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World War II: War in the Pacific

World War II was the most destructive war in history. It killed more people and destroyed more property than any other war. Much of the fighting took place in the jungles of Southeast Asia and on the islands and seas of the Pacific Ocean. Millions of soldiers and civilians were killed in these battles. Let's learn about the Pacific theater of World War II and see why the war was so devastating in that part of the world.

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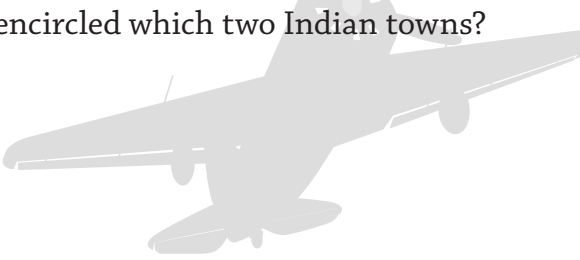
Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about World War II, you can start by searching the key words "World War II."



Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

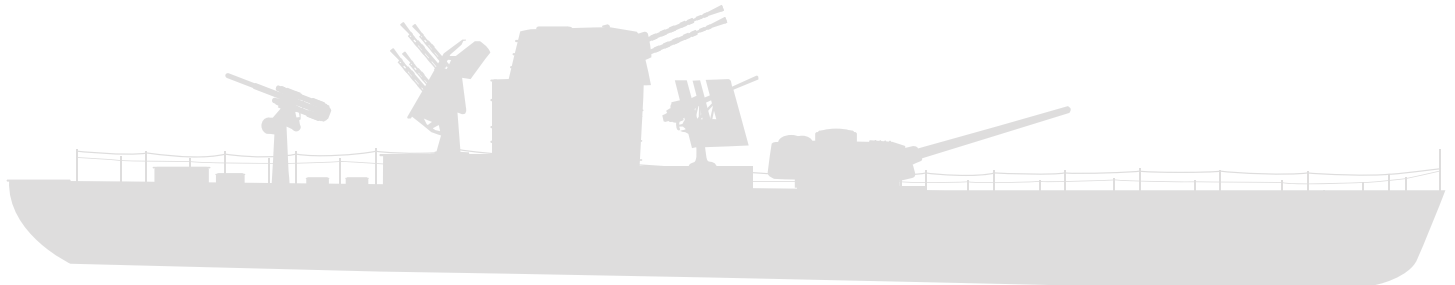
1. Japan launched a surprise attack upon the U.S. Pacific Fleet at _____
on the date _____.
2. During which battle, fought from May 4 to 8, 1942, did American and Australian forces halt the Japanese assault on Australia's base at Port Moseby?
3. Which battle was the first clear Allied victory over Japan in World War II?
4. On August 7, 1942, U.S. marines invaded the island of _____ in the first stage of a campaign in the Solomon Islands.

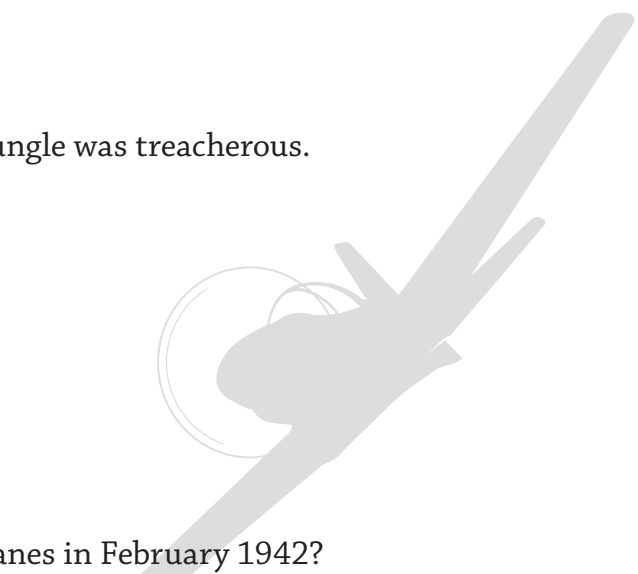
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5. When Japan invaded India in early 1944 Japanese troops encircled which two Indian towns?
 6. What was the largest naval battle in history?
 7. On which island did the famous U.S. flag-raising occur on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945?
 8. During the battle of Okinawa, as many as _____ Japanese and Okinawan military personnel and _____ Americans were killed.
 9. V-J Day, the day Japan signed the official statement of surrender, happened on _____.

True or False

Write “True” if the statement about World War II is correct. If the statement is not correct, write “False” and correct the statement in the space below.

- _____ 10. Douglas MacArthur famously promised, “I shall return” after being ordered to leave Singapore.
- _____ 11. The Battle of Midway was the first clear Allied victory over Japan in World War II.
- _____ 12. The Flying Tigers was the nickname of a group of American pilots who served in India.
- _____ 13. The Battle of Iwo Jima was the bloodiest battle in U.S. Marine Corps history.
- _____ 14. The United States dropped atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Tokyo.



15. How did Japan's strict samurai military code make it dangerous for Allied soldiers to surrender to the Japanese during World War II?
16. Name three reasons fighting in the South Pacific jungle was treacherous.
17. How did *leapfrogging* save time and lives?
18. What were incendiary bombs?
19. Which Australian city was bombed by Japanese planes in February 1942?
- 

Who is it?

In the line provided, write which person is being referred to.

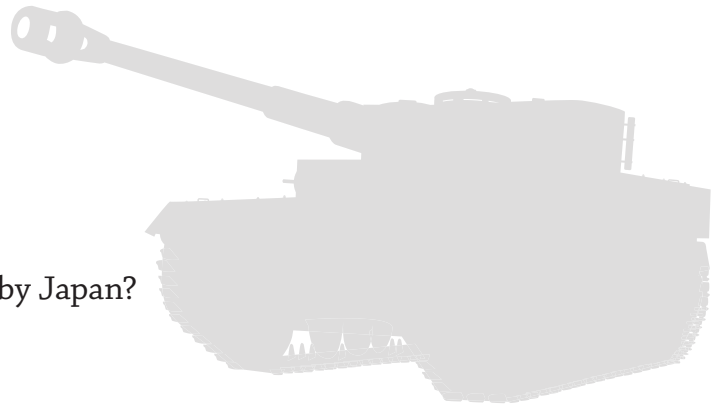
- _____ 20. American pilot who led an April 18, 1942 surprise attack on Tokyo and other Japanese cities.
- _____ 21. Architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor who was shot down on April 18, 1943?
- _____ 22. Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.
- _____ 23. Japanese prime minister from 1941-1944.
- _____ 24. U.K. admiral who became supreme Allied commander in Southeast Asia in August 1943.
25. What was the Bataan Death March? (Hint: For this question see the "Bataan Death March" article.)
26. What were kamikaze pilots? (Hint: For this question see the "Kamikaze" article.)
27. What was Japanese American internment? (Hint: For this question see the "Japanese American internment" article.)

28. What was the *Enola Gay*? (Hint: For this question see the “Enola Gay” article.)
29. Who were the code talkers? (Hint: For this question see the “Code talkers” article.)
30. What was the USS *Arizona*? (Hint: For this question see the “Arizona” article [the article about the ship, not the one about the state].)
31. What was the Burma Road? (Hint: For this question see the “Burma Road” article.)

Map It!

Within the “World War II” article, you will find the map “World War II in the Pacific: 1943-1945.” Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. What major battle was fought in October 1944?
33. What happened on August 9, 1945?
34. Which of the Aleutian Islands was once occupied by Japan?



Watch it!

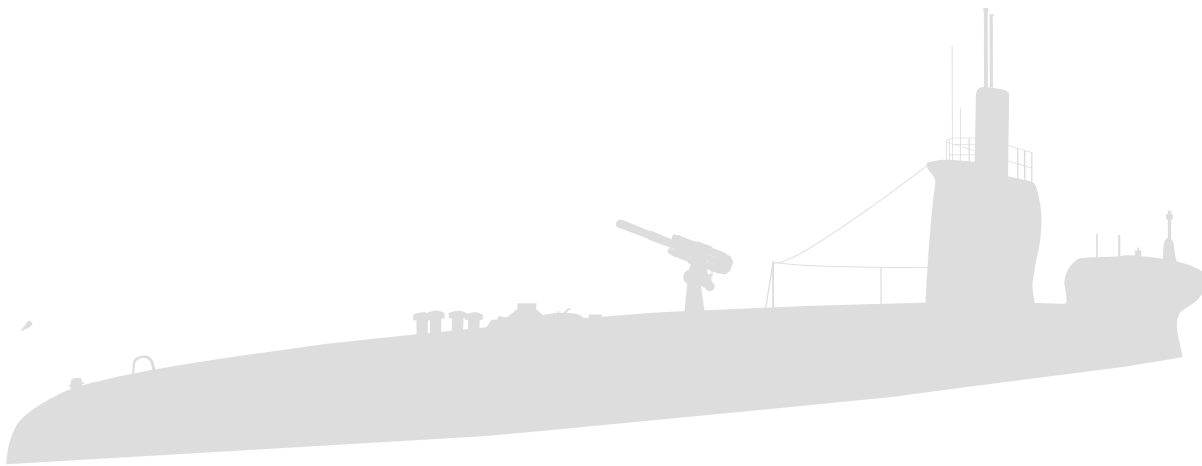
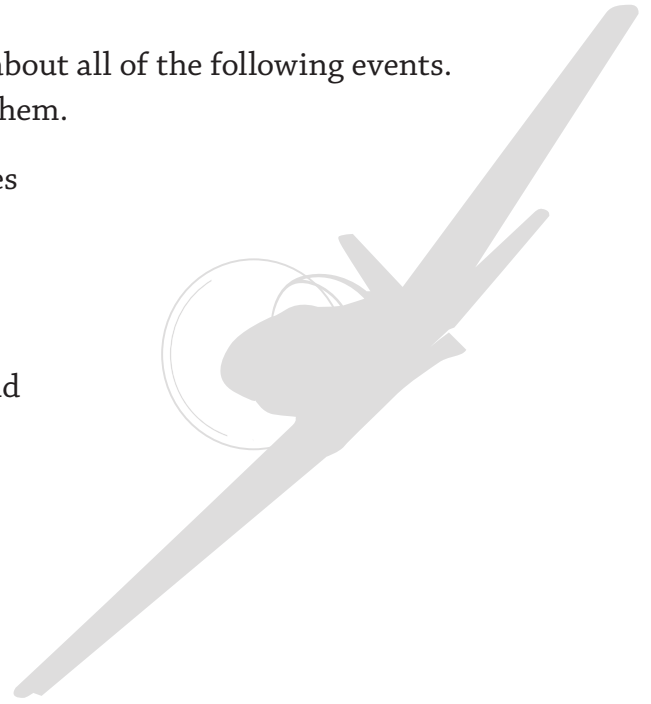
Within the “World War II” article, you will find the video “Attack on Pearl Harbor.” Watch the video and answer the following questions.

35. Where is Pearl Harbor located?
36. How did the United States respond to Japan’s invasion of Southern Indo-China in July 1941?
37. American people used the rallying cry “_____ Pearl Harbor.”
38. How often does an oil bubble from the USS Arizona come to the surface of the water - even today?

Timeline

Imagine that you are a war correspondent who wrote about all of the following events. Put the events in the order in which you wrote about them.

- _____ Allied troops began landing in the Philippines
- _____ Battle of the Coral Sea fought
- _____ Battle of Midway fought
- _____ Doolittle raid bombed the Japanese homeland
- _____ Japan attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor
- _____ Japan surrendered
- _____ Soviet Union declared war on Japan
- _____ U.S. dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- _____ U.S. marines invaded Guadalcanal
- _____ U.S. marines invaded Iwo Jima
- _____ U.S. marines invaded Tarawa



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World War II in the Pacific. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook*. Web. 23 Nov. 2015.
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Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Japan launched a surprise attack upon the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941.
2. American and Australian forces halt the Japanese assault on Australia's base at Port Moseby at the Battle of the Coral Sea.
3. The Battle of Midway was the first clear Allied victory over Japan in World War II.
4. On August 7, 1942, U.S. marines invaded the island of Guadalcanal in the first stage of a campaign in the Solomon Islands.
5. Japanese troops encircled Imphal and Kohima when Japan invaded India in early 1944.
6. The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest battle in history.
7. At Iwo Jima the famous U.S. flag-raising occurred on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945
8. During the battle of Okinawa 110,000 Japanese and Okinawan military personnel were killed and the American death toll was 12,500.
9. V-J Day, the day Japan signed the official statement of surrender, was on September 2, 1945.
10. False. Douglas MacArthur famously promised, "I shall return" after being ordered to leave the Philippines.
11. True.
12. False. The Flying Tigers was the nickname of a group of American pilots who served in China.
13. True.
14. False. The United States dropped atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
15. It was dangerous for Allied soldiers to surrender to the Japanese because the Japanese disdained surrender and executed or abused many enemy prisoners of war.
16. Answers will vary. Possible answers include:
 1. Heavy rains drenched the troops and turned the jungle into a foul-smelling swamp.
 2. The soldiers had to hack their way through tangled, slimy vegetation.
 3. The soldiers had to wade through knee-deep mud.
 4. The Japanese hid waiting to shoot unsuspecting Americans.
 5. Scorpions and snakes were a constant menace.
 6. Malaria and other tropical diseases took a heavy toll.
17. Leapfrogging saved time and lives because the Allies bypassed Japanese strongholds and invaded islands that were weakly held instead of trying to capture every island.
18. Incendiary bombs were fire-producing bombs that set Japanese cities aflame.
19. Darwin was bombed by Japanese planes in February 1942.
20. James Doolittle
21. Isoroku Yamamoto

22. Chester Nimitz
23. Hideki Tojo
24. Louis Mountbatten
25. The Bataan Death March was a march of war prisoners forced by the Japanese. The march took place in the Philippines and resulted in the deaths of thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war.
26. Kamikaze pilots were Japanese pilots who flew suicide missions by diving airplanes loaded with explosives into important targets.
27. Japanese American internment was the forced relocation and confinement of people of Japanese ancestry in the United States.
28. The *Enola Gay* was the name of the airplane that carried the first atomic bomb used in warfare.
29. The code talkers were small groups of American Indians who served in the United States armed forces. They developed and used codes in Indian languages to send secret messages.
30. The USS *Arizona* was a U.S. Navy battleship that was destroyed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
31. The Burma Road was a road that carried war supplies to China for its war against Japan.
32. The Battle of Leyte Gulf was fought in October 1944.
33. On August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.
34. The Japanese once occupied Attu Island.
35. Oahu, Hawaii
36. The United States cut off its exports to Japan.
37. "Remember Pearl Harbor"
38. An oil bubble comes to the surface every 20-30 seconds.

Timeline:

The correct order of the events is:

Japan attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor
Doolittle raid bombed the Japanese homeland
Battle of the Coral Sea fought
Battle of Midway fought
U.S. marines invaded Guadalcanal
U.S. marines invaded Tarawa
Allied troops began landing in the Philippines
U.S. marines invaded Iwo Jima
U.S. dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima
Soviet Union declared war on Japan
Japan surrendered