

Great Battles for Boys: WW2 in the Pacific

by Joe Giorello

Teacher Answer Sheet

The Flying Tigers

1. Who did China ask for help after the Japanese captured Shanghai and Nanking?
The United States
2. Who was the American military man who China asked to build an air force?
Colonel Claire Lee Chenault
3. What was the AVG?
American Volunteer Group (pilots from the American navy, army, and marines)
4. What did China call the American mercenaries fighting for them?
The "Flying Tigers"

Pearl Harbor

1. When did Japan bomb Pearl Harbor?
December 7, 1941
2. Who convinced Japan's royal emperor to attack the United States?
General Hideki Tojo
3. When did President Roosevelt declare war on Japan?
December 8, 1941

Wake Island

1. Who was in charge of the US Marines on Wake Island?
Major James Dervereux
2. Who won the Battle of Wake Island?
The Japanese
3. Who were the "Seabees"?
The Naval Construction Battalion, or civilian construction workers who were trained in weaponry and basic tactics

The Battle of Bataan

1. What was the big flaw in War Plan Orange?
It was dependent on an air fleet and reinforcements arriving from Pearl Harbor. However, Japan had wiped out both the planes and troops already.
2. Who was America's most experienced general in the Pacific?
General Douglas MacArthur
3. Who won the Battle of Bataan?
Japan

The Battle of Corregidor

1. What island was called "The Rock"?
The island of Corregidor
2. Where did the American command move on Corregidor?
Inside a tunnel complex (Malinta Hill)
3. Who broadcasted a surrender message at Corregidor?
Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright

The Bataan Death March

1. What is the Geneva Convention treatise?
An agreement between warring countries stating that they will not harm defenseless people during war, including prisoners.
2. Did the Japanese follow the Geneva Convention treatise?
No, they tortured and killed the POWs (prisoners of war)
3. Where did the Japanese transfer all the surviving POWs (prisoners of war) in July 1942?
A prison camp called Cabanatuan

The Doolittle Raid

1. Who did the Navy choose for their top-secret mission to bomb Tokyo, Japan's capital city?
Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle
2. What idea did Navy Captain Francis Low have to accomplish this mission?
To launch bomber planes from a ship
3. What were the brave men called who dropped the bombs on Japan called?
Doolittle Raiders

The Battle of Midway

1. Who broke Japan's secret code before the Battle of Midway?
American intelligence officer Captain Joseph Rochefort
2. Who led the American squadrons that searched the ocean for ships coming to attack Midway?
Lieutenant Commander C. Wade McClusky
3. Who won the Battle of Midway?
America

The Two Battles of Attu

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

The PT Boat

1. Who invented the idea for modern torpedoes?
Robert Whitehead
2. Which country first manufactured torpedo boats?
The United States

Guadalcanal

1. Who was in command of the men in Guadalcanal?
General Alexander Vandegrift
2. Which important airfield did the US Marines fight to control?
Henderson Airfield
3. Who eventually won the victory at Guadalcanal?
The Americans

Tarawa

1. What are LVTs?
“Landing Vehicle Tracked” which are tanks that can crawl out of water onto land
2. Why did the American LTVs get stuck on the reefs?
They were expecting a high tide, but it was a neap tide.
3. Who won the Battle of Tarawa?
The Americans

The Battle of Saipan

1. Who controlled the island of Saipan?
Japan
2. Who was in command of the Japanese troops on Saipan?
General Yoshitsugu Saito
3. Who eventually won the Battle of Saipan?
The Americans

The Great Raid

1. How did the Japanese treat the POWs at Cabanatuan?
They tortured them, starved them, let them die of diseases, or shot them.
2. What did the Japanese do with the stronger POWs?
Sent them to slave labor camps to make weapons
3. Who told General Douglas MacArthur's men all about the prison camps?
Eugene Nielsen, an escaped POW
4. Who led the POW rescue team?
Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mucci
5. Was The Great Raid successful?
Yes. More than 500 POWs were rescued.

Iwo Jima

1. What did General Tadamichi Kuribayashi build on Iwo Jima to secure the island?
Eleven miles of tunnels
2. What famous photograph was taken during this battle?
Six men raising a large American flag taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal
3. Who won the Battle of Iwo Jima?
The Americans
4. What secret code language did the Americans use that was never broken?
The Navajo Indian tribal language code

Okinawa

1. What did Lt. General Mitsuru Ushijima do when American troops landed on Okinawa Island?
He let the Americans capture Okinawa's two airfields while he set up two defensive lines and trained all the Japanese civilians—from old people to children—how to kill American soldiers.
2. Who was the highest-ranking American killed in action during WWII?
General Simon Bolivar Buckner
3. After the bloodiest conflict in the entire Pacific War, who finally won the Battle of Okinawa?
The Americans

The Yamato

1. What was the *Yamato*?
Japan's biggest, most powerful warship
2. Out of the 3,000 men aboard the Yamato how many survived?
269 men survived
3. What changed in the attitude toward naval battles after this event?
Battleships were no longer considered the most powerful weapons at sea—planes dominated both the air and sea.

Victory Over Japan

1. What are some reasons Japan refused to surrender when they were clearly losing the war?

**They would not give up all their weapons in unconditional surrender.
They considered Emperor Hirohito a god and were afraid Americans would execute him.
The Japanese considered themselves a superior race destined to rule over all other nations.
They were afraid the Soviet Union would attack them.**

2. Who uncovered scientific theories that led to the creation of the atomic bomb?
Albert Einstein
3. When did America drop the atomic bomb “Little Boy” on Japan?
August 6, 1945
4. With no sign of Japan’s surrender, when did America drop the atomic bomb “Fat Man” on Japan?
August 9, 1945
5. When did Japan officially surrender?
August 15, 1945

Occupation of Japan

1. Who did President Truman name Supreme Commander of Allied Powers?
General Douglas MacArthur
2. Did General MacArthur kill Emperor Hirohito and disarm the Japanese people?
No, he fed the starving people in Japan and allowed the emperor to live and the people to keep their weapons to save their pride.
3. Which enemy did General MacArthur block from attacking Japan?
The Soviet Union (led by Josef Stalin)
4. Is Japan an enemy or an ally of the United States now?
A strong ally

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