Mr. Gorham Name:

Modern American History

*Second World War Block:*

**End of World War II, 1944-1945**

This final lecture of the WWII Unit moves quickly and includes some video and images, so I wanted to highlight the items from this lesson that will be on the exam (these were also in the review materials I provided to you several weeks ago).

**Europe**

**D-Day**: The massive Allied amphibious assault on Nazi-occupied France, June 6, 1944.

**Battle of the Bulge**: The last German offensive of the war. Took place December 1944 to Feb. 1945 through the Ardennes Forest of Belgium. Marked by savage fighting that recalled the Eastern Front.

**Carpet Bombing:** Allied policy to bomb entire areas of Germany, rather than just military targets. To stop Germans from manufacturing weapons of war and to stop the German people from supporting the war.

**Death of FDR**: April 12, 1945. His Vice President Harry Truman took the oath of office and became the 33d president.

Germany surrendered May 7, 1945. The Third Reich, which Hitler dreamed would last 1,000 years, had lasted twelve years.

**The Pacific**

**Midway**: June 4, 1942. The titanic battle of Aircraft Carrier Fleets in the middle of the Pacific Ocean that resulted in the sinking of FOUR Japanese carriers. From this point on, Japan is defending itself rather than attacking other locations.

**Island-Hopping**: American strategy after Midway is to go island by island, landing Marines on each Japanese possession and ridding the island of Japanese defenders. Very bloody as Japanese do not surrender.

**Iwo Jima/Okinawa**: The last two battles of the island-hopping campaign were on the Japanese home islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. EXTREMELY bloody battles for both defenders and American Marines. Japanese defenders were fanatical, suicidal.

**Firebombing**: Curtis LeMay, the Army Air Corps General decided to use incendiary (fire) bombs to force Japan to surrender. Very controversial policy that killed more Japanese civilians than the atomic bomb attacks.

**Atomic Attacks**. Hiroshima bombed on August 6, and Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, finally forced Japan’s Emperor Hirohito to surrender.