

SAVVAS



Untimely Disaster

Pearl Harbor 1941 Attack

Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

Pearl Harbor

The Pearl Harbor attack was an event that rocked the United States and precipitated our country's entry into World War II. The surprise aerial attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base by the Japanese took place on December 7, 1941, and devastated the U.S. military Pacific fleet. Luckily, not all the fleet was destroyed on that day, as the aircraft carriers were away from the base during the attack. Over 2,400 American sailors and civilians died and more than 1,000 were injured. The news, due to lack of technology, did not travel quickly. Most of the attack was complete before the rest of the country and the world heard the news. We still honor the day in history, and the area surrounding the naval base in Oahu Island, Hawaii has many commemorative monuments.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt learned about the attack, he said that December 7, 1941, would be a date that would "live in infamy." The next day, the United States Congress declared war on Japan. This day truly was one that military and citizens alike would not soon forget. Honolulu, Hawaii had a big, if not the biggest, military fleet in America.

The Pearl Harbor attack changed the course of history and caused the United States to enter into World War II earlier than Roosevelt intended. The attack would also bring retaliation from the United States resulting in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The events at Pearl Harbor changed the course of history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1). We often think of the events at Pearl Harbor as being unprovoked. However, in late 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said in an address that certain foundations of civilization were at risk in countries and actions around the world. He never directly addressed Japan, but people still think he was referring to Japan. Do you think this provoked the Japanese? Learn more [here](#).**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. In 1937, Japan had signed a treaty with Nazi and other fascist groups in Germany and Italy. This aroused concern from countries around the world. However, speaking out against the country might have created a reason for the Japanese to want to attack.

- 2). In carrying out the attack on Pearl Harbor, what did the Japanese hope to accomplish?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The Japanese hoped to develop a massive fleet by the time the United States recovered and rebuilt their Pacific fleet. This would give Japan an advantage against the United States in future conflicts.

- 3). Name some reasons the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese came as such a shock and surprise to the United States and those at the attack site.**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The technology at the time did not allow investigators to break codes coming in through different U.S. investigative branches so the attack was not expected. Also news of the attack spread via radio and newspaper.

- 4). Why is the USS Arizona such an important part of the history of the Pearl Harbor Attack?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The USS Arizona received attacks from the Japanese air fleet. It sank quickly with more than 1,000 soldiers trapped inside. The recovery effort was unable to rescue the soldiers.

Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure

to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Videos

- 1). [Attack on Pearl Harbor](#); This video is a history of Pearl Harbor for kids.
- 2). [The Attack on Pearl Harbor \(real footage\)](#); This video shows actual footage of the damage during the Pearl Harbor attack.
- 3). [Pearl Harbor: The Last Word - "24 Hours After the Attack"](#); This video shows brief interviews with Pearl Harbor veterans. Some of the historical video footage is graphic.
- 4). [Pearl Harbor - Educational Cartoon \(1941\)](#); This video is a cartoon version of the history of Pearl Harbor.
- 5). [World War II History: Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor? Facts for Students \(Educational Cartoon\)](#); This cartoon is a creative way to show the history of Pearl Harbor.

Media

- 1). [Getting an Aerial View of Pearl Harbor Today Pearl Harbor Warbirds](#); This site gives an aerial view of Pearl Harbor today, including its Memorial sites.
- 2). [Explore 8 hidden Pearl Harbor memorials at this 'sacred place'](#); This article reviews the Pearl Harbor memorials that are not as well known.
- 3). [77 years after Pearl Harbor attack, military still identifying the nameless dead, sending them home](#); This article shows how the latest technology can bring closure to families 77 years later.
- 4). [10 Interesting Pearl Harbor Facts | Oahu Attack & USS Arizona Facts](#); This website gives information on Pearl Harbor, including a map showing the direction of the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

Websites

- 1). [Pearl Harbor Facts for Kids](#); This website gives information about Pearl Harbor in easy-to-read formats.
- 2). [Pearl Harbor: Attack, Casualties & Facts](#); This website gives the history of Pearl Harbor, in great detail.
- 3). [The History of Pearl Harbor Before the Attack](#); This website gives the history of Pearl Harbor and information about visiting the Memorial site.
- 4). [The official website for Pearl Harbor Historic Sites](#); This website provides information about the historic and memorial sites concerning Pearl Harbor.
- 5). [Attack on Pearl Harbor | National Archives](#); This website contains information about Pearl Harbor and actual photos of a radar plot completed the morning of the attacks.



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