



America and World War II

Lesson 5 The War in the Pacific

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

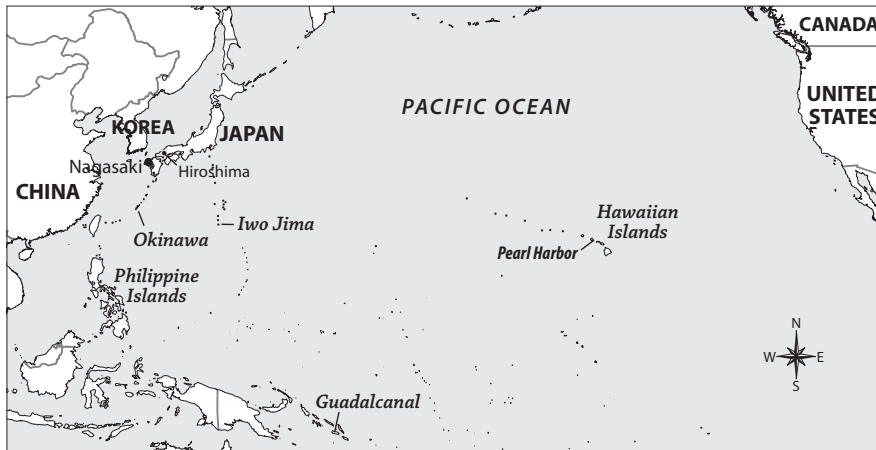
1. *What events occurred on the Pacific front?*
2. *How did the United States' use of the atomic bomb bring about Japan's surrender?*

Terms to Know

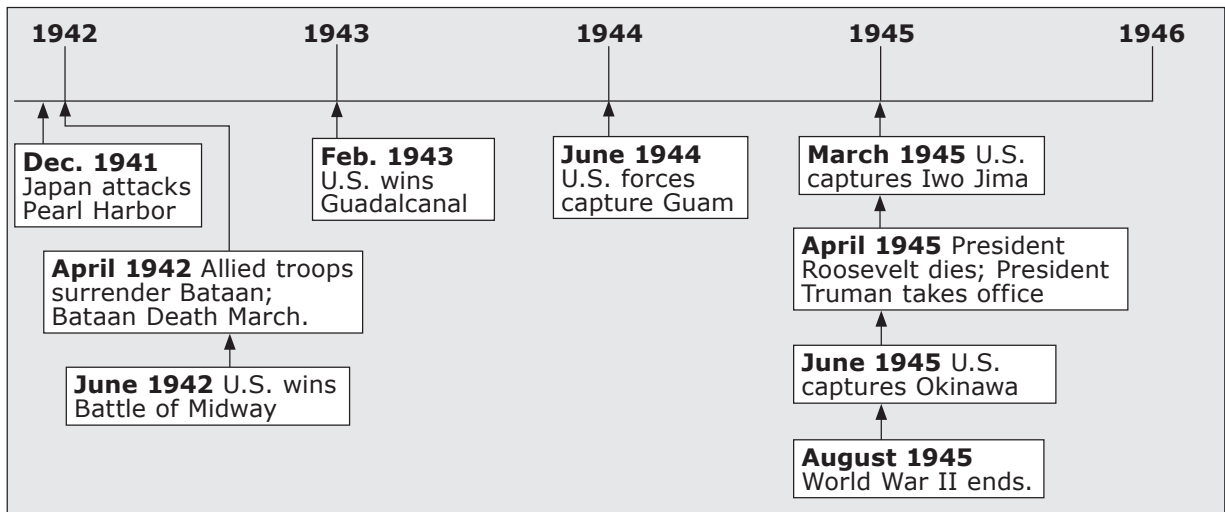
island hopping a strategy of capturing an island and using it to leapfrog to the next island

kamikaze a Japanese suicide pilot

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



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Lesson 5 The War in the Pacific, *Continued*

The Pacific Front

The war with Japan was not like the war in Europe. The war took place in the huge Pacific Ocean. There are hundreds of islands there of different sizes. Most of the war had to do with capturing islands.

On the day of the Pearl Harbor attack, Japan also bombed American airfields in the Philippines, Wake Island, and Guam. These were key American bases. Then Japanese troops invaded Thailand and Malaya. Japan captured Guam, Wake Island, and Hong Kong.

In December 1941, Japanese troops landed in the Philippines. They captured the capital city, Manila. Allied soldiers there were forced to retreat. They moved to the Bataan Peninsula and the small island of Corregidor.

For months the Allies fought on Bataan. Finally, the Allied soldiers were exhausted. On April 9, 1942, they surrendered. However, soldiers on Corregidor kept on fighting. A month later, they had to surrender too.

The Japanese captured Bataan and Corregidor. Allied troops were taken prisoner. They were sick and starving. The Japanese forced the prisoners to march more than 60 miles (97 km) to a prison camp.

About 76,000 prisoners started on the march. Only about 54,000 prisoners reached the prison camp. The other 20,000 prisoners died or were killed.

Americans were discouraged by Japan's victories. Then in April 1942, U.S. planes bombed Tokyo. The attack started from the deck of an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. The attack gave Americans hope.

A month later, in May 1942, U.S. battleships won a battle against Japanese ships. This was known as the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The next month, the United States won another battle against the Japanese. This was the Battle of Midway. The battle took place northwest of Hawaii. The American Navy destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers. They also destroyed hundreds of airplanes. Japan's losses were huge.

The United States began to fight even harder against Japan. General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz were in charge. They made a war plan they called **island hopping**. This meant that they would attack and capture certain islands. They would make each island into a base. They would then attack other islands from that base. In this way, they could move closer and closer to the

Reading Check

1. What is significant about the Battle of Midway?

Mark the Text

2. Circle the name given to the march of Allied prisoners to a prison camp. Why was it called that?

Explaining

3. What was the strategy called island-hopping, and how did it work?

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Reading Check

4. What was the goal of the Manhattan Project?

Defining

5. Why were kamikaze pilots called suicide bombers?

Philippines. More importantly, they could move closer and closer to Japan.

The plan worked.

- Between August 1942 and February 1943, U.S. forces captured Guadalcanal.
- In June 1944, U.S. forces captured Guam and other nearby islands.
- In October, U.S. ships destroyed many Japanese ships at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. This was in the Phillipines.
- In March 1945, U.S. forces captured the island of Iwo Jima.
- In June 1945, U.S. forces captured the island of Okinawa.

Iwo Jima and Okinawa were close to Japan. The Japanese fought fiercely to keep them. Thousands of American soldiers died. Thousands more were wounded.

The Allies had destroyed most of Japan's air force and most of Japan's navy. U.S. planes bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cities.

In return, the Japanese sent pilots called **kamikazes** (kah-mih-KAH-zee). Kamikaze pilots were suicide bombers. They crashed their planes into American ships. In this way, they sank several ships. This happened during the battle for Okinawa.

The Atomic Bomb Ends the War

The battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa showed that the Japanese would keep fighting no matter what. They refused to surrender. Therefore, the United States decided to use a powerful new weapon. That weapon was the atomic bomb.

Six years earlier, in 1939, the scientist Albert Einstein warned President Roosevelt that the Nazis were trying to build "extremely powerful bombs." These bombs used atomic energy. Roosevelt gathered a group of scientists. They told Roosevelt he should start building an atomic bomb for America. Roosevelt created a top secret program called the "Manhattan Project" to build the bomb. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested in the New Mexico desert.

U.S. officials discussed whether to use the atomic bomb. The final decision was up to President Truman. Truman had

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been Vice President. When President Roosevelt died in April 1945, Truman took over.

President Truman decided to use the bomb. He believed it would end the war sooner and save American lives.

President Truman and the Allied leaders first sent a warning to Japan. Japan did not surrender. Truman gave the order to drop the bomb on Japan.

On August 6, 1945, a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. It killed between 80,000 and 120,000 people. Three days later, the United States dropped a second bomb. This bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It killed between 35,000 and 74,000 people. Thousands more suffered from illness and burns caused by the bombs.

On August 15, 1945, the Japanese surrendered. This became known as "V-J Day." Japan signed a formal surrender on September 2.

World War II was finally over. It was the most destructive war in history. Millions of people had died. Millions more were left sick or wounded. The Soviet Union lost the most people. There, at least 18 million people died.

Survivors faced many challenges. Countries were faced with a huge job of rebuilding.

//////////////////////Glue Foldable here//////////////////////

Check for Understanding

Which strategy changed the course of the war in favor of the Allies, and how?

What were two main actions that helped the Allies win against Japan?



Explaining

- 6. Describe what Truman did before giving the order to use the atomic bomb.



Identifying

- 7. On which two cities were atomic bombs dropped?



- 8. Use a three-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *The Pacific Front* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *Allied Troops Defensive*, *Allied Troops Offensive*, and *Allied Victory*. On the front and back of the tabs, write one thing you remember about each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.