How was life back in the United States affected by World War II?

1) The Draft
   - **The Selective Training and Service Act (1940)**
     The bill was the nation’s first peacetime draft. Under this law 16 million men between 21 and 35 were registered. Of these, 1 million were to be drafted for one year but were only allowed to serve in the Western Hemisphere. Roosevelt himself drew the first draft numbers.
   - December, 1941: After Pearl Harbor 5 million people volunteered for military service.
   - 10 million more needed so the Selective Service System expanded the draft.
   - **GI:** The initials GI originally stood for “galvanized iron” but were later interpreted as “government issue,” meaning uniforms and supplies. In time the abbreviation came to stand for American soldiers.

2) Industry Changes
   - February 1942: No more automobile production for private use. Automobile plants were fitted to produce tanks, planes, boats, and command cars.
   - Most factories were converted to war production. i.e. soft drink company converted from filling bottles with liquid to filling shells with explosives.

3) Rationing and Changes at Home
   - Because many consumer goods were hard to come by in a time of war, their prices increased. **The Office of Price Administration (OPA)** set the prices of certain goods to keep inflation down. The OPA also established a system where households would receive **ration** books with coupons to be used for buying such scarce goods as meat, shoes, sugar, coffee, and gasoline.
   - **War Production Board (WPB)**- decided which companies would convert from peacetime to wartime production and allocated raw materials to key industries. The WPB organized nationwide drives to collect scrap iron, tin cans, paper, rags, and cooking fat for recycling into war goods.
   - Citizens were asked to help themselves and the nation by creating **Victory Gardens**. Back yards, empty lots, patios, and more were turned into these gardens.
4) War Bonds

- People were encouraged to support the war effort by buying war bonds. This money would be used by the government and paid back to the citizens later.

Why is it important to buy war bonds?

Who is in the cage and why are they there?
5) Women

- At war: **Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC)** - women volunteers could serve in noncombat positions. Women worked as nurses, ambulance drivers, radio operators, electricians, pilots
- At home: More than 6 million women went to work to support the war industries.

**Women during World War II**

![Rosie the Riveter Steps Out](adapted)

In this cartoon, the main idea is that after World War II, many women might

a. insist that men be given back their pre-World War jobs
b. resist a return to their traditional role as homemakers
c. demanded the right to serve in combat in future wars
d. demanded the right to vote and to seek public office

Why were women needed in the labor force?

What will happened after the war?
6) Blacks and other minorities
- **At War:** About one million African-Americans were drafted and served in segregated units during World War II. Most African-American soldiers were limited to noncombat roles. 300,000 Mexican Americans, 13,000 Chinese Americans, more than 33,000 Japanese Americans, and 25,000 Native Americans fought for the U.S.
- **At Home:** Defense factories hired minority workers in record numbers. A. Philip Randolph led a march on Washington in July, 1941 with the slogan, “We Loyal Colored Americans Demand the Right to Work and Fight for Our Country.” Roosevelt agreed and issued an executive order calling on employers and labor unions “to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.” The war triggered a massive migration of African-Americans from the south to the north to find jobs in factories in cities.

7) Propaganda
- Government and private media outlets published propaganda to encourage people to support the war effort.

![Propaganda Cartoon]

Whose faces are depicted in the cartoon?

How can this be prevented according to Dr. Seuss?
What is this poster asking citizens to do?

How will this benefit the citizens?

What are we supposed to remember?

What is on the sleeve of the Japanese dignitary?

What two things did they do on December 7?
8) The Manhattan Project

- 1941: Roosevelt created the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) to bring scientists into the war effort. They improved sonar, radar, created new technologies, used pesticides to fight insects, pushed for “miracle drugs” like penicillin.
- When Albert Einstein warned Roosevelt that the Germans were working on a bomb, Roosevelt created an Advisory Committee on Uranium to study how to split uranium atoms. Much of the early research for the atomic bomb was done at Columbia University in Manhattan, earning its nickname, The Manhattan Project.
- J. Robert Oppenheimer led the development of the atomic bomb. It was a project kept very secret. Even the people working on it didn’t necessarily know that an atomic bomb was the goal.
- First test of the atomic bomb took place on July 16, 1945 in New Mexico’s desert.

9) Internment of Japanese-Americans

- 120,000 Japanese lived in the United States, most of them on the west coast.
- Frightened and panicked people believed false rumors that the Japanese were planning to sabotage the United States at home by poisoning farms and attacking harbors.
- February 9, 1942: President Roosevelt signed Executive Order #9066 requiring the removal of people of Japanese ancestry from California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona.
- 100,000 Japanese Americans were shipped to “relocation centers” or prison camps. Many had to sell their businesses and homes at a great loss and give up most of their possessions.
- 2/3 of these Japanese Americans were American citizens, most with brothers, fathers, and uncles serving in the armed forces.
- In the 1944 Supreme Court Case of Korematsu v. United States, the Supreme Court decided that the government’s policy was constitutional because it was a “military necessity.”
- In 1988 President Reagan signed a bill which gave $20,000 to every Japanese-American that had been sent to an internment camp. The money was sent 2 years later with a letter from President Bush.

1. Heart Mountain (Heart Mountain, Wyoming) = 10,767
2. Poston (Poston, Arizona) = 17,811
3. Manzanar (Manzanar, California) = 10,526
4. Tule Lake (Tule Lake, California) = 18,789
5. Mochiwa (Mochiwa, California) = 7,318
6. Topaz (Topaz, Utah) = 8,130
7. Granada (Granada, California) = 8,497
8. Minot (Minot, North Dakota) = 8,207
9. Minidoka (Minidoka, Idaho) = 8,130
10. Jerome (Jerome, Arizona) = 8,497

San Francisco News — March 6, 1942