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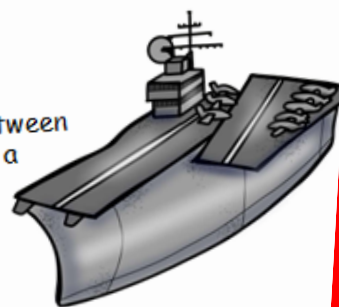
All About

PEARL HARBOR

Reading Comprehension

PEARL HARBOR

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii between California and Japan. Hawaii was a U.S. territory during World War II. Warships were stored, repaired, and stocked with supplies at the port. Japanese airplanes surprisingly attacked the base on December 7, 1941. A dozen warships were destroyed and over 2,400 people were killed though World War II had been raging in Europe for two years, the shocked Americans and the rest of the world.



TENSION

Tension between the United States and Japan had been building for years. The trouble started during the Great Depression, a time when the Japanese economy was very poor.

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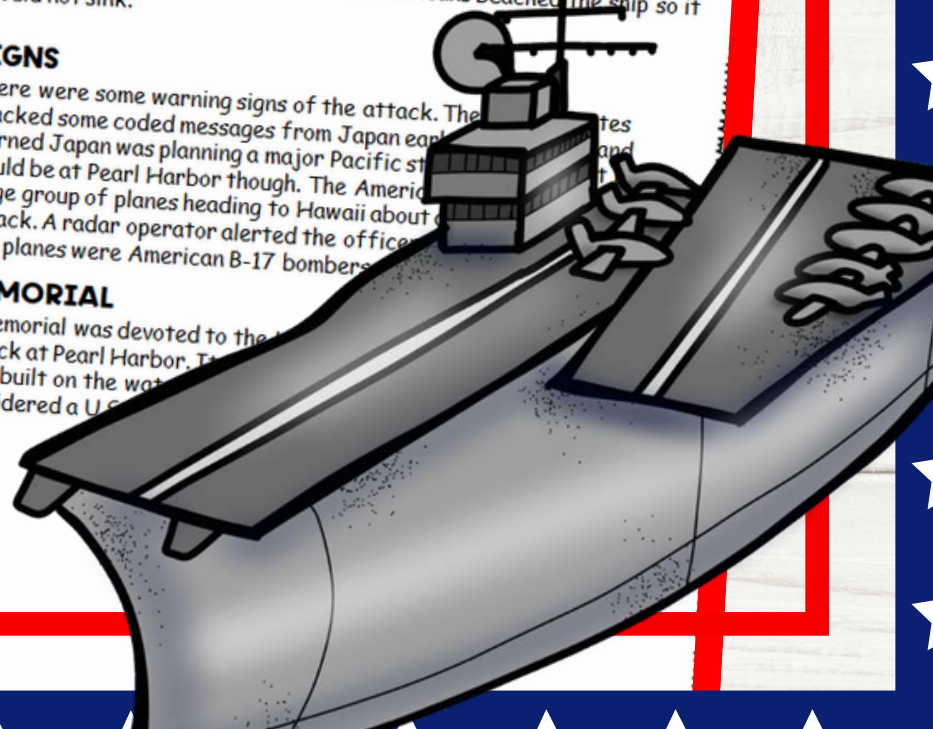
Others targeted cruisers, destroyers, and other warships that had not been attacked during the first attack. Japanese dive bombers targeted the USS Nevada while it was trying to get away. It was hit by a torpedo and several bombs. The Americans beached the ship so it would not sink.

SIGNS

There were some warning signs of the attack. The Japanese cracked some coded messages from Japan early in 1941. They learned Japan was planning a major Pacific strategy and that it would be at Pearl Harbor though. The Americans did not believe it. A large group of planes heading to Hawaii about the time of the attack. A radar operator alerted the officers that the planes were American B-17 bombers.

MEMORIAL

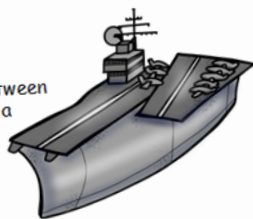
A memorial was devoted to the attack at Pearl Harbor. It was built on the water and considered a U.S. national monument.





PEARL HARBOR

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TENSION

Tension between the United States and Japan had been building for many years. The trouble started during the Great Depression, a time when the world economy was very poor. Japan was hard hit by the Great Depression. It was an island nation with only a few natural resources and its economy relied



on trading goods with other countries. The U.S. government raised the taxes it charged other countries to ship goods into the United States in 1930. Japan had many factories that needed raw materials to run them.

Japan could not afford to buy the resources it needed. Costs rose. Japan's emperor, Hirohito, decided to grow his own resources. He began invading nearby countries to get them. Japan conquered a part of China called Manchuria in 1931. Other countries in Southeast Asia in 1941. U.S. president Roosevelt issued an embargo, stopping American trade with Japan in 1941. At the time, Japan got most of its oil and other resources from the United States. The U.S. Navy sent ships to keep the peace in Southeast Asia.



The Japanese believed if U.S. ships no longer patrolled the Pacific Ocean, Japan could invade other countries to get the oil it needed. Japan decided to destroy the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor.

PREPARATION

Admiral Yamamoto, the leader of Japan's navy, began planning an air raid on Pearl Harbor in early 1941. The goal was to take the Pacific fleet out of action for at least six months. Yamamoto knew the raid would need to be a quick, surprising attack and spent several months preparing his men. He sent spies to Pearl Harbor to gather information about their target. Models of the harbor and American warships were built and studied. Yamamoto ran drills in a shallow harbor in Japan to prepare for the strike. A fleet of Japanese submarines headed toward Hawaii in mid-November. A fleet of more than 30 warships left Japan on November 26. Six aircraft carriers transported hundreds of torpedo planes, bombers, and fighter planes. They dropped anchor around 274 miles (440 km) from Pearl Harbor.

SURPRISE

December 7, 1941, began like any normal Sunday at the Pearl Harbor naval base. Around 7:55 a.m., Americans noticed planes flying in the distance but figured it was just a training drill since the United States was not at war. As the planes approached, they saw the Rising Sun on the sides of the planes and knew it was not a drill.

The sky above Pearl Harbor was suddenly filled with Japanese aircraft. Dive bombers began dropping bombs on the unsuspecting crews. Many sailors were still asleep and quickly woke to get to their posts. The ships were closely packed together in plain sight, leaving the men trapped with no escape. Huge, powerful American battleships filled with people and weapons were targeted first. Japan bombarded the battleships with underwater missiles dropped from torpedo planes. Fighter planes were used to destroy American aircraft before they could take off. American sailors acted quickly and began to fight back about five minutes into the attack. They tried to shoot down the Japanese planes with anti-aircraft guns. A handful of American fighter pilots reached their planes and took off, shooting down a few enemy aircraft. They were greatly outnumbered by the Japanese though.

DAMAGE

A battleship called the USS Arizona was hit hard at 8:10 a.m. A heavy bomb slammed through its deck and into its magazine, where over a million pounds of explosives were stored. The ship burst into a giant ball of flames. It sank less than ten minutes after it was hit. Nearly 1,200 officers and crewmen were killed. The USS Oklahoma was hit by torpedoes early in the attack. Some men were able to abandon the ship and climbed onto the nearby USS Maryland to defend the harbor. The USS Oklahoma capsized, or tipped over, just 12 minutes after it was hit. Many men were trapped inside. Some were rescued, but many were not.

SECOND STRIKE

There was a break in the bombing around 8:40 a.m. before the Japanese aircraft came back. Some planes bombarded the ships that were already in trouble. Others targeted cruisers, destroyers, and other warships that had not been attacked during the first attack. Japanese dive bombers targeted the USS Nevada while it was trying to get away. It was hit by a torpedo and several bombs. The Americans beached the ship so it would not sink.

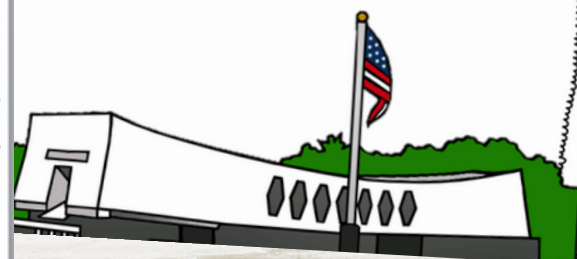
Others targeted cruisers, destroyers, and other warships that had not been attacked during the first attack. Japanese dive bombers targeted the USS Nevada while it was trying to get away. It was hit by a torpedo and several bombs. The Americans beached the ship so it would not sink.

SIGNS

There were some warning signs of the attack. The United States cracked some coded messages from Japan early in December and learned Japan was planning a major Pacific strike. They did not know it would be at Pearl Harbor though. The American radar station spotted a large group of planes heading to Hawaii about an hour before the attack. A radar operator alerted the officer in charge, who was told the planes were American B-17 bombers.

MEMORIAL

A memorial was devoted to the U.S. soldiers who lost their lives in the attack at Pearl Harbor. It is known as the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial and was built on the water above the wreckage of the Arizona. It is considered a U.S. National Historic Landmark.



EDITABLE READING COMPREHENSION



- Intro
- Preparations
- surprise
- Damage
- Second Strike
- Signs
- Memorial



EDITABLE

TRUE/ FALSE STATEMENTS

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

PEARL HARBOR DAY Comprehension Questions

Sr.	True/False Statements	T/F
1	Admiral Yamamoto spent several months preparing for the air raid on Pearl Harbor.	
2	The USS Oklahoma capsized just 12 minutes after being hit during the attack.	
3	he USS Arizona was hit the hardest during the attack on Pearl Harbor.	
4	The primary reason for Japan's decision to attack Pearl Harbor was to establish peace in Southeast Asia.	
5	The attack on Pearl Harbor had a significant impact on the worldwide perception of the United States	

Comprehension Questions:

1. What was the main reason tension developed between the United States and Japan before the attack on Pearl Harbor?
2. How did Admiral Yamamoto prepare for the air raid on Pearl Harbor?
3. What did the Japanese believe would happen if U.S. ships no longer patrolled the Pacific Ocean?
4. How did American sailors respond to the attack on Pearl Harbor?
5. Describe what happened to the USS Arizona and the USS Oklahoma during the attack.

PEARL HARBOR DAY Comprehension Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where is Pearl Harbor located?
a. California
b. Japan
c. Oahu, Hawaii
d. Great Britain
2. What event occurred on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor?
a. Japanese invasion
b. U.S. naval parade
c. German air raid
d. Italian submarine attack
3. What was the primary reason for Japan's decision to attack Pearl Harbor?
a. Revenge for a previous war
b. To test their military capabilities
c. Economic difficulties and resource needs
d. Political conflicts with the United States
4. Which battleship was hit the hardest during the attack on Pearl Harbor?
a. USS Nevada
b. USS Oklahoma
c. USS Maryland
d. USS Arizona

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED