

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Activity Title: Advancing Across the Pacific (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Areas of the museum to visit for this lesson plan: The Admiral Nimitz Museum and the George H.W. Bush Gallery.

Teacher Note: If you are bringing a large group you will want to split them up into groups of 10- 25 and have them start at different locations. These smaller sizes allow all to access the various areas at one time.

Activity Objectives: The student will understand concept of the island hopping strategy used by the United States during the war against Japan to include the routes used in the advance across the Pacific and the locations of some of the major islands captured.

TEKS:

5th Grade:

113.16(b)(5)(C)

6th Grade:

113.18(b)(3)(A)

Activity Description:

1. Prior to the museum visit (Time Frame: 20 min.):

Before World War II the U.S. Navy had contingency plans for a war against Japan called WAR PLAN ORANGE. This plan called for seizing islands to use as navy bases. These islands would first have to be captured by Marines or Army troops. The plan culminated in a large sea battle off the coast of Japan.

When World War II began it became obvious airplanes were very powerful weapons that could sink ships, protect bases and bomb enemy bases. Because

of this the plans changed a little. The U.S. now had to capture islands that could be used as airfields to support the next phase of the plan.

By only taking necessary islands to support this new plan we were able to bypass many Japanese held islands. Those bypassed islands could not be supplied and the Japanese troops on those islands were isolated and trapped. This concept of only taking certain islands became known as “island hopping” or “leapfrogging”.

This lesson plan begins with the attack on Pearl Harbor which brought us into the war. It also covers some of the early Japanese conquests to set the stage. It then covers the advance across the Pacific by the United States and ends with the surrender of Japan.

Prior to coming to the museum the students should look at a map of the Pacific and familiarize themselves with the locations of Japan, Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, the Mariana Islands, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

2. During the museum visit (Time Frame: 2 hrs.):

Admiral Nimitz Museum: Locate the answers in Gallery 2, which tells the story of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz.

a. On the panel A Divided Command, Nimitz went from Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet to what expanded title?

b. Who was named Supreme Commander, Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area?

c. Located on the timeline under Island Hopping, what were the two routes chosen to reach Japan?

Nimitz's Route - _____

MacArthur's Route - _____

The George H.W. Bush Gallery:

Pearl Harbor (#150 on the map of the interior of the Bush Gallery)

Watch the program about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Shock and Anger (#160 on the map)

Listen to the speech given by President Roosevelt on 8 December 1941. You can locate it near the panel A Date Which Will Live In Infamy.

Bataan and Corregidor (#180 on the map)

d. On the panel Status Report 1942, 1942 brought bad news in the Pacific. Name the areas where the Allies were defeated in early 1942:

e. On the panel MacArthur Defends the Philippines, where did the Japanese land on 22 December 1942?

f. On the panel Preparing to Counter Attack, two geographical areas were critical to protecting Allied supply lines, what were those areas?

g. On the touch screen interactive, go to “Background” and select “Geography.” What island is Manila located on?

h. Philippine Scouts were Filipinos serving in the U.S. Army in the Philippines. On the touch screen interactive go to “Commanders and Forces,” under U.S. & Allies select “Strength and Composition of U.S. Army troops in the Philippine

Islands, 31 November 1941". How many Philippine Scouts served with the U.S. Army?

On the same touch screen interactive select "Medal of Honor." What is the name of the Philippine Scout that received the Medal of Honor?

The Rising Sun (#190 on the map)

i. On the panel The Presidents Request, to boost American morale President Roosevelt wanted to strike Japan's homeland, who led this raid?

j. On the panel A Divided Command, 4 April 1942, after General MacArthur escapes from Corregidor to Australia, Nimitz received orders that he would share command in the Pacific with MacArthur. MacArthur was given command of Australia, the Philippines, New Guinea and surrounding islands. While Nimitz was given command of the vast expanses of ocean called the Pacific Ocean Areas. Looking at the inset map, name the three areas that make up the Pacific Ocean Areas.

Midway (#210 on the map)

k. On the panel Yamamoto's Plan, what was the objective of the invasion force on Day 3?

Guadalcanal (#220 on the map)

l. Listen to the video table and identify what island group Guadalcanal is part of. Why do the Japanese want to control the island, and what does Guadalcanal mark the beginning of for American forces?

The Aleutians (#230 on the map)

m. On the panel, Status Report 1943, MacArthur and Halsey had a joint operation called CARTWHEEL this became the joint plan for taking what two areas?

The Solomons (#250 on the map)

n. On the touch screen interactive select “New Guinea and the Solomons” then select “Background” then “Geography.” Where are the Solomon Islands located?

On the same touch screen under “New Guinea and the Solomons” go to “Battle Timeline,” then “Operation CARTWHEEL.” What blocks MacArthur’s return to the Philippines and Halsey’s advance up the Solomon’s in 1943?

Tarawa (#270 on the map)

o. On the touch screen interactive select “Background” then “Geography,” Tarawa Atoll is part of what island group?

Marianas(#330 on the map)

p. On the panel Island Hopping, A drive across the Central Pacific, through what islands would culminate in a decisive naval battle off the Philippines?

q. On 10 Aug 1944 the United States recaptured Guam. On the panel Reclaiming American Territory, why did the United States want to take Guam? What would it allow the U.S. to have?

Peleliu (#340 on the map)

r. Watch the video, what island group is Peleliu part of and how far is it located from the Philippines?

Leyte (#350 on the map)

s. Watch the program on the video table, which strait did Admiral Kurita's Center Force go through?

Liberation of the Philippines (#410 on the map)

t. On the touchscreen interactive select “Commanders and Forces” then “U.S. and Allied Commanders”. General MacArthur had large forces at his command for the liberation of the Philippines. Who commanded the following:

U.S. Far East Air Force? _____

6th Army? _____

8th Army? _____

7th Fleet? _____

Iwo Jima (#420 on the map)

u. Watch the program on the the video table and identify why the U.S. wanted Iwo Jima and how far Iwo Jima is from Tokyo.

v. On the panel To The Bitter End. Though the U.S. secured Iwo Jima for the airfields, it was also the first campaign in the Pacific War where the Japanese inflicted more total American casualties than they lost. What was the number of American casualties? (casualties include killed, wounded and missing)

w. On the panel Closing in on the Japanese Homeland, What was the last stop for the U.S. and in which island chain is it located?

Okinawa (#430 on the map)

x. On the touch screen interactive select “Okinawa,” then “Background” then “Strategic Importance.” If Japan lost Okinawa what two things might they have to prepare for?

_____ or

A Terrible New Weapon (#440 on the map)

y. On the video, where and when did the United States drop the atomic bombs?

Unconditional Surrender (#450 on the map)

z. On the panel The Last Day of Imperial Japan, Emperor Hirohito asked his cabinet on 21 June to negotiate peace without what?

Victory (#460 on the map)

aa. Watch and listen to Emperor Hirohito’s speech. While watching the program does Emperor Hirohito ever use the word surrender in his speech?

The Price of Freedom (#470 on the map)

bb. On the panel “A Staggering Loss of Life”, which country had the largest number of military casualties?

Which country had the largest number of civilian casualties?

3. After the museum visit: (Time Frame: 60 min.):

Since World War II, many islands and island groups have become independent and changed their names. On the list below fill in the blanks with the current name of the islands.

- a. Gilbert Islands: _____
- b. Netherland's East Indies: _____
- c. Iwo Jima: _____
- d. The advance across the Pacific took the United States three years, millions of military personnel, hundreds of ships and thousands of planes. Six Marine divisions and twenty-one Army divisions fought in the Pacific. Select one of divisions or ships below and do a report on the battles it fought in during World War II:
 - 1. 1st Marine Division
 - 2. 7th Infantry Division (U.S. Army)
 - 3. USS Enterprise
 - 4. USS Texas

Vocabulary:

Contingency	Composition	Inflict
Culminate	Expanse	Negotiate
Conquest	Atoll	Casualties
Bypass	Strait	Relevant
Infamy	Liberation	Unconditional

Resources: To locate the areas in the museum relevant to this lesson plan you will need to download the two maps from the TEKS Based Lesson Plans page of this website.

Materials: pencil, paper

Technology Utilization: Touchscreen interactive in exhibit area.

Accommodations: Students may require a printed copy of questions to answer during the museum visit.