**World War II 1- The War in the Pacific**

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| **Aim:**  | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:****1.****2.** |  |

**A. Japanese Expansion**

Japan industrialized quickly and became a world power by the 1930s. They had a powerful army and navy and expanded their empire. However, they needed natural resources to continue expanding. Japan has very few natural resources. They needed to find better ways of gaining these precious natural resources.

*How can a country get natural resources if they do not have them in their own country? (Think of 2 ways)*

**B. Japanese-U.S. Relations**

In 1937, Japan joined German & Italy and became known as the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis – The Axis Powers.

In 1940 (one year after WWII started), the United States and Japan were conflicted over three issues. These three issues are described below:

1.Tripartite Pact of Alliance

Japan was in an alliance with Germany and Italy. The United States was against Germany during WWII, and was supporting Germany’s enemies, Britain and France. The United States wanted Japan to stop supporting Germany.

2. Southern Indo-China

The US demanded Japan to withdraw (take away) its armies from the area of southern Indo-China. The Japanese army was bothering anybody who passed through this territory, making it very difficult for the U.S. to trade in China.
3. China

Japan invaded China in 1937. The US demanded that Japan leave China. In the Chinese city of Nanking, the Japanese had massacred (savagely killed) over 300,000 civilians, making Japan unpopular in the eyes of Americans. This event was known as the “Rape of Nanking.”

*From the POV of the United States, which issue do you think upset them the most? Explain why.*

**C. U.S. Embargo on Japan**

The U.S. increased military and financial aid to China, started on a program of strengthening its military power in the Pacific, and in July 1941 cut off the shipment of oil and other raw materials to Japan. Because Japan was poor in natural resources, its government viewed these steps, especially the embargo (end of trading) on oil as a threat to the nation's survival.

“We have every right to create an empire. Europeans want Japan to limit its navy and its interest in China while they place high taxes on Japanese goods. “

-Hashimoto Saito, Japanese Industrialist, 1930

*The Japanese leaders were desperate for natural resources and had to make up their minds as quickly as possible. You and your partner are generals in the Japanese army. You must suggest a plan to your emperor as quickly as possible. On the board are your choices for what you may do. Back up your decision with logical reasoning.*

*Our decision is*

**D. Pearl Harbor**

Prior to 1941, the United States was not physically involved in World War II. They merely provided money and supplies to the Allies (mainly England). On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (headquarters of the Pacific Fleet) in a surprise attack in hopes of destroying the entire Pacific Fleet. Hundreds of Japanese bombers devastated 16 of 93 American ships and destroyed 2 of 8 battleships. The bombs ruined all the American military planes and killed over 2,000 soldiers, sailors and civilians.

 “Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation … was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific…It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.”

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the U.S. (December 8, 1941)

“I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

# -Isoroku Yamamoto, Japanese Admiral

*Is the excerpt of FDR’s speech bias or neutral? Find specific examples in the quote.*