

THE ATOMIC BOMB DEBATE

LESSON 1

JAPANESE AGGRESSION 1930-1941

<p>Objectives/learning outcomes</p> <p>Pupils will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn why the Japanese military's influence grew in the 1930s. • Understand why relations between Japan and America deteriorated up to 1941. • Using primary documents such as photographs, oral histories and survivor accounts, explain why Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor brought America into the Second World War. 	<p>Starter</p> <p>1. What is happening in this photo?</p> <p>The photo is:- <i>The USS West Virginia on fire, 7 December 1941 taken by surprise, during the Japanese aerial attack on Pearl Harbor.</i></p> <p>Can pupils identify what significant event in U.S. history is taking place?</p> <p>2. The U.S. Navy did not allow much from the photographic records of the Pearl Harbor attack to be made public in 1941. Why do you think they made this decision?</p> <p>3. What do you think was the reaction of the American public when they saw this image published in their local newspapers?</p>
<p>Activities and homework</p> <p><u>Activity 1</u> Japanese Aggression 1920-1941</p> <p><u>Activity 2</u> Pearl Harbor</p> <p><u>Activity 3</u> Source Evaluation</p> <p><u>Homework</u> Homework 1 Reaction to Pearl Harbor [Standard] Homework 2 Consequences of Pearl Harbor [Advanced]</p>	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Ask pupils to brainstorm alternatives to fighting when countries are in disagreement over who should control which territories. What might Japan and the United States have done instead of going to war? Have pupils list their ideas in pairs or small groups.</p>

ACTIVITY 1

JAPANESE AGGRESSION 1920-1941

TASKS

Use the diagram 'Japanese Aggression 1920-1941'.

1. How did Japan change in the 1920s?
2. What were the reasons for Japanese aggression in the 1930s?
3. Explain why events 2-6 would have led to increasing tension between Japan and America.

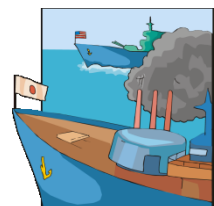
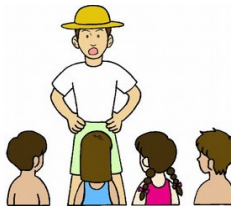
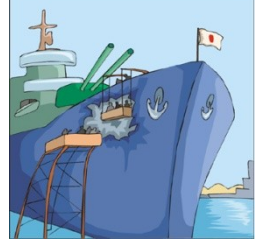
Complete the table below.

4. Study the map 'The Japanese Empire' Source 1. How does the map help you understand why Japanese expansion led to worsening relations with the USA?

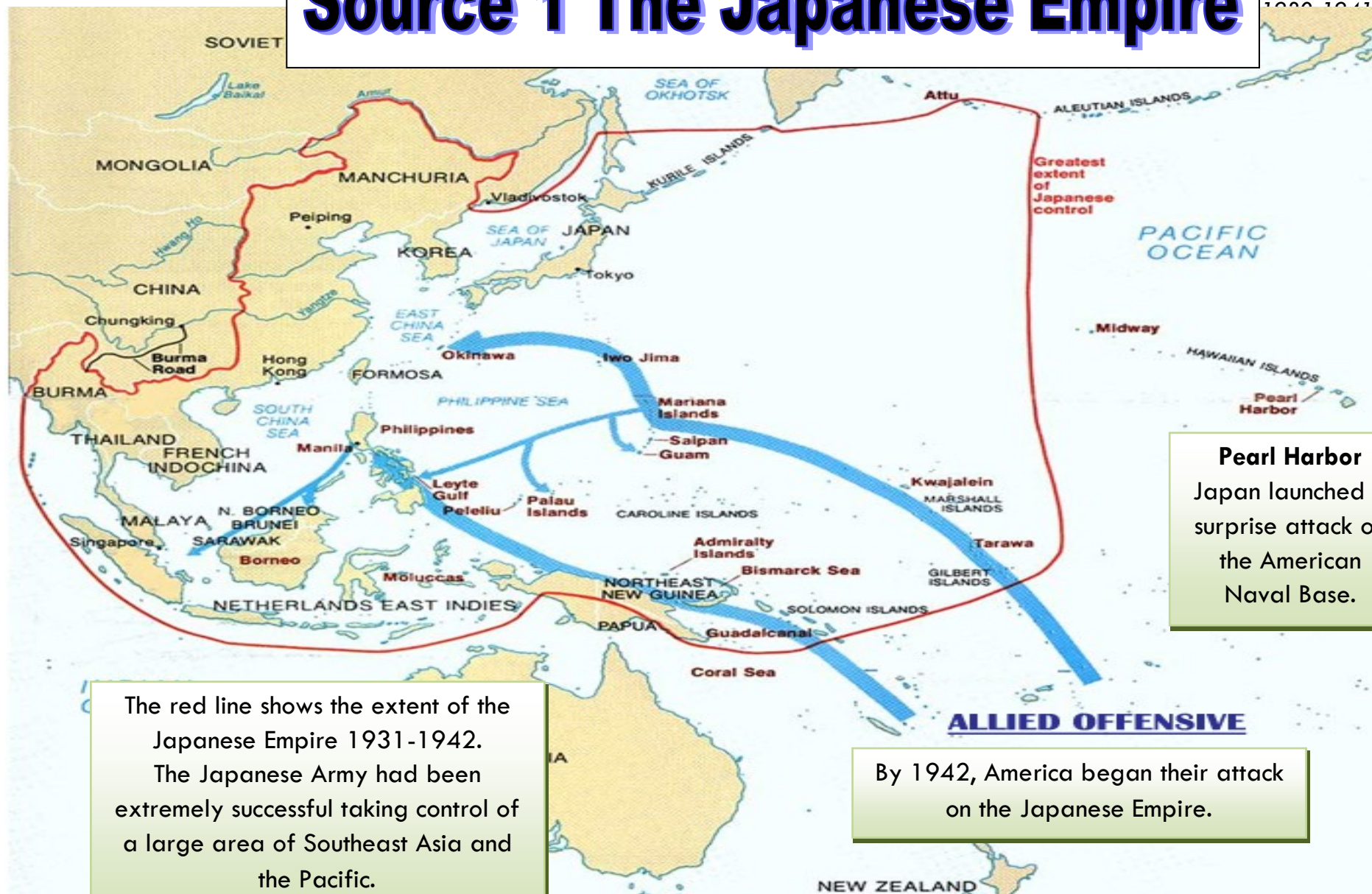
JAPANESE AGGRESSION 1920-1941		
<i>Event</i>	<i>What happened?</i>	<i>This caused tension between Japan and America because...?</i>

JAPANESE AGGRESSION 1920-1941

<p>❶ In 1920 surrender, retreat, defense all removed from Japanese military manuals.</p>	<p>❷ America forced Japan to keep her navy restricted in size by the Washington Agreement 1922.</p>
<p>❸ In 1925, Military personnel were placed in public schools to shape the thinking of Japanese children.</p>	<p>❹ The Wall Street Crash in America in 1929 ruined the Japanese silk trade.</p>
<p>❺ In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, a province of China. They refused to leave.</p>	<p>❻ The Japanese government grew more dominated by the army.</p>
<p>❼ In 1941, America placed a ban on Japan buying steel, scrap iron and oil.</p>	<p>❽ America saw Japan's aggression as a threat and increased the size of their navy at Pearl Harbor.</p>



Source 1 The Japanese Empire



The red line shows the extent of the Japanese Empire 1931-1942. The Japanese Army had been extremely successful taking control of a large area of Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Pearl Harbor
Japan launched a surprise attack on the American Naval Base.

By 1942, America began their attack on the Japanese Empire.

ACTIVITY 2

PEARL HARBOR 1941

Discussion

Ask pupils to describe the things they already know about why the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and what happened as a result of the attack.

Pearl Harbor 1941

On the morning of 7 December 1941, 350 Japanese aircraft launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack on Pearl Harbor was the culmination of a decade of deteriorating relations between Japan and the United States over the status of China and the security of Southeast Asia. This breakdown began in 1931 when Japanese army extremists, in defiance of government policy, invaded and overran the northernmost Chinese province of Manchuria. Japan ignored American protests, and in the summer of 1937 launched a full-scale attack on the rest of China. Although alarmed by this action, neither the United States nor any other nation with interests in the Far East was willing to use military force to halt Japanese expansion. Pearl Harbor changed this. The attack was moderately successful, destroying two battleships, one minelayer, two destroyers and 188 aircraft. More than 2,000 men were killed. The main effect of the attack, however, was to galvanize the American public, which had previously been severely split over involvement in the Second World War. On 8 December, the U.S. Congress declared war on Japan. Germany, which was allied with Japan, declared war on the United States on 11 December, and the U.S. declared war on Germany later the same day.

Discussion

Show the pupils the newspaper headline. Discuss with pupils how they would feel if they were living in the United States and saw this newspaper from 8 December 1941.

Ask pupils:-

1. What warnings the United States government and military had to indicate that the Japanese might attack Pearl Harbor?
2. Why wasn't the United States better prepared for the attack on Pearl Harbor?
3. What could the United States have done to better prepare itself for the attack?

8 DECEMBER, 1941 PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SPEECH

Distribute a copy of President Franklin D Roosevelt's speech. Read the speech and ask the students to follow along. If possible, try to obtain either video footage or an audio clip of this speech to allow students to gain a first-hand experience of the speech's impact.

“Yesterday, Dec. 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 and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with the government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleagues delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Discuss the casualty figures and explain why the Pearl Harbor attack would have been a shock to many Americans.

PEARL HARBOR CASUALTIES	
Japan Less than 100 men 29 planes 5 midget submarines	United States 2,335 servicemen killed, 68 civilians killed, 1,178 wounded 188 planes 18 ships (8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, 3 destroyers and 4 other vessels)

ACTIVITY 3

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

SOURCE 1

“Veering right toward the west coast of the island, we could see that the sky over Pearl Harbor was clear. Presently the harbor itself became visible across the central Oahu plain, a film of morning mist hovering over it. I peered intently through my binoculars at the ships riding peacefully at anchor. One by one I counted them. Yes, the battleships were there all right, eight of them! But our last lingering hope of finding any carriers present was now gone. Not one was to be seen.”

Commander Mitsuo Fuchida
[Japanese pilot]

SOURCE 2

“I was about three quarters of the way to the first platform on the mast when it seemed as though a bomb struck our quarterdeck. I could hear shrapnel or fragments whistling past me. As soon as I reached the first platform, I saw Second Lieutenant Simonson lying on his back with blood on his shirt front. I bent over him...He was dead...”

Marine Corporal E.C. Nightingale
[American sailor]

TASK

Sources 1 and 2 are accounts of the Pearl Harbor attack written by people who were involved in the event. How helpful would historians find these sources in explaining what the attack on Pearl Harbor was like for U.S. sailors and Japanese pilots?