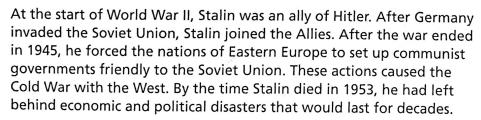
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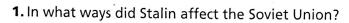
## **Enrichment:** Josef Stalin

**Directions** Read the biography below. Answer the questions and complete the activity that follows.

Josef Stalin was born in 1879 in Georgia. His father was a shoemaker and his mother was a clothes washer. His name was originally losif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili. As an adult he took the name *Stalin*, meaning "man of steel." Stalin became interested in revolutionary ideas as a young man. He took part in many strikes and demonstrations. As a result, he was arrested seven times. Stalin joined the Bolsheviks, and in 1912 Lenin gave him a place on the Central Committee. During the Russian Revolution, Stalin played an important role and gained high office in the revolutionary government.

After Lenin died in 1924, Stalin gradually wiped out his rivals. He ordered them killed or forced them to leave. Stalin increased his control over the Soviet government until he was acting as a dictator. In 1928, he put his first Five-Year Plan into place. The policy of collectivizing, or combining, farms proved to be a disaster. It caused the deaths of as many as ten million people. Stalin also forced people to build factories and industrialize, which created problems such as pollution. In addition, during the 1930s, Stalin persecuted educated people. He was afraid that they would challenge his authority.





- 2. Why do you think he chose the name Stalin? What did he want it to convey?
- 3. Activity Create a timeline of Stalin's life.

