Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

8.02 Notes Outline

**“War in the Pacific”**Complete the 8.02 Notes Outline as you review the lesson.

Explore 2:

Compare the two events. When and where was each of the photos taken?      They were taken decades apart and in very different parts of the word, so how are they similar?

I. War at Sea

The Japanese Advance 1941-1942

Following the attack on      , the Japanese attacked several other strategic island nations across the Pacific in an attempt to expand their empire.

During this early phase of the war, the Japanese were largely successful in these attacks. In fact, they rarely encountered resistance until their ground attack on the US territory of the Philippines.

Philippines Fall

Japan attacked the main U.S. air base in the      , Clark Field, hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. One-half of      air force was destroyed here. When Japanese forces landed in the Philippines a few days later, U.S. forces were weak, undersupplied, and had received word that additional help would not be arriving. MacArthur withdrew his troops to the       to set up defenses.

In March 1942, after four months of bravely holding out, FDR realized the situation for American troops was hopeless and ordered MacArthur to escape to Australia. MacArthur reluctantly left his soldiers to command the rest of the Pacific campaign promising, "     ."

Bataan Death March

After running low on ammunition and food, over 11,000 Americans and Filipinos surrendered to the Japanese enemy on May 6, 1942.

As the Bataan Peninsula fell, prisoners were divided into groups of 500 to 1,000 to march 60 miles to a railroad to be shipped to prison camps.

76,000 American and Filipinos became prisoners of war.

Already weakened by weeks without enough food or medicine, many prisoners could not keep up on the 60 miles walk and were executed by the guards. 10,000 prisoners died during the 6 to 12 day march known as the      .

After the war, several Japanese leaders were executed for these and other war crimes at the      . Hideki     , who later became prime minister of Japan, was also executed for war crimes.

*The Early War in the Pacific*

By the time Truman became President, Allied forces were winning the war in the Pacific. Allies rebuffed a Japanese invasion of Australia in the Battle of the Coral Sea and gradually captured or recaptured various islands on the way to Japan.

War at Sea

The United States had been knocked down, so to speak, at Pearl Harbor and would remain on the defensive until we could get back on our feet. In other words, when one suffers a crippling blow, especially one that is unexpected, it is not easy to immediately come back swinging.

After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. would face several months of simply trying to defend ourselves from more damage. On the other hand, Japanese forces remained on the offensive and spread across the Pacific.

The      was the first naval combat carried out entirely by aircraft. Both sides lost one-half of their aircraft.

The goal was to eventually stop the Japanese forces from being the aggressor, remove them from the territories they had taken, and push them back toward Japan. Two critical battles would get us closer to these goals.

The Tide is Turned

The      erupted on June 4, 1942 and is considered the turning point of the war in the Pacific. It was fought entirely from the air.       committed a large part of Japan's navy to the battle hoping to destroy American forces once and for all. Yet, the U.S. won the critical turning point, Battle of Midway.

Battle of Guadalcanal

The      started in August 1942. It was the first       for American marines in World War II.

11,000 marines landed on Guadalcanal to capture the island. After months of fighting, the Japanese retreated from the island without being detected.

Island-Hopping in the Pacific

American forces regrouped and began to go on the offensive;

a new phase of the war began. An island-hopping campaign was employed by MacArthur and Nimitz in the Pacific in 1943 and 1944 from Australia across the central Pacific.

      was a strategy of selectively attacking or bypassing specific islands held by the enemy. The campaign included the Solomon Islands, Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, and Mariana Islands. Bombing raids on Japanese cities could now be conducted from bases on islands, like Tarawa, captured during the island-hopping campaign. The campaign proved to be a success, but at a high cost.

Some of the highest casualties reported during the Pacific conflict occurred during this last phase. Although the Americans suffered greatly, the Japanese suffered more, thus paving the way for an Allied victory in the Pacific.

MacArthur Returns to the Philippines

As forces pushed closer to Japan, the brutality of the war became more evident largely due to the Japanese belief that surrender would mean dishonor. This belief inspired the Japanese to fight to the last man, and in so doing, inflicted thousands of casualties.

As he promised, MacArthur returned during the      , leading 160,000 troops to recapture the Philippines. 80,000 Japanese were killed with only 1,000 left to surrender. An additional 100,000 civilians were also killed in the Philippines.

were used for the first time during the Philippines Campaign. Japanese kamikaze pilots flew their planes into ships as a tactic intended to halt the U.S. advance.

II. Closing in on Japan

Iwo Jima

In November 1944, just months after the D-Day invasion on the European front, the       began. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the war with 25,000 American casualties. It started with 74 days of air raids to weaken Japanese forces. In February 1945, 110,000 U.S. troops stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima. Japan fought to the last defenders with only 216 left to surrender.

Okinawa

The      was fought from April to June 1945. It was the last obstacle before an       of Japan.

Okinawa was second in size only to Normandy as far as American and British involvement with 180,000 combat troops used to drive the enemy from the island. In desperation, the Japanese resorted to more kamikaze and      .

Okinawa was the costliest battle in the Pacific with 50,000 American casualties. In addition, 90,000 Japanese soldiers, and 100,000 Okinawa civilians died.

Steps to End the War

Following the surrender of Germany on May 7, 1945, the Allied leaders met for the last conference of the war in Potsdam, Germany. Remember from Unit 7, Franklin Roosevelt died shortly after the      , which took place prior to the surrender. Therefore, the new President, Harry Truman, represented the U.S. at Potsdam.

During the      , the leaders made final decisions regarding the future of Germany and occupied Europe, determined a framework for the future war criminal trials, and called for an unconditional surrender from Japan.      , agreed with the call for an unconditional surrender, but was not optimistic that Japan would soon comply.

Before the Potsdam Conference had even ended, Japan rejected the Potsdam ultimatum.

The war had been going on for over four years when President Truman and the other Allies were faced with the dilemma of how to get Japan to accept the terms for an unconditional surrender.