Guided Document Discussion Questions

Map, *Allied Strategy in Italy, January 1944*
U.S. Center of Military History

Map, *Anzio, The Landing, January 22, 1944*
U.S. Center of Military History

1. Geographically, where in Italy is the Anzio Beachhead located?

2. List and describe two geographic features in this area that would make combat difficult for an American soldier.

3. How “deep” (long) is the fighting area from the beachhead to the front? How wide? Hint: use the scales and legends on the maps to help you answer this question.

4. According to these maps, what challenges would a soldier face while fighting on the Anzio Beachhead?
Guided Document Discussion Questions cont.

Jack Foisie, “Engineers Build Airfield at Beachhead in 4 Days,” February 9, 1944
*Stars and Stripes*

1. How was this work at Anzio a feat of engineering?

2. What types of hazards did the engineers face while building the airstrip?

3. Why is the title of this article significant?

4. What challenges did American servicemen face at Anzio?
Guided Document Discussion Questions cont.

**Poster, *We Clear the Way, 1943***
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. What does the engineer carry to defend himself?

2. Describe the attitude that the engineer is displaying in the poster.

3. What is placed in both the lower and right hand corners of the poster? What do you think these symbols represent?

4. Based on this poster, what obstacles or challenges do you think the engineers faced?
Guided Document Discussion Questions cont.

Personal Diary of Merlyn M. Ross, 815th Engineer Battalion, January 24 to June 6, 1944 (excerpts)
 Courtesy of James M. Goodspeed

1. What type of machinery did Ross operate?

2. How were the Germans trying to stop the engineers?

3. What was tragic about the death of R.J. Rolls?

4. From reading the excerpts of this diary, what challenges did the engineers face at the Anzio beachhead?
Guided Document Discussion Questions cont.

Photograph & Press Release, “With the AAF Engineer Command in Italy. . . ,” March 1944
Courtesy of James M. Goodspeed

1. According to this press release and photograph, what was this machinery used for?

2. Name three types of machinery that you can see in the photograph.

3. Describe the location of this airstrip in relation to the beachhead.

4. Based on this document, what challenges would engineers have in building the airstrip on the Anzio beachhead?