

Great Battles for Boys: WW2 in the Pacific

by Joe Giorello

Student Worksheet

The Flying Tigers

1. Who did China ask for help after the Japanese captured Shanghai and Nanking?
2. Who was the American military man who China asked to build an air force?
3. What was the AVG?
4. What did China call the American mercenaries fighting for them?

Pearl Harbor

1. When did Japan bomb Pearl Harbor?
2. Who convinced Japan's royal emperor to attack the United States?
3. When did President Roosevelt declare war on Japan?

Wake Island

1. Who was in charge of the US Marines on Wake Island?
2. Who won the Battle of Wake Island?
3. Who were the “Seabees”?

The Battle of Bataan

1. What was the big flaw in War Plan Orange?
2. Who was America’s most experienced general in the Pacific?
3. Who won the Battle of Bataan?

The Battle of Corregidor

1. What island was called “The Rock”?
2. Where did the American command move on Corregidor?
3. Who broadcasted a surrender message at Corregidor?

The Bataan Death March

1. What is the Geneva Convention treatise?
2. Did the Japanese follow the Geneva Convention treatise?
3. Where did the Japanese transfer all the surviving POWs (prisoners of war) in July 1942?

The Doolittle Raid

1. Who did the Navy choose for their top-secret mission to bomb Tokyo, Japan's capital city?
2. What idea did Navy Captain Francis Low have to accomplish this mission?
3. What were the brave men called who dropped the bombs on Japan called?

The Battle of Midway

1. Who broke Japan's secret code before the Battle of Midway?
2. Who led the American squadrons that searched the ocean for ships coming to attack Midway?

3. Who won the Battle of Midway?

The Two Battles of Attu

1. Which two American territories were not officially states in 1942 but had large American military bases?
2. Who was ordered to protect the naval facility at Dutch Harbor?
3. After the Americans saved Dutch Harbor, what island did they have to recapture from the Japanese?

The PT Boat

1. Who invented the idea for modern torpedoes?
2. Which country first manufactured torpedo boats?

Guadalcanal

1. Who was in command of the men in Guadalcanal?
2. Which important airfield did the US Marines fight to control?

3. Who eventually won the victory at Guadalcanal?

Tarawa

1. What are LVTs?
2. Why did the American LTVs get stuck on the reefs?
3. Who won the Battle of Tarawa?

The Battle of Saipan

1. Who controlled the island of Saipan?
2. Who was in command of the Japanese troops on Saipan?
3. Who eventually won the Battle of Saipan?

The Great Raid

1. How did the Japanese treat the POWs at Cabanatuan?

2. What did the Japanese do with the stronger POWs?
3. Who told General Douglas MacArthur's men all about the prison camps?
4. Who led the POW rescue team?
5. Was The Great Raid successful?

Iwo Jima

1. What did General Tadamichi Kuribayashi build on Iwo Jima to secure the island?
2. What famous photograph was taken during this battle?
3. Who won the Battle of Iwo Jima?
4. What secret code language did the Americans use that was never broken?

Okinawa

1. What did Lt. General Mitsuru Ushijima do when American troops landed on Okinawa Island?

2. Who was the highest-ranking American killed in action during WWII?
3. After the bloodiest conflict in the entire Pacific War, who finally won the Battle of Okinawa?

The Yamato

1. What was the *Yamato*?
2. Out of the 3,000 men aboard the Yamato how many survived?
3. What changed in the attitude toward naval battles after this event?

Victory Over Japan

1. What are some reasons Japan refused to surrender when they were clearly losing the war?
2. Who uncovered scientific theories that led to the creation of the atomic bomb?
3. When did America drop the atomic bomb “Little Boy” on Japan?
4. With no sign of Japan’s surrender, when did America drop the atomic bomb “Fat Man” on Japan?
5. When did Japan officially surrender?

Occupation of Japan

1. Who did President Truman name Supreme Commander of Allied Powers?
2. Did General MacArthur kill Emperor Hirohito and disarm the Japanese people?
3. Which enemy did General MacArthur block from attacking Japan?
4. Is Japan an enemy or an ally of the United States now?

In Your Own Words

What did you learn from the WW2 battles in the Pacific?

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