1 In 1944, after nearly five years of war, British and Commonwealth troops and American troops were ready to cross from England to mainland Europe to start to free those countries occupied by the Nazis.

2 Where would the Allies land? Would they cross the Channel by the shortest route, to land near Calais? Would they land first on the British territory of Jersey and the other Channel islands, already occupied by the Germans? Yet both these places were the most heavily fortified and defended.

3 It was decided instead to land in Normandy, hoping that they would not be detected on their long journey across the sea - at least 150km (95 miles). On 6th June 1944 the D-Day landing took place in Normandy, involving hundreds of thousands of people working together. D-Day was a turning-point because it saw the start of the defeat of Hitler.

4 Let us pray:

Lord our God,
inspire us to make our choices well and understand our responsibilities and the consequences of what we do.
Help us to make good use of the opportunities that come to us.
Lead us to be positive in our attitude, that we may work well with others and live this day to the full. Amen.
Could make use of a search engine to research this topic further.

This material is part of the prayer and education website of the De La Salle Brothers in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org