

Name:

Date:

**World War Two in the Pacific: The Attack on Pearl Harbor, Battle of Midway, and the Bombing of Japan Questions**

**Use the “Pearl Harbor Attack” handout to answer these questions**

1. To secure natural resources and markets for their goods, Japan sought to expand its empire by establishing colonies in Asia and the Pacific. Which Chinese province did Japan invade in 1931?
2. Describe three factors that contributed to mounting tension in U.S. – Japanese relations between 1940 and 1941.
3. How were Japan’s Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku and Vice Admiral Nagumo Chuichi involved with the Pearl Harbor attack? What did the Japanese fleet that participated in this offensive consist of?
4. On the morning of the attack, two warning signs of an impending Japanese attack were missed. What went wrong at Pearl Harbor when U.S. forces found a Japanese submarine and spotted planes on radar?
5. Japanese aircraft including dive bombers, torpedo bombers, and fighters flew in two waves. The first wave began striking Pearl Harbor at 7:55 A.M. on December 7, 1941. Describe the damage this first wave inflicted upon U.S. aircraft on the ground and U.S. battleships anchored in Pearl Harbor.
6. About an hour later, at 8:50 A.M., the second Japanese attack wave kept up the assault. What damage did it inflict on the U.S. fleet of ships?

7. Name three important targets that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor failed to destroy.

8. What was the reaction of the American public to the events of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941? What happened the day afterwards?

9. In your opinion, was the attack on Pearl Harbor a success for the Japanese? Why or why not?

10. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. published propaganda posters such as: "Remember December 7<sup>th</sup>", "Avenge December 7", and "I Want my Daddy Back". What messages do you think these posters are conveying? Are they effective, in your opinion? Explain.



**Use the “Battle of Midway” handout to answer these questions**

11. What did the Japanese fleet that participated in the Battle of Midway consist of? What were their orders?

12. How was the U.S. able to discover Japanese intentions to target Midway?

13. What was the condition of the U.S. aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown? What did the U.S. fleet that participated in the Battle of Midway consist of?

14. How effective were Midway’s U.S. fighter aircraft and antiaircraft defences in fending off the attacking Japanese planes?

15. Describe Japanese Vice Admiral Nagumo’s decision that would determine the course of the Pacific War. How do you think this might have affected the outcome of the battle?

16. How effective were the U.S. carriers’ Douglas TBD Devastator torpedo bombers in striking the Japanese aircraft carriers? What role did these attacks play in the success of the subsequent attacks by the Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers?

17. How did the attack by the U.S. Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers turn the tide of the battle?

18. As the three Japanese aircraft carriers burned, Hiryu, the last surviving aircraft carrier of Japan's First Carrier Striking Force, retaliated against the U.S. aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown. Describe the damage inflicted.

19. Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers from all three U.S. aircraft carriers struck back against the Hiryu. Describe the damage inflicted.

20. Did the U.S. aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown, survive the Battle of Midway? Why do you suppose the Americans went to so much effort to try to save the vessel?

21. What was significant about the Battle of Midway?

**Use the “Hiroshima and Nagasaki” handout to answer these questions**

22. What did Albert Einstein warn U.S. President Roosevelt about on August 2, 1939? In your opinion, what might have happened if Nazi Germany had developed a nuclear weapon before the U.S.?

23. Give a brief summary of the Manhattan Project.

24. When and where did Manhattan Project scientists and engineers successfully test the first ever atomic bomb? How powerful was the explosion?

25. Did scientists from Nazi Germany ultimately succeed in their efforts to produce nuclear weapons?

26. What reason did U.S. President Harry Truman use to justify the use of atomic bombs against Japan?

27. How might the U.S. have demonstrated that it had an atomic bomb other than exploding one over Japan? Why was this alternative method to convince Japan to surrender discarded?

28. In occupied Germany, Allied leaders met in the city of Potsdam from July 17 to August 2, 1945, to discuss the transition to peace. U.S. President Harry Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek issued a document on July 26, 1945, that outlined the terms for Japan's unconditional surrender, known as the Potsdam Declaration. How did Japan respond?

29. What was the size of the explosion produced by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan? What were the casualties?

30. What was the size of the explosion produced by the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan? What were the casualties?

31. Why did Japan's desperate situation worsen on August 8, 1945?

32. What significant event occurred on August 10, 1945?

33. In your opinion, did President Truman make the right decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan? Why or why not?