

## World War II – Part 3

### Background

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, America and Japan were locked in a struggle to control the Pacific.

Pearl Harbor was a success from the Japanese point of view.

It crippled the American Fleet, and allowed Japan to advance into South-East Asia with remarkable speed.

Japan conquered islands spreading across the Pacific, and immediately gained the resources to carry on the offensive.

Japanese ports were flooded with war material . . . tin, oil, and rubber.

They faced limited opposition at the beginning.

American forces were not ready to resist. Britain and France were consumed with events in Europe, and offered very little support to their colonies in the Pacific.

Japan was the greatest power in the Pacific, but its hegemony would not last!

Roosevelt committed his troops to victory in Europe and the Pacific.

They started by attacking Japanese shipping . . . limiting the flow of resources to Japan.

The War in the Pacific would be determined by the naval strength, but these were not traditional naval battles.

The aircraft carrier was the most important instrument of death, and its pilots would deliver the fatal blows.

The decisive turning point came at the Battle of Midway.

Here the American Fleet struck a fatal blow against the Japanese Fleet by sinking three aircraft carriers. Japan was forced onto the defensive!

Having secured naval supremacy over the Japanese Fleet, American troops were deployed in a strategy called Island Hopping.

Island Hopping was an effective strategy . . . the Japanese Empire was slowly falling apart.

As American troops approached Japan, casualties spiked.

At Iwo Jima and Okinawa, American troops faced Japanese soldiers who would rather commit suicide than surrender.

The solution was dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

## **Assignment**

Your mission is to gather information about the Second World War from Pearl Harbor to the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

Step 1 – Referring to your PLOS, read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on specifics.