synonymous with "Papua New Guinea." Papua New Guinea is a country in the Pacific situated on the island of New Guinea and other islands. Papua is a region of Indonesia that includes part of the island of New Guinea and neighboring small islands.

General Eedson Louis Millard Burns

Born on June 17, 1897, in Westmount, Quebec, Canada, Eedson Louis Millard Burns, known as E.L.M. Burns, began his military career at the age of 16 when he joined the Canadian militia. The next year, he was accepted into the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ontario. His formal education at that time ended when he received a Special War Certificate from the college on his eighteenth birthday in order to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France during World War

War I. He served as a signals officer in France with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was wounded twice in combat and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery. After the war, he remained in the service in many different staff positions, including as an instructor at the Royal Military College. When World War II began, E.L.M. Burns served as a general staff officer and was later assigned to a camp in Nova Scotia. Here, he was able to work with tank units prior to their deployment to England and then on to Sicily. E.L.M. Burns did not go with the tank units, but instead was assigned to command the 2nd Canadian Division. He felt that no one should go into battle without knowing what to expect, so he simulated artillery fire and smoke, including firing live rounds above the heads of the men in training, in order to get the troops ready for the sounds of battle. The 2nd Canadian Division took part in Operation Overlord, but E.L.M. Burns had been sent to command a Canadian Armored Division in Italy in 1943. He led the 1st Canadian Corps in the Liri Valley, which led to the capture of Rome, and in the very successful attack on the Gothic Line. He retired from the army in 1947. E.L.M. Burns died on September 13, 1985.

E.L.M. Burns was intelligent, attentive to detail, and a very able planner, but he had a very serious side and was not known as someone well-liked by either his superiors or those he commanded. His seriousness made it hard for those who served with him to know him well enough to have confidence in him. What do you think it takes for a person to be a good leader? What is the best way to help people have confidence in you? What obstacles do you see in maintaining your position as a commander of troops and still knowing when and how to be approachable and informal?

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.

Born on October 30, 1882, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA, William F. Halsey, Jr. was the son of a U.S. Navy Captain. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1904, and served as a destroyer commander in World War I. After the war, he became a naval aviator and attained the rank of vice admiral. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, which brought the United States into World War II, the task force commanded by Halsey was the only major operational battle group left in the Pacific. While the United States was rebuilding its naval fleet, Vice Admiral Halsey directed surprise attacks on islands held by the Japanese. It was his group of ships that was able to move close enough to Tokyo for the first bombing of the Japanese capital, which was carried out by planes under the command of James Doolittle. He was well-known for his aggressive combat tactics and was nicknamed "Bull" by the press. He was appointed commander of the South Pacific force in October 1942 and was subsequently promoted to admiral. In 1944, he became commander of the 3rd Fleet and led the carriers in amazing air strikes. His fleet was responsible for supporting U.S. land operations and finding and destroying many of the ships in the Japanese fleet in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. In other instances, he led his fleet through typhoons while giving support to military operations. The Japanese surrender was signed on his flagship, the *Missouri*. He was promoted to the rank of fleet admiral in 1945 and retired in 1947. William F. Halsey, Jr. died on August 16, 1959.

Even though Admiral Halsey was known for his daring and often unorthodox ways of carrying out missions, in general his men had faith in his decisions and were ready to follow his commands. How do you think a person would make the decision as to whether to follow orders to the letter or to make adjustments depending upon the circumstances? How could you be certain you were basing your decisions on the need for changes to the orders or if you were

basing them on your own desire to do what you felt was best regardless of orders? If you did do things in an unorthodox way, how hard would it be to convince those serving under you to follow your commands, even when they knew it was not the usual way of doing things?

Air Commodore Alan Christopher Deere

Born on December 12, 1917, in Auckland, New Zealand, Alan Christopher Deere is considered one of New Zealand's most famous fighter pilots of World War II. Alan Deere was educated at St. Carries School in Whanganui and then worked as a shepherd before becoming a law clerk in Whanganui. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1937. His first combat came in May 1940, when the squadron he was serving with assisted in covering the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk. In one week, he destroyed six German planes and was shot down himself. He made it back to his base nineteen hours later after he was able to get a ride on a boat across the English Channel. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in the Battle of France. He went on to serve in the Battle of Britain. The squadron he was part of was one of the squadrons involved in a great deal of the fighting between July and September 1940. He was involved in a battle where his plane was damaged, but he managed to crash land and break out of the plane before it burst into flames. He was back on duty the next day. Just weeks later, he was shot down again. After being attacked by five German fighters, he was able to make it back to the English coast but had to bail out of his plane. As it was coming down, he became caught in the plane and could not get loose until he was blown free and was able to complete a parachute landing. He later was forced to bail out of a plane and landed in a plum tree. Only days later, the airfield where he was preparing to take off was bombed, and his plane flipped and slid across the airfield upside down with Deere in it. He was helped out of the damaged, overturned plane by another injured pilot who he then helped back to the station. He made a short tour of the United States to teach fighter tactics to pilots in America. He later commanded the Free French fighter wing during D-Day and the liberation of France. At the end of the war, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in addition to the many awards he had earned during the war. After the war, he served as Aide-de-camp to Queen Elizabeth in 1962. Alan Deere died on September 21, 1995. His name is listed on the Battle of Britain London Monument unveiled in 2005, in London, England.

Reading the biography of Alan Christopher Deere sounds like something you would see in a movie. It is hard to imagine anyone really living through so much. How do you think a person could have the courage to continually return to active duty and fight so valiantly after going through as much as Alan Deere did? Where do you feel that kind of courage comes from?

Admiral Andrew Browne Cunningham

Born on January 7, 1883, in Dublin, Ireland, Andrew Browne Cunningham joined the Royal Navy when he was only fifteen years old. He worked his way up through the ranks of the Royal Navy and commanded the British destroyer HMS *Scorpion* in World War I. He became a vice admiral in 1936 and was serving in the Mediterranean area when World War II started in September 1939. Although greatly outnumbered, he went on the offensive against the Italian navy. In November 1940, he commanded air attacks against the Italian naval ships anchored at Taranto and reduced the size of the Italian navy by three battleships. Later, in the Battle of Cape Matapan in March 1941, he sank three of Italy's largest cruisers. These victories were achieved while the

war was going badly in other areas. He became naval commander of the Allied expeditionary force in the Mediterranean in 1942 and served as General Eisenhower's naval deputy. He commanded the fleet that covered the Allied landings in North Africa during Operation Torch. He later commanded the Allied naval forces during the amphibious invasions of Sicily and Italy in 1943. He was promoted to chief of naval staff, a position in which he reported directly to Prime Minister Winston Churchill through the Chiefs of Staff Committee. He retired in 1946. In 1951, he wrote his biography, *A Sailor's Odyssey*. He died on June 12, 1963.

Admiral Andrew Browne Cunningham was 56 years old when World War II began. In spite of the fact that he was born twenty years before the Wright brothers made their historic flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, USA, he was able to hold different positions of command throughout a war that involved a war in the air as much as on the ground and on the sea. How hard do you think it would be to remain current on the many changes and advancements in warfare that were taking place even as the war was being fought? What characteristics would a commander need to be able to fight in a war that was so different than any war before it?

Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque

Born on November 22, 1902, in Belloy-Saint-Léonard, France, Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque attended the military schools at Saint-Cyr and Saumur. He was wounded and captured by the Germans in 1939 but escaped to England. When he heard that Charles de Gaulle was gathering the Free French Forces who were in London, he changed his name to Leclerc in order to prevent any retaliation against his wife and children still in France and joined de Gaulle. Charles de Gaulle promoted him to the rank of colonel, and he went on to serve in French Equatorial Africa and achieved many victories. His next promotion was to brigadier general, after which he marched his troops approximately 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from Chad to Tripoli, Libya. He captured garrisons of Italian troops during the march and joined his troops with the British Eighth Army when he arrived. He was commander of the Free French 2nd Armored Division from Morocco. As leader of this division, he commanded people of twenty-two nationalities who worked together as part of the Normandy operations. The 2nd Armored Division participated with Patton's army in the closing of the Falaise pocket. On August 20, 1944, Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the liberation of Paris, and on August 25, the German commander in Paris surrendered to Leclerc. Leclerc continued on in World War II, liberating Strasbourg and later taking his men into Germany. He then fought in the Pacific theater as the head of the French Expeditionary Force in the Far East and signed the Japanese surrender agreement on behalf of France. After the war, he was given the post of inspector general of French forces in North Africa. He died on November 28, 1947, as a result of an airplane crash.

In addition to his bravery and daring, Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque is set apart from many others by his ability to command people and bring them together to fight for a goal. He was able to bring a group that included twenty-two nationalities together into a division that fought with tremendous unity. Today, many seem to have trouble allowing room for people who do not agree with their beliefs. Do you think Leclerc was only successful because of the circumstances of war? Do you feel the times have changed to such a degree that such unity is no longer possible? What traits would it take for someone to be able to unite people in this way? How could someone keep this kind of unity among people of such diversity? Do you think working together for a united goal is still possible?

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

Born on February 24, 1885, in Fredericksburg, Texas, USA, Chester W. Nimitz grew up listening to his grandfather tell stories of his life before he retired as a sea captain. However, Chester Nimitz wanted to be a soldier, not a sailor. Chester wrote to his Congressman to apply for an appointment to West Point. Since all openings to West Point had been filled, he was talked into taking an examination for the U.S. Naval Academy. He took the examination and was accepted and appointed to the Academy in 1901. He left high school to attend the Naval Academy and didn't actually receive a high school diploma until after he had become a Fleet Admiral. In 1905, he graduated seventh in a class of 114 from the Naval Academy, at the age of twenty. He admitted to getting seasick on his first assignment and later in his career, was court martialed for running a destroyer aground on a mud bank. He overcame this setback and was eventually ordered to report for submarine training. By 1912, he was appointed Commander, Atlantic Submarine Flotilla. Serving in different positions throughout his career, Nimitz was sent to Pearl Harbor in 1920 to build a submarine base there. He was then assigned to the Naval War College where he studied the logistics of a potential war in the Pacific Ocean. This would be invaluable to him later. Chester Nimitz filled many positions in the Navy until December 1941, when he was ordered to take command of the Pacific Fleet. He served brilliantly as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, directing many offenses that helped the Allies in their fight against the Japanese forces. He was honored to be chosen to sign the Japanese surrender documents on behalf of the United States aboard the USS *Missouri*. After his service in World War II, Admiral Nimitz served as Chief of Naval Operations, and then in other positions, both with the Navy and in civilian life. He also did much to help restore good relations with Japan by raising money to restore the Japanese battleship *Mikasa*. He died on February 20, 1966.

Chester W. Nimitz never intended to be in the Navy. Yet, when he decided to attend the Naval Academy, it seems he never looked back. In spite of terrible seasickness at first and running a destroyer aground early in his career, he became one of the greatest admirals in navy history. According to an article on the Naval History and Heritage Command website, the yearbook of the Naval Academy described him as a man "of cheerful yesterdays and confident tomorrows."¹ How do you think this outlook helped Nimitz in his career and in his life in general? How would this outlook help someone overcome obstacles and grow in confidence throughout his life? How can the attitude of "confident tomorrows" help nations when they are going through hard times? Do you think most people today think of tomorrow with any type of confidence?

1. <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/biographies-list/bios-n/nimitz-chester-w.html>, accessed 3/12/2018

General Douglas MacArthur

Born on January 26, 1880, in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, Douglas MacArthur was the son of an American Civil War hero. In 1903, he graduated with one of the highest academic records in the history of West Point. He served as chief of staff of the 42nd Division in France in World War I. During this time, he received many medals for bravery and was wounded twice, receiving two Purple Hearts. He advanced in rank in the army until he became a general when he was made army chief of staff in 1930. MacArthur served as military adviser in the Commonwealth of the Philippines, which was preparing for independence. He fought in the defense of the Philippines until he was ordered to Australia in 1942 to command Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific Theater. His troops won many battles in the South Pacific, and he was finally given the support

needed to invade the Philippines in 1944. Shortly after returning to the Philippines, MacArthur was made a five-star general, one of only five men to receive that high rank. MacArthur was appointed commander of all U.S. Army forces in the Pacific in early 1945. He took charge of the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. He was Allied commander of the Japanese occupation from 1945 to 1951. MacArthur then served as commander of the United Nations forces during the Korean War. North Korea was losing the war until Communist Chinese forces joined the war on the side of North Korea. MacArthur wanted to continue the war into China, but President Truman was afraid of starting World War III. MacArthur refused to obey orders not to discuss his disagreement with policy on the war and sent a letter demanding the surrender of the Chinese. He was recalled to the United States and relieved of command. He returned to private life and died on April 5, 1964.

Douglas MacArthur was a brilliant leader of troops during World War II and the Korean War. His troops aided in the liberation of many islands in the South Pacific. As Allied commander of the Japanese occupation from 1945 to 1951, MacArthur worked to help the Japanese people rebuild their country and their lives. He refused pressure to remove Emperor Hirohito from the throne, although in helping to form the new Japanese constitution, MacArthur included sections that outlawed war and gave Japanese women the right to vote. He was very popular with the Japanese people. How hard do you think it would have been to balance the feelings that MacArthur had during World War II when he saw his troops being killed fighting Japanese troops, with the feelings of wanting to help the Japanese people put their lives back together after the war was over? How do you think you would react if you had to change from seeing someone as a mortal enemy one day to helping them rebuild their lives and learn to be successful the next day? Do you think you could do it?

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King

Born on December 17, 1874, in Berlin (now called Kitchener), Ontario, Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie King served as prime minister of Canada longer than any other prime minister has. Many of King's young years were spent at the home his family lived in referred to as "Woodside," where William and his siblings developed a love of the outdoors. His family openly discussed current events along with their family's history.

King attended the University of Toronto and was a very good debater. He was not certain if he wanted to go into law or the ministry and developed an interest in social work. He worked for a newspaper after he graduated and studied law at night, receiving a law degree in 1896. He studied economics and, upon returning to Toronto, investigated labour conditions there and made suggestions to protect clothing workers in Canada. This led to the Fair Wages Resolution, which Parliament passed. In 1897, King received a scholarship from Harvard University. He studied there for two years. The scholarship was renewed in 1899, with the added advantage of being able to study abroad. While he was visiting Rome in 1900, he received a job offer to edit the *Labour Gazette*. It was a difficult decision because he had also been offered a teaching position at Harvard. He chose the editing job. When the *Labour Gazette* was founded, it was the first step in establishing of a Department of Labour in Canada.

In September 1900, King was appointed deputy minister of labour at the age of 25. He became known for his fairness as he traveled through Canada helping settle labour disputes. Canada's industrial relations laws today are still partially based on the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act

of 1907 that King prepared. He was appointed the first full-time minister of labour in 1909. Due to family health problems, King decided to accept a job as the director of the Department of Industrial Relations at the Rockefeller Foundation, although he insisted he be allowed to continue to live in Canada. Within the next eight years, King's father, mother, and brother all died. King was chosen leader of the Liberal Party in 1919. In 1921, William Lyon Mackenzie King became prime minister of Canada.

When King became prime minister, the economy was not doing well. However, with changes he made, in 1924, the government balanced its budget for the first time in eleven years. King also worked to make Canada more independent in its international relations. He did not feel it was necessary to always support British decisions if they were not in the best interests of Canada. Canada established old-age pensions in 1927, and King also tried to get unemployment insurance passed into law, but could not get support. When the depression began in 1929, unemployment became a huge problem for Canada as well as the rest of the world. During King's third term as prime minister, he knew a war was inevitable in Europe. He was fortunate to be surrounded by an effective Cabinet. He allowed those in charge of the military to do their jobs without trying to tell them what to do. He wanted the decision to send troops to be one that was made in Canada, by the Canadian parliament, to be certain that both English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians were represented in the decision. Parliament voted overwhelmingly to participate. In 1942, Canadians voted to allow conscription, but King said he would not draft troops unless absolutely necessary. Canadian units overseas consisted entirely of volunteers, but by late 1944, replacements were badly needed. At that time, King decided to send draftees overseas, and he was supported by Parliament. King worked to become a link between Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom and President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States during the war. He was in a position to understand the views of both countries and helped Churchill and Roosevelt reach agreements on certain issues. He continued to lead Canada until he retired due to poor health in 1948. William Lyon Mackenzie King died on July 22, 1950.

One of the detractions people have raised about William Lyon Mackenzie King was that he did not insist on Canada having a greater influence in deciding policy for the Allies during World War II. Before the United States entered the war in 1941, Canada was the major ally of Britain. It is said King did not want to plan strategy because he did not want to be forced to commit more troops than Canada could supply without resorting to the draft. It was also said the idea of sending drafted troops overseas in World War I had caused major problems for Canada, and King knew this. However, Canada did send a tremendous number of troops overseas, including some draftees before the end of the war, and had very little influence over strategy in the war. How difficult do you think it would be to decide which way to turn on this issue? Would it be better to have little say over the strategy of the war and try to keep your own citizens satisfied, or to take a chance on causing a major crisis in your own country in order to have more say over the way the war was going? What do you think of King's decision?

Charles de Gaulle

Born on November 22, 1890, in Lille, France, Charles de Gaulle had an interest in the military from the time he was a boy. He attended the Military Academy of Saint-Cyr and graduated with honors. He joined an infantry regiment in 1913. Intelligent and hardworking as a soldier, he was very sure of himself in matters and also very courageous. He fought in World War I, was wounded at least three times, and was captured while fighting at Verdun. He spent more than

two and one-half years as a prisoner of war. He made five attempts to escape, but each failed.

He served on the staff of the Supreme War Council beginning in 1925. From 1927 to 1929, he spent time with the army that occupied the Rhineland and saw for himself the danger that could come from German aggression. As a major, he was also very much aware that, at the time, the French defenses were not able to handle German aggression if it came. He began writing about military matters, and in 1934, he wrote a study on military theory that defended the idea of a small professional army, correctly trained and outfitted, being more beneficial than the Maginot Line which had been built along the French-German border. This army could easily move around, fighting with tanks and other forms of machinery. He became very unpopular because his views opposed those of his military superiors. Some German officers studied his views and used tactics similar to those he proposed against the Allies in World War II. He was also proven at least partially correct since Germany attacked Belgium first and then came into France at the end of the Maginot Line, making it basically useless against them.

He held the rank of temporary brigadier general in May 1940, after the outbreak of the war. A courageous leader, he made many trips to England on behalf of the government of Paul Reynaud to discuss the war. Shortly after, the government of Paul Reynaud was replaced with the government of Marshal Petain, who headed the French government while it cooperated with Germany. De Gaulle escaped to England and broadcasted from London his attempt to convince the French to continue the war with him as their leader. In August 1940, a French military court tried and sentenced him to loss of military rank, confiscation of property, and death. Since he was in England, his execution could not be carried out. De Gaulle became a political leader with a few supporters who became the Free French Forces. He organized them in the United Kingdom and in the French colonies. He was unknown to many of the political leaders at the time, but he was very certain in his beliefs and had the qualities of a good leader. He was completely devoted to France and fought for France with all the resources he could gather. The French began to recognize him as a leader because of his broadcasts from England, the work of the Free French Forces, and the work of the French underground, but the Allies did not completely recognize him as a leader until after Paris was liberated in 1944. He returned to Paris with the Allies in 1944, heading two provisional governments until January 1946, when he resigned. Charles de Gaulle became president of the Republic of France on December 21, 1958. He served as president until 1969. He died on November 9, 1970.

At 49 years of age when he was condemned by a military court, lost his rank and property, and was sentenced to death at a trial where he was not present, Charles de Gaulle took the initiative to fight for what he believed in. Some say his continued fighting was out of stubbornness, others that he was so dedicated to France that he would not give up. Regardless, his confidence in what he believed to be the correct road for France to take during World War II helped bring about the French resistance that was so important for the Allies during the fight. What would be the difficulty in organizing and commanding a resistance movement from other countries or through the underground of France? How would you convince others to follow you if you could not be there all of the time to coordinate and command them? Do you think all of the credit goes to de Gaulle's dynamic qualities, or do you think the circumstances of the times had something to do with his ability to draw followers to fight to free France?

Major General Richard N. Gale

Born on July 25, 1896, in London, England, Richard Nelson Gale traveled with his family for many of the early years of his life in Australia and New Zealand. His family returned to England in 1906. After graduating, he wanted to be an officer in the Royal Artillery, but he did not have the grades or physical qualifications to enter the Royal Military Academy. He was determined to enter the British Army, so he attended physical training classes and studied to improve his academic grades. After World War I started, he finally was admitted to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. At the end of 1915, after being commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment as a Second Lieutenant, he applied for a course on training with machine guns. When he was transferred to the Machine Gun Training Centre, he found he had actually applied to join the Machine Gun Corps, and not just to take a course as he thought. He was soon sent to the Western Front. During his service in France, he won the Military Cross for his devotion to duty and his bravery.

After World War I, he volunteered to serve with the British Army in India, staying with the Machine Gun Corps until it was disbanded. Leaving India in 1936, he returned to England. By 1941, he had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded a battalion. When the 1st Parachute Brigade was formed with the expansion of the British airborne forces, Gale was given command of the Brigade. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in May 1943, with just less than one year to organize and train the newly-formed 6th Airborne Division before it was to take part in the British airborne landings in Normandy in June 1944. No British airborne division had ever been sent into battle solely through aerial means. To make it work, there was much planning and tactical work to be done. Gale was very thorough in his work, and the division landed successfully in Normandy before dawn on June 6, 1944, with Major General Gale landing by glider with them. He commanded operations to block the German approach to Sword Beach. When the division returned to England for rest, Gale did not go with them. Instead, he worked with the First Allied Airborne Army and was given command of British I Airborne Corps near the end of the war.

Gale was knighted in 1950. He remained in the British Army until 1957, when he retired, but he was called back to active duty in early 1958. He permanently retired in 1960. Richard Nelson Gale died on July 29, 1982.

Richard Nelson Gale wanted to be in the British Army for much of his life. However, when he first attempted to enter the Royal Military Academy, he did not have the qualifications needed. He had to work extremely hard to meet the qualifications necessary to serve in the British Army. Even with his work, it was his bravery in saving other lives and devotion to duty that made him stand out in World War I. How do you think devotion to duty and care for the lives of others influenced him as he assembled and trained men for their part in the Normandy invasion? How do you think determination to work hard when he was preparing to enter the military academy helped him in the tremendous amount of work he had to do to plan the tactical maneuvers needed to safely land and carry out his mission on D-Day? What does this tell you about looking at your opportunities in a serious manner, as you do not know what they may prepare you for in the future?

Prime Minister Winston Churchill

Born on November 30, 1874, at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England, Winston Churchill was the son of Lord Randolph and Lady Churchill. He spoke with a stutter and a lisp, and his parents did not have much time for him due to the responsibilities of their positions. Although he was the lowest in class ranking in secondary school, it was there his love for the English language began. When his father found Winston was interested in becoming a soldier, he decided it would be good for him to enter the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. It took him three tries to pass the entrance examinations, but once there, he soon led his class in tactics and fortifications. In 1895, he was appointed a second lieutenant in the 4th Hussars, a cavalry regiment. As a soldier, Winston Churchill wanted to be involved in fighting, but his country was not at war at the time. However, the people of Cuba were revolting against the Spanish who ruled them. Churchill arranged to go there as an observer and write articles about the revolt for a newspaper in London. Churchill's regiment was sent to southern India in 1896. In 1897, he learned that fighting had broken out in northwestern India and was hired to report on the fighting. He joined the advance guard and took part in the fighting. After returning to his regiment, he used this experience to write his first book. With his love of adventure, Churchill transferred to Egypt. He took part in the Battle of Omdurman, then, when he returned to England, wrote another book.

He decided to retire from the army and run for office, but he lost. He was hired by a London newspaper to report on the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa. Soon after arriving, the Boers ambushed his train, and Churchill was captured and imprisoned. One night, he scaled the wall of the prison, made it past the sentries, and traveled on freight trains across about 300 miles of enemy territory to safety, suddenly becoming a hero.

Back in England, he again ran for Parliament, and this time, he won. He served in Parliament and in other government positions. In 1911, Churchill was appointed first lord of the Admiralty. The prime minister felt Churchill was one of the few people who thought war with Germany would likely happen and felt Churchill would be the strong leader the Admiralty needed. When the United Kingdom entered World War I, the Admiralty was ready. Churchill resigned from the Admiralty in 1915 after he was blamed for an attack going very badly. He joined the British Army in France until 1917, when he was appointed minister of munitions and began large-scale production of tanks. In 1919, Churchill became secretary of state for war and for air.

He returned to Parliament in 1924, where he remained until 1939. Again, Churchill saw war with Germany coming, but instead of following his suggestions to build up the British Air Force, people called him a warmonger. The need for a powerful British Air Force was seen quickly after the war began. After the United Kingdom entered the war in 1939, Churchill was again appointed first lord of the Admiralty. When Prime Minister Chamberlain's government fell in 1940, King George VI asked Churchill to form a new government. Churchill became prime minister at age 65. The Battle of Britain began with bombing raids on London by the Luftwaffe. The Royal Air Force finally defeated the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain and the bombing in London stopped, but not without a high price on both sides. Churchill argued to try to get certain of the Allies to fight deeper into Europe to stop the Soviet Union from being able to so easily take over certain areas after the war, but he could not get cooperation. After the surrender of Germany, Churchill's party was defeated in the elections, and he was no longer prime minister.

Churchill still had his seat in parliament and warned people against the threat of communism, but was again accused of being a warmonger. The term "Iron Curtain" actually came into

common use after a speech Churchill gave in 1946, when he spoke of the iron curtain that had descended across the Continent. When Churchill's party returned to power in 1951, Churchill again became prime minister. He was almost 77 years old at the time. He suffered a stroke in 1953 that paralyzed him on his left side, but amazingly recovered. Later that year, he won the Nobel Prize in literature. In April 1955, Churchill retired. He was made an honorary U.S. citizen in 1963. On January 24, 1965, Winston Churchill died.

As a boy, Winston Churchill's grades in school were not good, and he did not seem to have the drive to improve them until he decided to work harder at the Royal Military College. From this beginning, one of the world's most brilliant leaders came about. How often do you think a student's apparent lack of ability is really a lack of interest in the work being presented? Do you think presenting things in a way that interests the student would lead to an increase in drive and therefore what would seem to be an increase in ability? How often do you think talents lay hidden in people because the right circumstances have not been presented to bring them out? What do you think can be done to find ways to help people work to their fullest potential? How can attitudes be changed to help bring out the best in people?

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Born on October 14, 1890, in Denison, Texas, USA, Dwight D. Eisenhower was raised in Kansas, where his family moved when he was still a baby. Dwight worked, with his brothers, from the time he was young to contribute to the family's income. After graduating from high school, Dwight helped pay his older brother's first-year college expenses and did not have specific plans for a higher education himself. He was encouraged to apply to the national military academies because the tuition was free. A Kansas senator got Eisenhower an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. When Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915 as a second lieutenant, he was assigned to Fort Sam Houston, near San Antonio, Texas. He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1916.

During World War I, Eisenhower worked with tank training programs for troops in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. After World War I, Eisenhower served in the Panama Canal Zone and then applied for admission to the Army's Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He graduated first in a class of 275 top officers. As an aide to General Douglas MacArthur, Eisenhower spent time in the Philippines.

In 1940, after the start of World War II, the United States began to prepare its military forces in case they were needed. In 1941, Eisenhower was appointed to plan strategy for the Third Army in war games. His efforts in this earned him a promotion to brigadier general. After the United States entered the war in December 1941, Eisenhower served in the Army's war plans division. He was promoted to major general, then, in June 1942, named commanding general of the U.S. forces in the European Theater of Operations. By July 1942, Eisenhower had been promoted to lieutenant general and named commander of the Allied forces invading North Africa. By February 1943, he was made a four-star general, the highest rank in the Army at that time. When it was time to organize Operation Overlord to plan the Allied invasion of Europe across the English Channel, Eisenhower was named supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe. The decision of when to carry out Operation Overlord was difficult because it was very much dependent upon the weather and the need for calm seas. The date to invade was not decided upon until the day before the invasion. D-Day occurred on June 6, 1944. Eleven

months later, after much fighting and many deaths, Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945. By the time he returned from the war, Eisenhower had been made a five-star general, a newly created rank in the Army, and wanted to retire. He finally retired from active military service in 1948, but was called back in 1950 to be supreme commander of NATO forces in Europe.

Eisenhower was encouraged to run for president. Upon learning that President Truman was not going to seek another term, he decided to retire from the army without pay or military benefits and become a candidate for president. Eisenhower won two terms as president of the United States. In 1961, he retired to his farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He died on March 28, 1969.

Dwight D. Eisenhower grew up in America at a time when technology was not prevalent. He learned from a friend how to compute percentages and figure odds. He was very observant and an extremely good judge of character. He was not judgmental, but observant enough to be able to “read” people. He had a good idea how they would react to different situations. Do you think this trait is common in people today? Do you think the reliance upon technology has lessened the ability of people to use their powers of observation, since much communication is done via phone and internet? Do you think the reliance upon technology for computing outcomes has reduced the need for people to rely on their own skills for thinking things through and weighing all possible outcomes? In other words, is it easier to rely on computer simulations than to have to think through all of the variables that could influence an outcome? Explain your thoughts on these matters.

Prime Minister Peter Fraser

Born on August 28, 1884, in Fearn, Scotland, Peter Fraser served as prime minister of New Zealand during World War II. Peter left school when he was young because he needed to help his family. He apprenticed as a carpenter but had to quit due to poor eyesight. After moving to London and failing to find work, he moved to Auckland, New Zealand, on January 2, 1911. His forceful speaking skills and talent for organization served him well while he worked on the wharves and with the workers and their unions. In 1911, his work brought better wages and working conditions to the Portland Cement Company. Two years later, he moved to Wellington and found work on the wharves there. In 1916, as a member of the Labour Party, he opposed the military draft and was arrested, along with other members of the party, for inciting rebellion. After serving a year in prison, he worked as a journalist, was active in politics, and was elected to Parliament in 1918, where he served the rest of his life.

Peter Fraser was elected to Parliament during difficult times. World War I had just ended with the Treaty of Versailles. He had opposed the treaty’s terms because he believed they would lead to more wars. He also thought the League of Nations was a bad idea because it recognized governments instead of people. A terrible influenza epidemic broke out in 1918 as well. His consistent work to organize relief efforts earned him a great deal of respect.

In 1933, Fraser became deputy to the head of the Labour Party under its leader Michael Savage. When Mr. Savage became prime minister, Fraser took on many important responsibilities. He started a routine that he maintained the rest of his life—rising at 6 a.m. and working from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. He worked to improve education in New Zealand, pass social security, and found the health care system. When Prime Minister Savage was diagnosed with cancer and had to have surgery in 1939, Fraser became acting Prime Minister. When Mr. Savage died in 1940, Fraser

was elected as his official successor.

Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and the United Kingdom declared war on Germany. New Zealand declared war on Germany later the same day. Prime Minister Fraser met with Winston Churchill and Bernard Freyberg and immediately realized this war would not involve only the armed forces, but the entire nation as well. He had a very hard time delegating authority to others and tried to do everything himself. He focused his attention on World War II, introduced very strict censorship rules, and introduced the military draft, which he had opposed as a younger man. He felt conscription was necessary to supply the troops needed for the war. The troops from New Zealand mainly served in Europe and North Africa. Prime Minister Fraser's deep concern for the New Zealand troops led him to make it very clear that any plans for action that involved New Zealand troops must be reported to the government of New Zealand. When Pearl Harbor was attacked and the Japanese began moving through the Pacific with acts of aggression, many people in New Zealand wanted the troops brought home to defend the country. The military advisors for the Allies thought the forces from New Zealand should stay where they were already fighting. Fraser agreed and persuaded Parliament to support him, demonstrating his exceptionally strong leadership skills. Fraser also tried to strengthen ties between New Zealand and the other Allied nations. He appointed his deputy as minister to the United States and also formed stronger ties with Australia.

Prime Minister Fraser was one of the representatives who signed the charter of the United Nations in 1945. He also chaired the committee that wrote the part of the charter founding the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations and fought strongly for the principles he believed in. He worked with the Māori about their concerns and played an influential part in the passage of the Māori Social and Economic Advancement Act. Fraser also wanted compulsory military training in New Zealand to make the country able to contribute to any war efforts that may come in the future. Peter Fraser was defeated as Prime Minister in 1949, but he remained leader of the Labour Party until he died on December 12, 1950.

It has been said that when Peter Fraser had decisions to make involving international questions, he tried to ground his views on the principles of morality. Once he made up his mind, he held onto the decisions he made. His judgment was extremely intuitive, and his ability to cope with the huge responsibilities of war were unequaled by most other politicians of the time in New Zealand. He was very determined to place the interests of the nation above the interests of political parties. If you were running for office and had to make the decision to stand for what you believe in or what your political party stands for, how hard do you think it would be to go against your party in this day and age? Do you think it would be more difficult to make a stand for your own beliefs today than it was for Peter Fraser during his time in politics? Why or why not?

Chiang Kai-shek

Born on October 31, 1887, in Chekiang province, China, Chiang Kai-shek prepared for a military career from 1906 to 1911. He served in the Japanese army from 1909 to 1911 and became a revolutionary. When he heard reports of fighting in China, he returned and helped overthrow the Manchu Dynasty. The new government struggled, and Yuan Shikai became president. The country began dividing among warlords, and in 1918, Chiang joined Sun Yat-sen, whose goal was to reunify China. Chiang visited the Soviet Union in 1923 to study life there, especially the

Red Army. After his return to China, he became commandant of a military academy styled after the Soviet Union model. Soviet advisers came into China, and the Chinese communists became much more powerful. When Sun Yat-sen died in 1925, Chiang was the strongest of the followers of Sun, with a large army behind him. At times, he was forceful with the Soviets, and he was lenient at other times. In 1927, he finally broke with the communists and threw them out of the Nationalist Party.

He went far in reunifying China, and in 1928, his forces entered Beijing and established a new central government. In October 1930, Chiang became a Christian. As head of the new government, he worked toward reform, but it did not progress very far at first. The warlords continued to dispute his authority, and the communists moved to rural areas and formed their own army and government. In addition to these problems, war with Japan seemed imminent. Chiang decided not to try to stop the Japanese invasion until after he had stopped the communists, but many disagreed with him. In 1936, Chiang was taken captive by one of his own generals who wanted to stop the Japanese invasion. He was released when he agreed to ally with the communists to fight the Japanese. In 1937, the Sino-Japanese War between China and Japan began. China fought without formal aid until the Allies declared war on Japan in 1941. Chiang Kai-shek's position in China weakened during World War II, but his status grew internationally. He met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Cairo in 1943. He became a member of the Big Four with Roosevelt, Churchill, and Joseph Stalin. By the end of World War II, Chiang Kai-shek's government was decaying, and it continued to do so at an alarming rate as civil war broke out in 1946. By 1949, The People's Republic of China was established and Chiang moved to Taiwan with the remaining part of his Nationalist forces. The United States supported the government of Chiang in Taiwan until 1972, when the United States began moving toward recognizing the People's Republic of China. By 1979, the United States had broken ties with Taiwan in order to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Chiang Kai-shek died on April 5, 1975.

During the early fighting with the Japanese, before the Allies gave formal aid to China in 1941, Chiang Kai-shek felt it was more important fight the communists than to fight the Japanese. What do you think of that plan? Do you think he would have been more successful if he had fought both enemies at the same time? Do you think Chiang invited the problems he had with the eventual communist take-over by allying with them early in his career? What, if anything, do you think could have been done differently? Do you think the people of China would have had better lives under the rule of Chiang Kai-shek than they did under Communist rule?

Prime Minister John Curtin

Born to Irish immigrants on January 8, 1885, in Creswick, Victoria, Australia, John Curtin left school at an early age to work and help support his family. At night, he studied many things at the public library, including political works. He worked with labor parties and unions for better working conditions, better wages, and better living conditions for workers. He opposed Australia's participation in World War I and was jailed for refusing to register for the military draft. In 1917, Curtin became editor of a weekly newspaper. He became a leader in the labor movement in Western Australia, and in 1924, he was a labor movement representative at the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. He won a seat in the Australian House of Representatives in 1928, but because of political changes due to the depression, Curtin went back to writing articles for the newspaper.

He again won a seat in the House in 1934. As World War II came closer, he initially did not think Australia should take part in world affairs, though he later came to support participation in the war but opposed the military draft. In 1941, due to changes in the government, the governor general asked Curtin and his party to form a new government and swore him in as prime minister. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Australia declared war on Japan without waiting to follow the lead of the United Kingdom as it had done in declaring war on Germany. Since Australia faced invasion by the Japanese, Prime Minister Curtin was forced to reluctantly resort to military draft. He rejected the British strategy for Australian troops, which allowed them to fight in a successful defense of New Guinea. He also put General Douglas MacArthur in charge of Australia's defense forces. In 1942, John Curtin became the first Australian prime minister to address the American people when he did so with a radio broadcast on March 14. As with many areas, a certain amount of complacency set in during parts of the war. Curtin's efforts to sustain the war effort won, and the nation began to cooperate much more effectively. In Australia, Prime Minister Curtin began clothing and food rationing and raised many taxes. He also moved some of the authority for taxing from the states to the Commonwealth. He lowered the voting age for those who had served in the military outside Australia and expanded social services. Curtin worked to enact policies that allowed the government to control commercial broadcasting, allowed women to hold jobs that had previously been available only to men, gave the government control over interest rates, and regulated the dairy industry. Prime Minister Curtin worked to strengthen ties with the United Kingdom and to plan for the world after the war. Curtin had many health problems as time went on and died in office on July 5, 1945.

After his death, Australian Prime Minister John Curtin was described as "receptive and perceptive," "best and fairest," "one of the greatest Australians ever," and someone "who considered everybody." How difficult would it be to be considered fair and still be someone who tried to consider everyone in your decisions? Wouldn't there be one group or another who felt their feelings or situations were not being taken in to account? Do you think feelings of people not considering the opinions of others is more prevalent today than it was during the time John Curtin was prime minister? Do you think people were more open to the fact that working for the good of the whole nation, as John Curtin did, was truly the fairest way that benefited everyone, than they are today? If so, what has changed?

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Franklin Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York, USA. Though his family was wealthy, the values of caring for the poor and showing his love for God in service for other people were instilled in him at an early age. He did well in school, and in 1900, he enrolled in Harvard University. After graduation, he enrolled in Columbia Law School, but left before he earned his degree. He did manage to pass the state bar examination and became a clerk with a law firm in New York City. He became engaged to a distant cousin, Eleanor Roosevelt, in 1903, and they married in 1905. Eleanor's uncle, President Theodore Roosevelt gave her away at the wedding. Franklin Roosevelt ran for a seat in the New York State Senate and won, beginning his term at the age of 29. In 1912, Franklin Roosevelt supported Woodrow Wilson for president, and after Wilson's election, was appointed assistant secretary of the Navy. Roosevelt learned a great deal about national politics while in this position. He tried to bring reforms to navy yards and learned to negotiate with labor unions while in this position.

During World War I, Roosevelt toured European battlefields and met with military leaders. Although he lost in his attempt to be elected vice president in 1920, he made many contacts with party leaders that would help him with his political ambitions in the future. In 1921, while on vacation with his family, Roosevelt was stricken with polio. Although only 39 years old, Roosevelt was paralyzed from the waist down and for the rest of his life could only walk with heavy leg braces. His wife worked to keep his name in the public scene while he was beginning his recovery. He tried every available treatment but was never fully cured. He did not give up. He did strenuous exercise, used heavy leg braces, and had a car made he could drive just with hands. He forbade pictures that showed him unable to do certain things so people would not know just how serious the polio was. Many did not know how serious his polio was until after his death. He helped found the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, an organization that eventually supported the research that resulted in a vaccine for polio.

In 1928, Roosevelt ran for governor of New York and won. When the Great Depression hit, he started an unemployed relief system in New York. He used the radio to tell the public why help for the unemployed was necessary. In 1930, he was reelected governor of New York, and in 1932, he won the Democratic nomination for president. He flew to Chicago for the Democratic National Convention and became the first candidate of a major party to accept the nomination in person. Roosevelt won the presidency in an election against then-President Herbert Hoover.

Roosevelt began his term by dealing with the banking crisis. He kept the people informed with fireside chats he hosted on the radio to explain what was going on. Although things began to improve, the improvement was slow. People became dissatisfied, and Roosevelt immediately worked to stop the unrest. Through the passage of many acts and an increase in goodwill and trade with other countries, Roosevelt did what he thought was best to improve the lives of the people. In the election of 1936, Roosevelt won the presidency again. As with his first term, there were many ups and downs in the nation, but the biggest threat was the beginning of World War II. Although trying to stay out of the war itself, the United States changed its neutrality law and also began spending more on defense. Roosevelt also negotiated a deal with Britain where the United States would give fifty destroyers to Britain in exchange for 99-year leases on certain British naval bases. The first peacetime military draft law began in 1940. Roosevelt ran for president a third time and promised to try to keep the United States out of the war. He won by a large margin. In the beginning of 1941, the president was given the power to give war supplies to any nation he felt was important to the security of the United States. Roosevelt also met with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and they adopted what was later called the Atlantic Charter. This declaration stated certain goals of the United States and the United Kingdom prior to the United States being involved in World War II. President Roosevelt was concerned that the actions of the Japanese in the Pacific would cause Britain to have to fight on another front and make it harder to fight the war in Europe. He imposed economic sanctions on Japan which made the relationship between the two countries very tense. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the U.S. Fleet that was anchored in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Many people were killed and much of the naval and air resources of the United States in Pearl Harbor were destroyed.

The United States declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941, and the United States declared war on those countries also. At this point, Germany and Japan were already very close to winning the war. Roosevelt made his first priority the defeat of Germany. Roosevelt agreed with Winston Churchill that the first joint offensive should be to drive the Axis from North Africa. Others thought the best first joint offensive would be to invade across the English Channel into France.

After the offensives in North Africa began, Roosevelt spoke by radio to the French people and explained to them in their own language why it was necessary to begin the offensives in North Africa and not in France. During World War II, Roosevelt became the first President of the United States to travel outside the country during wartime. There were many meetings between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Joseph Stalin, with these leaders becoming known as the "Big Three." At home, Roosevelt continued his fireside chats to encourage the military and the civilians to meet the goals that were set to win such a worldwide war. Roosevelt was often at odds with other lawmakers during this time, but he was granted a great amount of authority to manage the military aspects of the war. Although Roosevelt was generally in favor of civil rights, political pressure convinced him to order the internment of more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry in the United States.

Roosevelt was nominated for president for a fourth time in 1944, with Harry S. Truman running as his vice president. Roosevelt had been diagnosed with advanced heart disease, but he managed to convince people he was back in shape to run the country. He easily won reelection. The Big Three met at Yalta, located on the Black Sea, just days after Roosevelt was inaugurated for his fourth term. At this meeting, they planned the final assault against Germany and developed a postwar plan for Germany. They also planned to meet in San Francisco to begin the foundation of the United Nations. In March 1945, President Roosevelt took a break and visited his retreat called the "Little White House." Eleanor had a demanding schedule and did not join him, but several staff members and cousins were with him on the trip. He seemed to be regaining some strength, but on April 12, 1945, he said he had a terrible headache and slumped in his chair. He died shortly after.

Franklin Roosevelt was loved by many people around the world and, at the same time, was very disliked by others. He led the United States through two very dark times in its history, but many felt that he extended the powers of the federal government beyond what was allowed by the Constitution. In either case, however, it is thought by many that he was brilliant and able to work with leaders of many different views within the government. What do you see in Franklin Roosevelt's life that points to the fact that he would be such an influential president? How much of the success of the United States, at home and abroad during World War II, do you think can be attributed to Franklin Roosevelt's influence? Do you think the citizens of the United States would have rallied around any president as they did Franklin Roosevelt? Why or why not?

Admiral Louis Mountbatten

Born on June 25, 1900, in Windsor, England, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Mountbatten was the great grandson of Queen Victoria. His family name had been Battenberg, a very German name, but it was changed in 1917 to Mountbatten due to anti-German feeling during World War I. He received his education mainly at home until 1913 when he began attending the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. In 1916 he joined the Royal Navy and served in World War I for a short time. After World War I, he attended Cambridge University for a year. After specializing in communications while going forward with his naval career, he received his first command in 1934. In 1939, a short time before World War II began, he began his command of a flotilla of destroyers that fought in the Mediterranean Sea. Lord Mountbatten commanded the destroyer *Kelly*, which was sunk during an attack by twenty-four German bombers. However, Mountbatten swam to shore and commanded the rescue efforts. In 1942, Lord Mountbatten was appointed chief of combined operations and helped with the preparation of the invasion of Europe. During

this time, he also organized raids against the coastline of Europe. In 1943, he was named supreme allied commander, South East Asia Command (SEAC), a position he held until 1946. He took part in the defeat of the move of the Japanese toward India and the reconquering of Burma. In 1945, he received the Japanese surrender at Singapore. After the war, he served as viceroy of India while he oversaw the British withdrawal in order for India to become an independent nation. He then became governor-general of India until June 1948. Mountbatten returned to the Royal Navy in 1953 and then retired from the navy in 1965. On August 27, 1979, Lord Mountbatten died when his boat was blown up by IRA terrorists.

It has been said that Lord Mountbatten was an extremely good negotiator. He negotiated independence for both India and Pakistan after being unable to convince them to remain united as one country. How do you think his time commanding troops in World War II and his time as supreme allied commander, South East Asia Command, helped him develop as a negotiator? Explain your answer.

Bonus Questions

1. Choose two of the leaders from the biographies presented. Using a little more research if necessary, compare and contrast their upbringings. How do you feel the similarities or differences between their upbringings impacted their leadership during World War II?
2. During World War II, Australia was still a fairly new independent nation. It had followed the lead of Great Britain for many years. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Prime Minister John Curtin declared war on Japan before Britain did. How difficult do you think it would have been on the part of Australia, after years of being led by Britain, to step out and make a move that included declaring war and rejecting the British strategy for Australian troops in the war?
3. Sir Frank Horton Berryman was born on April 11, 1894, in Victoria, Australia. After World War II, he worked with drives to send food parcels to Britain. How do you think it made Britain feel, as a country who had played a large part in Australia's history, to then need and receive help from Australia at a time their citizens were recovering from the war?
4. Look at the following facts concerning five of the leaders of World War II:

Admiral Andrew Browne Cunningham, born in 1883, commanded the British destroyer HMS *Scorpion* in World War I.

General Dwight Eisenhower, born in 1890, directed tank training programs in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during World War I.

Major General Richard N. Gale, born in 1896, served on the Western Front in World War I.

British Air Marshal Arthur William Tedder, born in 1890, served with the British army and the RAF in World War I.

Lieutenant General Bernard Montgomery, born in 1887, was wounded twice while serving in World War I.

Of these five leaders, only Dwight Eisenhower did not fight in World War I. Do more research if necessary and tell why you think Eisenhower was chosen to be the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War II. What were his qualifications, and what was the feeling of the other commanders who served with him concerning his decisions?

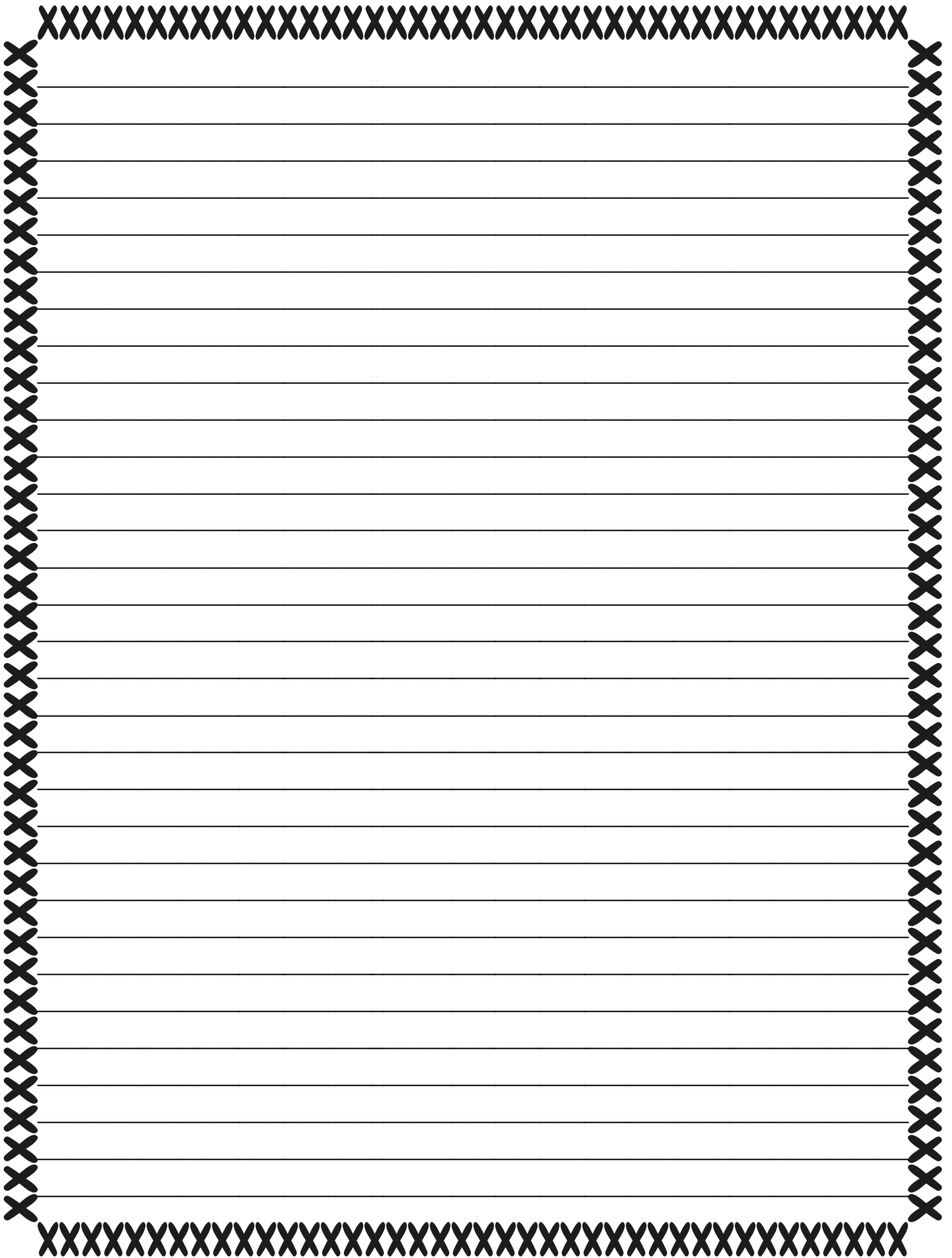


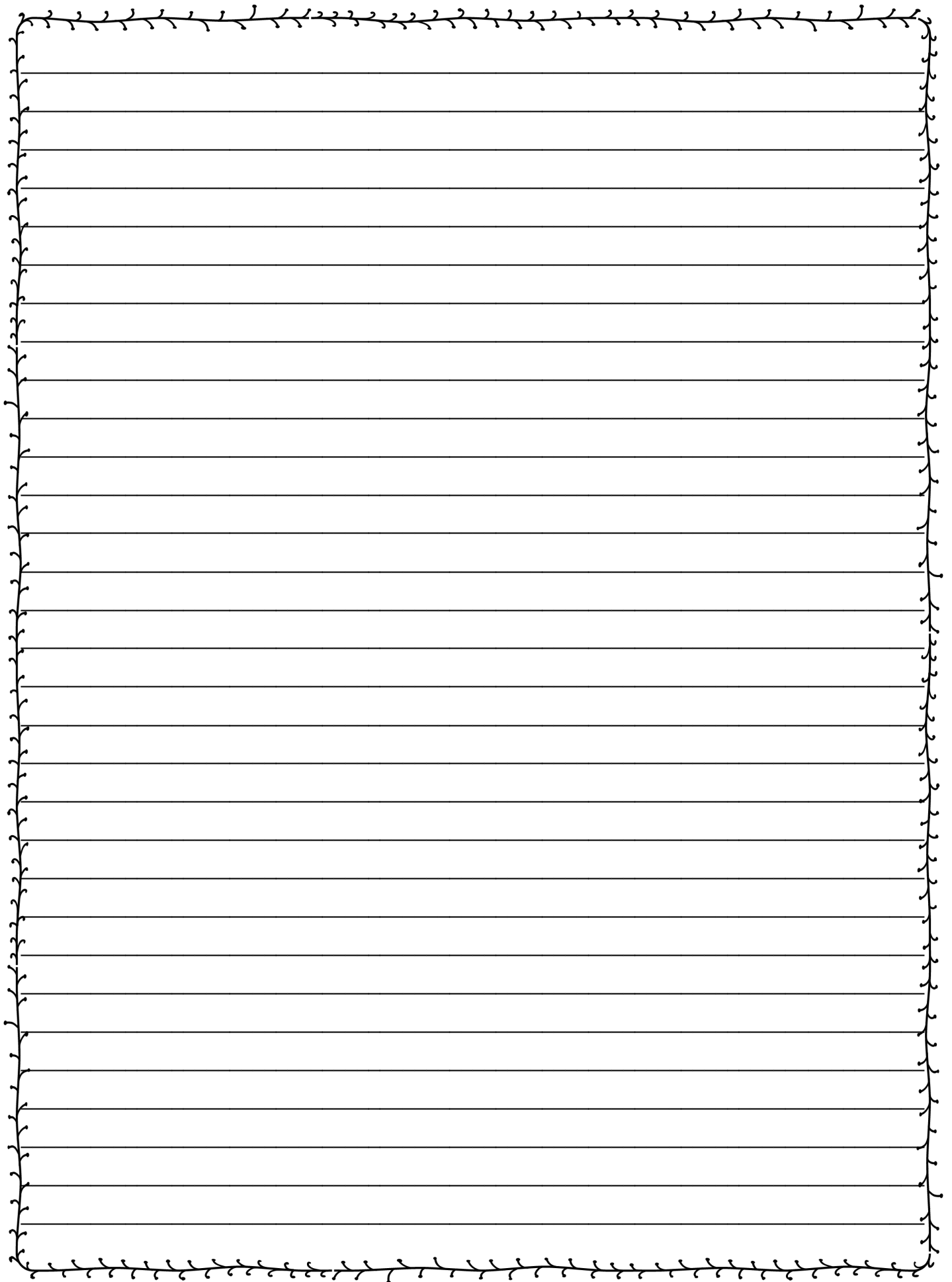


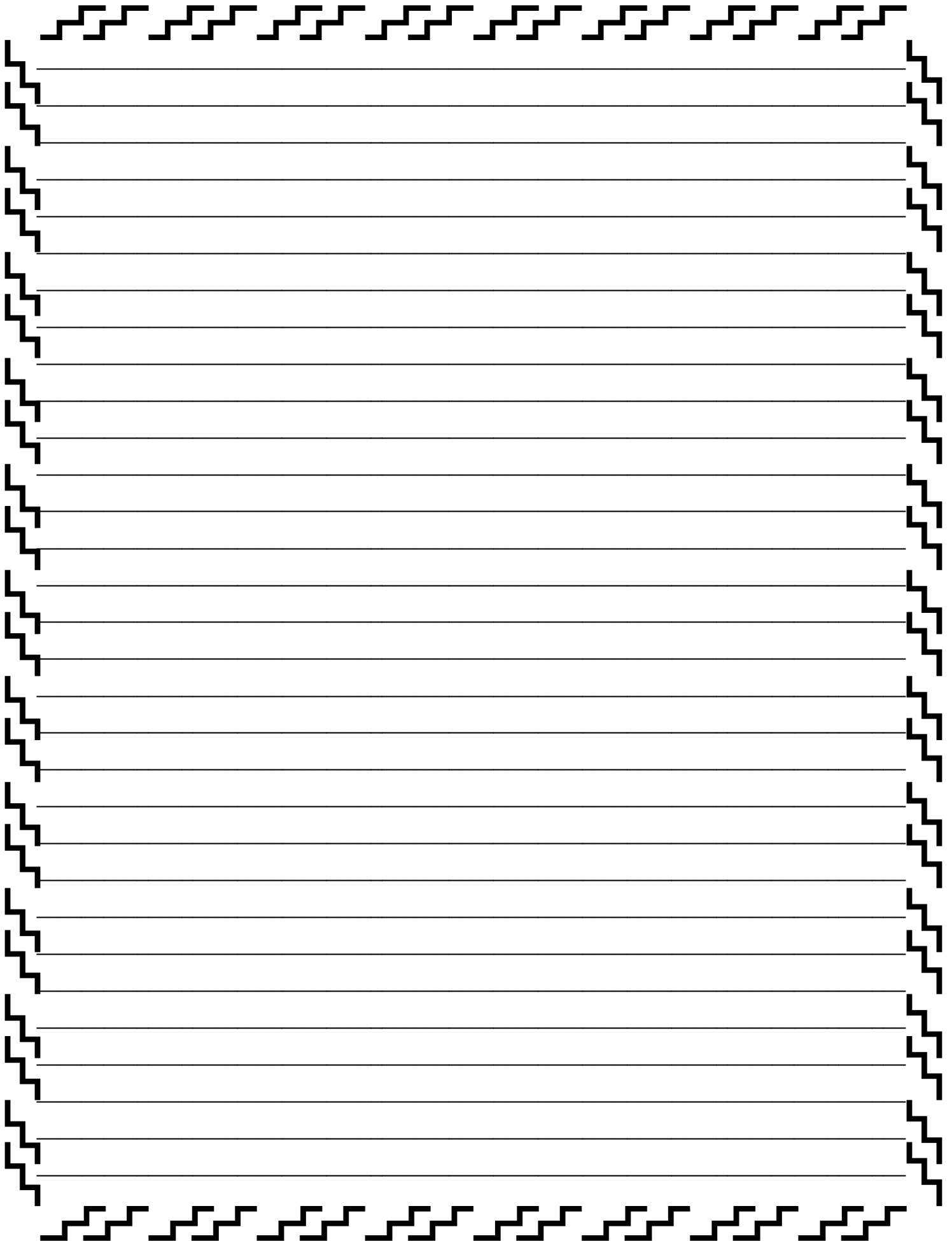
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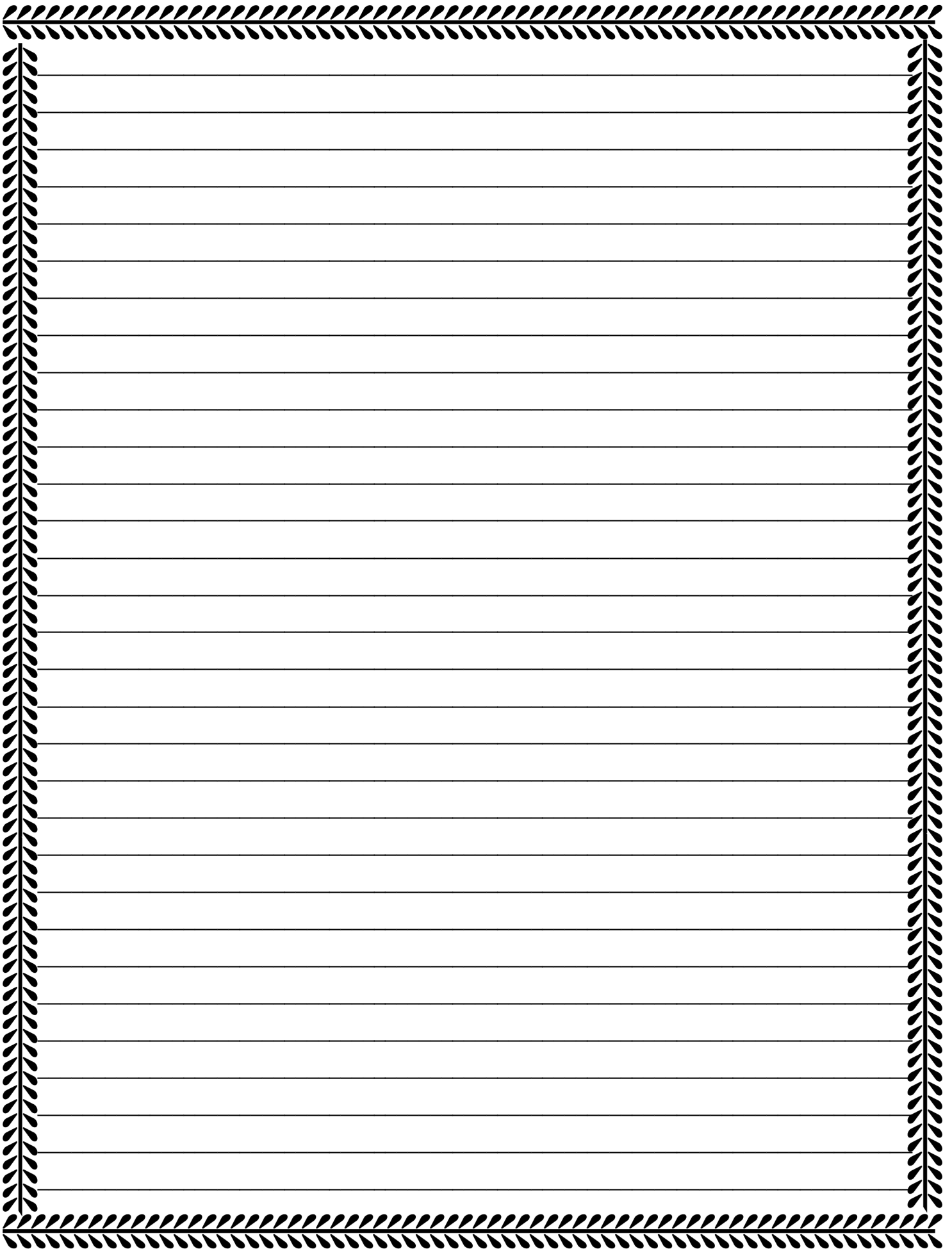


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