

Name _____

Global 10

Period _____

Stalingrad Primary Documents

Directions: Read the following primary documents and complete the accompanying questions.

*Save me a fragment of violent foam
save me a rifle, save a plow for me
and let them place it at my grave
with a red ear of grain from your soil,
that it be known, if there be any doubt,
that I died loving you and you loved me,
and if I did not fight in your waist
I leave in your honor this dark grenade,
this song of love for Stalingrad.*

“A New Love Song to Stalingrad”, Pablo Neruda

"My hands are done for, and have been ever since the beginning of December. The little finger of my left hand is missing and - what's even worse - the three middle fingers of my right one are frozen. I can only hold my mug with my thumb and little finger. I'm pretty helpless; only when a man has lost any fingers does he see how much he needs then for the smallest jobs. The best thing I can do with the little finger is to shoot with it. My hands are finished."

-Anonymous German soldier

1. How does the future look for the soldiers mentioned in the first document? What is the poem explain that they are to do?
2. Could the poem in the first document be considered propaganda? Why or why not?

3. What aspect of Russia's climate do you believe the German soldier is suffering from in the second document?

4. Based on your understanding of both documents, how do you think the Russian and German armies viewed their soldiers? Were they concerned over their well-being?

5. Using prior knowledge, list another issue that the German army faced during the Battle of Stalingrad besides the one mentioned in the second document.