

# Lesson One: The World at War

## Objectives:

Using a combination of maps, newspapers, radio broadcasts, and newsreels students will receive a basic overview of World War II and how it was reported to the American people. Students will also learn how propaganda was utilized by the government to ensure each American contributed to the war effort and create their own propaganda related to current event within their community.

**Materials:** *The World at War*; *Teacher's Propaganda Discussion Guide*; *Reporting the War Teacher's Resources*; *Reporting the War Worksheet*; Internet access; *Lesson One Quiz*.

## Procedures:

### Activity One: Where the War Happened

1. Distribute the *The World at War* map to students.
2. Have students use their social studies textbooks or any other resource of your choice to complete the worksheet.

### Activity Two: Reporting the War

1. Use the *Reporting the War Teacher's Resources* to choose one newspaper article, one radio broadcast, and one newsreel for your class to analyze.
2. Part I: As a class or in small groups, have students analyze the three news reports, using the *Reporting the War Worksheet* as a guide.
3. Part II: As a class, in small groups, or as individuals, have students choose one type of reporting and create a newspaper article, radio broadcast, or newsreel about a current event in their family, school, or community.
4. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History would love to see your student's World War II inspired newsreels! Contact the Outreach Programs Coordinator at 601-576-6997 or [outreachprograms@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:outreachprograms@mdah.ms.gov) for more information.

### Activity Three: Wartime Propaganda

1. Use the *Teacher's Propaganda Discussion Guide* to introduce your students to the meaning of propaganda.
2. View and discuss examples of World War II propaganda with your class using the provided online resources.
3. Have students identify a current event occurring within their family, school, or community and create a propaganda poster either supporting or opposing the event.

## Extension Activity:

**The War Online:** Visit the website <http://www.pbs.org/thewar/> to access film clips, interviews, photos and more used in Ken Burns' documentary *The War*. The "For Educators" tab provides access to lesson plans, brief classroom activities, and a search and explore feature that allows students to create their own World War II primary source collection using resources from the website.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### The World at War

Use your social studies text book or any other resource approved by your teacher to fill in the blanks about the events of World War II.

The Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ began in July, 1940, and continues through the autumn. The battle includes bombing campaigns over the capital city of \_\_\_\_\_.

On \_\_\_\_\_, Germany invades the \_\_\_\_\_. It is called \_\_\_\_\_.

Atomic bombs are dropped on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in August 1945. Japan surrenders on \_\_\_\_\_.

On \_\_\_\_\_, Germany surrenders.

Poland is invaded by Germany on \_\_\_\_\_.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on \_\_\_\_\_. France is liberated on \_\_\_\_\_.

By April, 1942, Japan had captured many South East Asian countries including \_\_\_\_\_.

The Allies' Tunisian Campaign secures the \_\_\_\_\_ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ surrenders on September 8, 1943.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of \_\_\_\_\_ on November 24, 1939.

On \_\_\_\_\_, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the \_\_\_\_\_.

The Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ gives the Americans a victory over Japan in \_\_\_\_\_.

American forces win the islands of \_\_\_\_\_ in March 1945, and \_\_\_\_\_ in June 1945.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*The World at War Answer Key*

Use your social studies text book or any other resource approved by your teacher to fill in the blanks about the events of World War II.

The Battle of **Britain** begins in July, 1940, and continues through the autumn. The battle includes bombing campaigns over the capital city of **London**.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on **June 6, 1944**. France is liberated on **August 25, 1944**.

On **May 8, 1945**, Germany surrenders. Poland is invaded by Germany on **September 1, 1939**.

On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the **Soviet Union**. It is called **Operation Barbarossa**.

Atomic bombs are dropped on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** in August 1945. Japan surrenders on **August 15, 1945**.

By April, 1942, Japan had captured many South East Asian countries including **Burma, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and Singapore**.

The Allies' Tunisian Campaign secures the **North Africa** region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on **May 13, 1943**.

Italy surrenders on September 8, 1943.

On **December 7, 1941**, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the **Philippines**.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of **Nanjing** on November 24, 1939.

American forces win the islands of **Iwo Jima** in March 1945, and **Okinawa** in June 1945.

The Battle of **Midway** gives the Americans a victory over Japan in **June 1942**.

## ***Reporting the War Teacher's Resources***

***Many radio and newsreels from the World War II period are available from websites such as You Tube and can be found with a simple Google search. Below are specific suggestions from the Internet Archives and other online resources that are appropriate to share with students.***

### **News Parade of the Year 1942 (1942) from Castle Films, 9:27**

Newsreel of the war related events across the globe during 1942.

<http://archive.org/details/NewsParadeOfTheYear1942>

### **WWII News and Related Sound files from 1942**

- Track #8: 1942-06-04 MBS Captain William Graves on the Battle of Midway, 1:53  
A broadcast by radio personality reading a first-hand account.
- Track #9: Battle of Midway Island Special Broadcast, 20:13  
First-person accounts by military personal involved in the battle.

[http://archive.org/details/WWII\\_News\\_1942](http://archive.org/details/WWII_News_1942)

### **US Carrier Fight for Life (1942), 4:41**

Newsreel of the Battle of the Coral Sea and Midway, film footage from carrier flight deck.

<http://archive.org/details/UsCarrierFightForLife>

### **1942 Radio News (1942)**

- Track #40: 1942-06-04 CBS News of the World AM Edition, 12:37  
War news from around the world.
- Track #41: 1942-06-04 MBS Captain William Graves on the Battle of Midway, 1:53  
A broadcast by radio personality reading a first-hand account.
- Track #42: 1942-06-09 CBS News of the World AM Edition, 13:34  
War news from around the world.
- Track #43: 1924-06-10 CBS News of the World AM Edition, 13:25  
War news from around the world, opening with results of the Battle of Midway.

<http://archive.org/details/1942RadioNews>

### **Voices of World War II: Experiences from the Front and at Home, University of Missouri – Kansas City Library Digital Archives**

A variety of audio clips on this website focus on a wide-range of World War II related topics, including the various theaters of war, conditions on the home front, news reports, and music.

<http://library.umkc.edu/spec-col/ww2/main.htm>

# MIDWAY BATTLE RAGING

## Big Forces Engaged

### Sea And Air Fight Developing Rapidly

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU, June 5.—American defenders, spurred by initial successes, closed battle today with a strong Japanese sea-air task force in what may be a finish fight for possession of Midway Island.

Already the island garrison had scored hits on an enemy battleship, an aircraft carrier and possibly other war vessels. Raiding planes were brought down in great number.

And, said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, "our attacks on the enemy are continuing."

This latest assault on the tiny island outpost, last line of defense before Hawaii itself, began shortly after dawn yesterday.

It found the American forces keyed to fighting pitch by long preparation and patently strengthened in the months since they first repulsed such an attack December 7.

#### No Hit-And-Run

It found them alert and forewarned by the preceding day's raid upon Dutch Harbor, 2,000 miles to the north. It seemed the enemy may have stepped unwittingly into a spot too hot to handle.

But it also appeared possible the Japanese did not intend this as a hit-and-run affair, like their five preceding forays against Midway.

Presence of capital ships in the attacking force and the heavy toll the defenders were able to exact in the first few hours of the operations suggested the enemy was at hand with the sole purpose of taking over the island, completely and finally.

And Midway, with the tradition of Wake Island as its guide, was

obviously in no mind to let the issue go by default.

Admiral Nimitz' communique indicated the Americans' first success was achieved at little cost to themselves. He reported that damage to material and installations on the island, 1,149 miles northwest of Hawaii, was minor.

#### No Personnel Casualties

"No reports of personnel casualties were received," the communique added.

Nor did the admiral clarify which units of the United States defenders delivered the telling blows against the Jap battleship and carrier.

"The attack was repulsed by local defenders in which all armed services are represented," he said, indicating that marine, sea and air forces were in action.

#### Communique Is Terse

The admiral's communique told this terse story:

"At 6:35 a. m. today (Thursday), Midway Time, that island was heavily raided by Japanese carrier-based planes. The attack was repulsed by local defenders in which all armed services are represented. A heavy toll of attacking planes was taken. Damage to material and installations on Midway were reported minor. No reports of personnel casualties were received.

"The Japanese carriers were accompanied by battleships and cruisers. One battleship and one carrier definitely were damaged and other vessels are believed to have been hit. Our attacks on the enemy are continuing."

Broadening the fast developing Pacific war, the Midway raid followed by a day two raids of Japanese planes on Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

#### First Attack In December

The Midway attack was the first the Japs had aimed at that island since Admiral Nimitz flew there last month to decorate four naval and marine officers for their bravery in previous raids. At that time he said the ground and air forces under Commander Cyril T. Simard had demonstrated a commendable efficiency of coordination.

Japan's first, and previously the

*From The Hattiesburg American, June 5, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Hattiesburg American. Continued on next page.*

heaviest, attack was made by cruisers and destroyers Dec. 7, the same day of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor precipitating the war with the United States.

Shelling submarines and raiding planes carried on other attacks which reached five on March 10, the last one delivered prior to yesterday's heavy assault. Marine corps aviators were decorated by Admiral Nimitz at Midway for shooting down a four-engined Japanese patrol seaplane in the March 10 attack.

Midway is the last United States' outpost in the Pacific to the northwest of Hawaii, Wake and Guam having fallen to the Japanese.

**WASHINGTON SPECULATES**

WASHINGTON, June 5.—American and Japanese fleet units apparently were engaged today in one of the greatest battles of the Pacific as a result of the enemy's attempt yesterday to raid the strongly-garrisoned United States outpost on Midway Island.

Commenting on the communique issued at Pearl Harbor early today by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, naval experts here emphasized that Nimitz had said "attacks on the enemy are continuing."

This seemed to indicate, it was said, that the fight which started at Midway yesterday morning had continued for many hours with both American and enemy units maneuvering for advantage in what may be a crucial engagement determining the enemy's ability to strike at more vital points, including Pearl Harbor, the United States West Coast, Alaska and even the Panama Canal.

The action off Midway involved not only Japanese aircraft carriers but battleships and heavy cruisers. As great as this force appeared to be, however, there remained a possibility that it was engaged in a diversionary operation and that a main force was developing an attack elsewhere.

It was the first time that Japanese battleships have been reported east of home waters.

**Strategy Still Unknown**

There was no immediate indication here whether a major portion of the enemy fleet was involved, but observers agreed that the presence of so large a force more than 2,000

miles from Yokohama indicated the Japanese were bent on reducing America's growing offensive power in the Pacific and possibly bringing the war within threatening distance of the West Coast.

The Jap's grand strategy was still to be disclosed, and Washington authorities could at best only cite the possibilities based on what has been announced to date.

**Several Possibilities**

The Midway and Dutch Harbor assaults, however, were viewed as evidence of a carefully conceived plan which may have any one of these ultimate actions in view:

1. An effort, preliminary to an attack on Russia, to destroy or conquer Alaskan bases and thereby cut a route over which aerial reinforcements might be moved to the Soviet armies in Siberia.
2. Clear the way for a new and powerful attack on Pearl Harbor, or even the western U. S. coast and Panama, by trying to knock out aerial reconnaissance and interception forces which may be based on Midway and Alaska.
3. A new attempt to cut U. S. supply lines into the southwest Pacific by forceful attacks on the guardian islands south of Hawaii, after the Japanese would hope, having diverted American forces into the North Pacific.
4. A knockout try against the bases from which Japan may be or may have been attacked, including past and future air raids on the Japanese homeland and submarine operations against Japanese shipping.

The relation of Midway and Dutch harbor to any projected attacks anywhere on the North American continent arises from the fact that they flank the vast expanse of ocean over which an assaulting fleet would almost certainly move. Planes operating south of Dutch harbor and north of Midway should be able to keep a fairly good watch over the 1,653-mile stretch of water between those two points.

**Screening Operation**

Even if an attack in force were made against Alaska, the Japanese fleet units participating undoubtedly would take a round-about course to their objective so that an effort to prevent reconnaissance from Midway would be a logical screening operation, and the assault on Dutch harbor would fall into the category of either a preliminary raid to test strength or an attempt to divert defense forces from the scene of the main attack.

If the enemy's plan is to try to wipe out Midway preliminary to attacks farther east—in which case the Dutch harbor attack would have been chiefly diversionary—he may anticipate that he is in for trouble.

Yet, just as at Wake and at Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines, if the Japanese want to take Midway at any cost—and the fact that battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers took part in yesterday's raids indicates that may be their intention—they may possibly succeed in doing so.

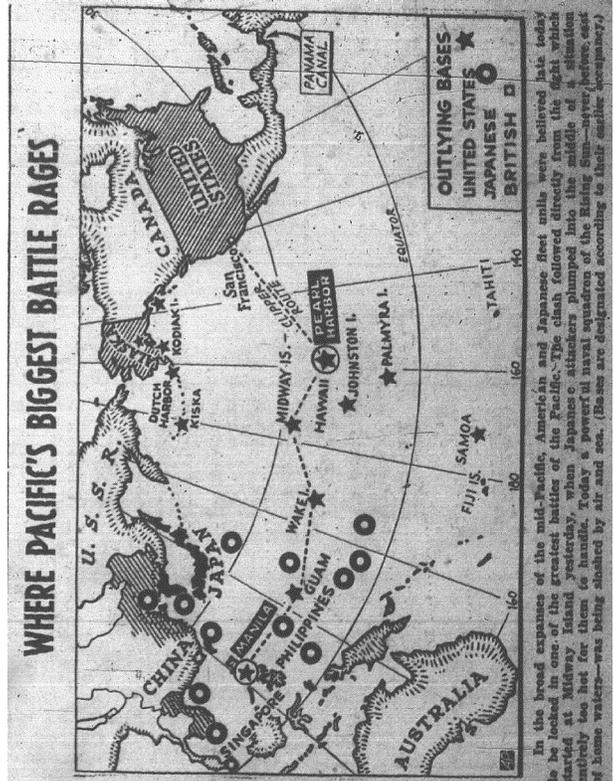
**Hawaii Drive Possible**

An attempt to drive the United States out of Hawaii unquestionably would produce one of the greatest battles of history, but aside from the Hawaiian islands there are many much less strongly held outposts in the Pacific which probably could be taken.

What use the enemy could make of them once he was in possession is another matter. Wake island, so far as is known, has cost the Japs more than they have profited by it. They expended seven warships, many planes and hundreds of men to capture it. They installed various equipment to make it into a plane base. Then a U. S. task force went over on February 24 and "bombed their equipment out of existence."

But some experts consider it highly possible that the Japs may turn west rather than east, once they feel relatively secure in the North Pacific. For several weeks now they have been reported concentrating military forces in northern China and Manchukuo. This move, it was said authoritatively, could augur an attack on Russia.

And in attacking Russia as in waging war against China by closing the Burma road, one of the enemy's primary considerations would have to be to sever any routes over which air power could rapidly be transferred from this county to the allied army in Siberia.



In the broad expanses of the mid-Pacific, American and Japanese fleet units were believed late today to be locked in one of the greatest battles of the Pacific. The clash followed directly from the fight which was fought at Midway yesterday. When Japanese attack planes plunged into the middle of a situation entirely too hot for them to handle, a powerful naval squadron of the United States—five battleships, four cruisers, and a host of other warships—was being ordered to their aid.

# U. S. SCORES VICTORY IN CONTINUING BATTLE WEST OF MIDWAY ISLAND

**Enemy Losses Include Two or Three Aircraft Carriers—All Planes Destroyed; Damage to One or Two More Carriers; Damage to Two More Carriers; Damage to Three Battleships, Four Cruisers, Three Transports**

**ADMIRAL NIMITZ SAYS SOME OF DAMAGED SHIPS MAY NOT GET HOME**  
**United States Forces Apparently in Full Pursuit of Routed Enemy Which Has Suffered Heavy Damage—Army, Navy and Marine Fliers Carry Fight.**

PEARL HARBOR, Honolulu, June 6.—United States armed forces have sunk or damaged 13 to 15 warships and transports of the repulsed Japanese invasion fleet at Midway island and "a momentous victory is in the making." These include the sinking of two, and possibly three, aircraft carriers.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, enumerated enemy losses tonight in his third communique on the great and continuing battle in the Pacific.

"Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged," he said. "Through the skill and devotion to duty of their armed forces of all branches in the Midway area," the communique said, "our citizens can now rejoice that a momentous victory is in the making."

"It was on a Sunday just six months ago that the Japanese made their peacetime attack on our fleet and army activities on Oahu. At that time, they created heavy damage, it is true, but their act aroused grim determination of our citizenry to avenge such treachery and it raised, not lowered, the morale of our fighting men.

"Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged. Vengeance will not be complete until Japanese sea power has been reduced to impotence. We have made substantial progress in that direction. Perhaps we will be forgiven if we claim we are about midway to our objective."

"The battle is not over."  
"All returns have not yet been received. It is with full confidence, however, that for this phase of the action the following enemy losses are claimed:

"Two or three carriers and all their aircraft destroyed, in addition to one or two carriers badly damaged and most of their aircraft lost;

"Three battleships damaged and at least one badly;

"Four cruisers damaged, two heavily;

"Three transports damaged.

"It is possible that some of these wounded ships will not be able

to reach their bases. "One of our carriers was hit and some planes were lost. Our personnel casualties were light.

"This is the balance sheet that the army, navy and Marine forces in this area offer their country this morning." In his communique Friday Admiral Nimitz said it was too early to claim a major Japanese disaster. His statement tonight that "substantial progress had been made in the direction of reducing Japanese sea power to impotence" indicated that the repulse of the powerful enemy task force was fast resolving itself into a disaster for the enemy.

The assault on Midway, regarded here as Japan's first major move to occupy the Hawaiian islands, crumbled with greater damage and casualties to the troop convoy and battlefleet than the Japanese inflicted in their peacetime cloaked attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese invasion force, far from surprising the defenders of Midway, was engaged in battle before its advance raiding force could soften the defenses of the tiny westernmost bastion in the Hawaiian group, and before its troopships could come close enough to attempt a landing.

Just as in the Battle of the Coral sea, this invasion force was hit more than 1,000 miles from its probable ultimate objective—Oahu island.

On the face of official reports on the first three days of battle, the conflict appears so far to have been a spectacularly and fiercely-fought series of engagements with Japanese airmen fighting like savages and machine-gunning American airmen as they floated downward in parachutes or bobbed on the surface of the sea in rubber boats.

(That the smashing blows dealt by United States forces was regarded in Washington as a complete victory for America was indicated in a message sent to Admiral Nimitz by Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States Fleet. The message read:

"The navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard join in admiration for the American naval, Marine and army forces, who have so gallantly and effectively repelled the enemy advance on Midway, and are confident that their comrades in arms will continue to make the enemy realize that war is hell."

(He gave no indication of how the continuing battle was progressing.) Army, navy and Marine Corps pilots bore the brunt of that attack and carried the fight to the invading fleet itself, the greatest enemy armada yet to venture into waters of the Eastern Pacific. The American counterattack was so effective that the only further reported attack on the heavily-fortified little island itself, was from the guns of a Japanese submarine Thursday night.

Exact losses of either side were not reported in Admiral Nimitz, communique but he made it clear that the Japanese forces suffered "damage far out of proportion to what they inflicted upon the American defenders."

Mention of transports, the first enemy troop carriers to be reported in American waters, indicated the Japanese planned to invade the island, an outlying part of widespread Honolulu county, or perhaps Hawaii itself.

The size of the attacking fleet, or the American forces opposing it, were not revealed while the battle continued.

Admiral Nimitz mentioned only activity of American air forces, which "added another shining page to their record" and submarines.

One submarine blasted three torpedo into an enemy aircraft carrier which had already been damaged by United States bombers.

"While too early to claim a major Japanese disaster," a communique from the admiral said, "it may be conservatively stated that the United States control remains firm in the Midway area."

"The enemy appears to be withdrawing but we are continuing the battle."

He was high in his praise of American officers and men who participated in this engagement, the greatest battle to be fought in American waters since the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor December 7.

# THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH

MISSISSIPPI'S MOST PROGRESSIVE NEWSPAPER

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1942.

ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE

## U. S. FORCES PURSUING BEATEN JAPANESE FLEET

### MIDWAY STILL STANDING FIRM IN U. S. HANDS

Eight Enemy Vessels  
And Transports  
Damaged

### INVADERS GET BIG SURPRISE

Soldiers, Sailors And  
Marines All Have  
Hand In Fight

By ROGER D. GREENE  
Associated Press War Editor  
America's wasp-nest defense of  
Midway Island sent the Japanese  
fleet staggering in retreat late  
Saturday as Admiral Chester W.  
Nimitz, dramatically summarizing  
the three-day-old battle, declared:

"It may be conservatively stated that United States control remains firm in the Midway area."

A communique issued at U. S. naval headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, said the powerful Japanese naval squadron was limping away with at least eight warships and transports damaged by American bombers and submarines.

The communique indicated that American forces were pursuing the battered invaders.

Admiral Nimitz said latest reports showed that "the enemy damage is very heavy, indeed," with crippling blows inflicted on several ships in each of the aircraft carrier, battleship, cruiser and transport classes.

The crushing defeat of the Japanese armada, the biggest enemy naval force ever to penetrate so far eastward toward American shores, came even as Tokyo newspapers boasted that their Navy's latest exploits had "established complete Japanese domination of the Pacific and Indian oceans."

Admiral Nimitz, commander in chief of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, said the Japanese had machine-gunned United States fliers forced to bail out in parachutes during dogfights.

Americans adrift in rubber boats received the same ruthless treatment, he declared.

"The brunt of the defense to date has fallen upon aviation personnel in which the Army, Navy and Marine Corps all were represented," Admiral Nimitz said.

From The Columbus Commercial Dispatch, June 7, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Columbus Commercial Dispatch.

# Mauled Jap Navy Runs Home

By WALTER R. CLAUSEN

PEARL HARBOR, June 8.—A once mighty Japanese naval force, perhaps the main body of the imperial fleet, today limped westward in desperate retreat from Midway island, its proud units pounded by an American defense turned into a shattering offense.

"The enemy appears to be withdrawing," said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet. "Contact was lost during last night."

The three-day battle of the central Pacific seemed to be nearing its finish in what was likely the greatest single victory of American naval history.

Even should the Japanese make good their escape, it will be only at the cost of at least three warships sunk, 13 or more others damaged and the virtually complete destruction of their protecting air arm.

Against this formidable score, the only announced American losses in

equipment were one destroyer sunk by a submarine, one aircraft carrier hit by a bomb and some planes missing.

Loss of the U. S. destroyer was acknowledged in the same communique in which Nimitz told of the enemy's apparent withdrawal. But it was offset by official word that a Jap destroyer also had been sent to the bottom and that additional

damage had been inflicted on two enemy cruisers.

## Small U. S. Loss of Life

The crew of the lost U. S. destroyer, Nimitz said, was picked up by other ships "with small loss of life." The admiral was uncertain whether the report of fresh damage to Japanese cruisers referred to further hits on vessels previously damaged or represented entirely new successes.

"The splendid victory at Midway has aroused the greatest enthusiasm throughout this area," General Douglas MacArthur advised the admiral from Australia. "The prime minister of Australia has asked me to send his felicitations. My own pride and satisfaction are boundless. We will not fail."

From Lieut. Gen. J. L. Dewitt, commanding general of the western defense command and fourth army at San Francisco, came this message:

"To the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet and all his officers and men this command extends hearty congratulations on the success of your forces and desires to express its admiration for the gallant action by all arms in the decisive repulse of the enemy attack on Midway. May the final outcome be enemy annihilation."

Mounting Jap Disaster

From The Hattiesburg American, June 8, 1942.  
MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Hattiesburg American.  
Continued on next page.

### Mounting Jap Disaster

Nimitz's communique announcing the Japanese retreat augmented three previous reports telling a story of mounting disaster for the enemy. It came on a day which, the admiral said, found the Hawaiian area quiet "except for minor submarine activity," in sharp contrast to the date six months before when Japan started war in the Pacific with its attack on Pearl Harbor.

Nimitz in earlier communiques reported the sinking of two and perhaps three Japanese aircraft carriers and the destruction or damage of at least 13 other enemy warships.

He said that all the planes on the two definitely sunk carriers were lost and that one or two other enemy carriers were damaged with the loss of most of their planes.

Other enemy warships listed as casualties were three battleships damaged, one heavily; four cruisers damaged, two heavily; three transports damaged, and the destroyer reported sunk in last night's communique. The same announcement said it was not yet determined whether the two cruisers were in addition to cruisers reported damaged in earlier reports. Nimitz said some of the enemy warships damaged were so thoroughly battered they may not be able to reach their bases.

### Text Of Communique

The text of last night's communique:

"The enemy appears to be withdrawing. Contact was lost during last night. Additional damage was inflicted on two enemy cruisers. Until all reports can be checked it is impossible to state whether these cruisers are in addition to those reported in communique No. 3 or whether they were damaged cruisers included in previous reports.

"One enemy destroyer was sunk. One United States destroyer was sunk by a submarine but nearby ships rescued the personnel with small loss of life.

"Except for minor submarine activity in the vicinity of the Hawaiian island chain, this section of the Pacific is quiet."

The civilian population in Hawaii as well as army and navy officers and men were jubilant over the news of the American success.

### Jap Boasts Recalled

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander-in-chief of the Japanese navy, it was recalled, was the one who boastfully before Pearl Harbor wrote a friend:

"I am looking forward to dictating peace to the United States in the White House at Washington."

He also had boasted he would lead his fleet into San Francisco and London.

If Yamamoto lost face in the Coral sea battle, his initial Hawaiian date to regain it proved disastrous as his warships—those not left behind on the bottom of the mid-Pacific—fled before the avengers of Pearl Harbor.

"It was on a Sunday just six months ago that the Japanese made their peacetime attack on our fleet and army activities on Oahu," said Admiral Nimitz. "At that time they

created heavy damage, it is true, but their act aroused grim determination of our citizenry to avenge such treachery and it raised, not lowered the morale of our fighting men.

"Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged. Vengeance will not be complete until Japanese sea power has been reduced to impotence. We have made substantial progress in that direction. Perhaps we will be forgiven if we claim we are about midway to our objective."

### PREDICT NEW EFFORTS

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, June 8. — Desperate new Japanese efforts to break the growing might of America's air and sea power in the Pacific were predicted in informed quarters here today as the only course left open to the enemy, now clearly in the defensive.

Subsequent to the United States' victory in the battle that started with the repulse of a huge attacking force at Midway Island last week, authorities said that the Japs must either initiate new operations somewhere along the sweeping defense line that runs from Alaska to Australia or else by inactivity admit their eventual complete defeat even before the grand offensive of the United Nations starts rolling in the Pacific.

In Washington, Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States fleet, declared at a press conference that the battle just ending might decide the course of the war in the Pacific, depending on the extent of damage inflicted on the enemy.



Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the United States Pacific fleet, had today led his men to "the greatest single victory in U. S. naval history." Battered, thoroughly beaten, the Imperial Navy was believed to be tearing west and homeward as fast as its mauled ships would carry it. If Midway was attacked to regain Japan's "prestige," it was definitely certain today that the Rising Sun had better left its "prestige" where it was last week.

# Badly Beaten Japanese Fleet Retreats From Midway Area

## Fighting Still Believed Going On In Pacific

Results Still Largely  
Shrouded In Secrecy;  
Tokyo Also Silent

By UNITED PRESS

A United States victory in the first round of the decisive Pacific naval battle was hailed around the world Monday as Japan's losses in the Coral Sea and Midway Island battles mounted to 28 and possibly 32 warships sunk or damaged.

The battle, however, was not over. A huge fleet, possibly the bulk of Japanese sea power, had been routed from Midway waters and was being hunted by American planes and warships, but it was still a dangerous force and might be reorganized to attack again.

There also were reports of a secondary air-naval battle in the region of miasmic fogs west of the Aleutian Islands and United States Navy officials were silent on its progress. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz at Pearl Harbor also revealed in his latest communique that there was minor Jap submarine activity around Hawaii, which might be a prelude to sea fighting there.

But the United States Navy had won a vitally important first round and naval experts throughout the world attributed it to superior air strength and to superior reconnaissance, which had the Midway garrison lined up for battle when the Japs approached.

Japan's losses around Midway stood at 14 and possibly 18 warships sunk or damaged. Three, and possibly five of them were aircraft carriers, and three of those damaged were battleships. In the Coral Sea, from May 4 to 8, the Japs had lost 14 warships, including an aircraft carrier sunk and another damaged, making their losses in that all important category from five to seven.

Nimitz reported that the main action around Midway had been broken off when the Japs withdrew. United States forces were giving chase but officials said they would not pursue the Japs into home waters, or even near enough so that they might be counter-attacked by land-based "op planes.

Although the Navy had given only sketchy reports, naval experts believed that the battle off Midway consisted largely of air fighting. They believed that when the Japs began a carrier-based attack on the island last Thursday morning, the Americans met it first with carrier borne Navy bombers and torpedo planes which swooped through anti-aircraft fire and past Japanese fighters, to attack the warships. Then United States land-based bombers joined the attack, flying hundreds of miles across a trackless sea to reach the hostile fleet, a mere pinpoint on their navigation charts.

Later, it was believed, American surface units closed in while carrier-borne planes continued the attack.

Word of the Japanese setback brought a flood of congratulations to the United States Navy.

The naval expert of the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter wrote that if the American reports on the Midway battle were borne out, it might be a turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, United Nations commander in chief in the southwest Pacific, messaged Nimitz.

"Your splendid victory at Midway has aroused the greatest enthusiasm throughout this area. The Prime Minister of Australia asked me to join his felicitations and that of all ranks here. My own pride and satisfaction is boundless. We shall not fail."

In Chungking, the official Central Daily News hailed the Midway success as "the most valuable return in six months of American war efforts."

*From The Tupelo Daily Journal June 9, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Tupelo Daily Journal.*

# BRIEFS

## ABOUT THE WAR

Friday, June 5, 1942.

Japanese attack Midway Island in a surprise raid.

Canada's air defense minister Ralston tells of third Jap raid on Dutch Harbor and entire west coast is placed on a permanent "alert" basis.

U. S. submarine sinks three Jap ships and damages the fourth.

RAF follows night assault on Bremen with series of sweeps over northern France; terrific explosions in Pas de Calais area shake southern coast of Britain. Commandos strike Boulogne, Le Touquet.

Fighting in Russia is sporadic. British tank forces in Libya maintain offensive, seize Axis strong point six miles west of Knightsbridge.

Chinese kill 2,000 Japanese in two day battle at Chuhsien; American officers of Far East command reach Chungking.

Saturday, June 6, 1942.

American, Japanese planes and men of war fight grim duel in Pacific. United States forces defending Midway Island claim direct hits on Jap aircraft carrier battleship, probable damage to other ships, knock out many planes.

Japanese suffer 8,000 new casualties on Chekiang front.

President Roosevelt warns further use of gas against Chinese will bring retaliation from the United States.

United Nations air squadrons in south Pacific blast submarine "wolf pack".

RAF squadrons swarm across the channel in daylight offensive against Nazi-occupied northern France.

Soviet bombers smash German air-dromes on Karelian front.

Libyan situation remains unchanged with the British still holding the edge in the fighting.

London reports that German invasion boats are moving through the Kiel canal.

Sunday, June 7, 1942.

Major Jap invasion fleet withdraws from Midway Island, pursued by U. S. Naval, Air forces. Eight to twelve Japanese ships are thought to be smashed in the three-day battle.

British planes carry out heavy attacks on northern French coast, bomb and machine-gun German encampment in Normandy.

British achieve success in opening phase of counter offensive in Libya.

Chinese claim Japanese thrown back at Chuhsien with 1,000 killed, as Tokyo claims Chuhsien is in Japanese hands.

Stormovik bombers over Baltic have sunk 10 German ships, says Moscow.

Melbourne announces second merchant ship sunk off southeast coast of Australia, but says Jap submarine which sunk ship was itself sunk by Australian plane.

PEARL HARBOR—13 to 15 Jap ships sunk and damaged in battle with U. S. forces west of Midway Island; two and possibly three aircraft carriers sunk, other war vessels damaged badly; remnants of enemy fleet in flight.

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MOSCOW—Russian radio reports Baltic Fleet air arm sinks nine German transport ships and at least one other vessel in three days.

MELBOURNE—Japanese submarine believed sunk off New South Wales by Allied plane, raising toll of the week to six submersibles certainly sunk.

LONDON—Air Ministry announces utter destruction of fully eight square miles of Cologne and widespread fire and bomb damage to rest of great Rhineland city. Ruhr hit again.

Monday, June 8, 1942.

A massive new German offensive in the Crimea against Russia's great Black Sea naval base of Sevastopol has been checked with considerable enemy losses, the Soviet high command announced today.

Japanese submarines have shelled Sydney and Newcastle on Australia's southeast shore, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced last night.

"Keep 'em fleeing"!

That was the message sent today by Lieut. General Henry H. Arnold, chief of United States Army forces to Lieut. General Delos Emmons, commander of the Hawaiian department.

Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States fleet

disclosed tonight that two great battles are in progress in the Pacific between American and Japanese naval forces—one west of Midway Island and the other in the Aleutian area of Alaska.

Tuesday, June 9, 1942.

### WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Midway Island Count—Japanese, 17 ships sunk or damaged; Americans, one destroyer sunk, one aircraft carrier damaged.

Trouble Hunters—American bombers scour ocean for crippled warships.

Rumors of War—Admiral Ernest J. King declares something brewing near the Aleutians; he doesn't say what.

### WAR IN EUROPE

Give Fair Warning—British warn citizens of occupied French coast to evacuate area, promising bigger RAF raids and commando landings.

Toil and Trouble—Nazis rush the construction of three defense lines along the French coastal border.

Tilt of Titans—Giant tank battle continues in Libyan desert. British artillery throws back Axis drive on Knightsbridge. Defenders of Bir Hacheim repel enemy.

Wednesday, June 11, 1942.

Plenty of Japs—Chinese reports say naval units in Jap armada routed off Midway consisted of 54 to 56 war vessels, apart from transports, with 200 planes.

Still No Word—Naval operations off Alaska are still shrouded in secrecy. Washington indicates, however, that

Japs may soon attack Dutch Harbor or some other Aleutian base.

Back at the Old Game—RAF batters Rhur area again, strikes northern France, Holland. 18 British planes are lost. No follow up of warning to evacuate French coast, but bombers hit that area.

Death at Sevastopol—Moscow claims thousands of Nazis slain before Sevastopol in futile attack. Soviet defenses hold.

Tomb for a Nazi—Germany buries Reinhard Heydrich, German Gestapo "hangman" who was assassinated by the Czechs. Hitler eulogizes him—says he refused to have a guard.

British submarine sinks five Italian ships in the Mediterranean.

British repulse Axis attack on southern end of Libya line. Free French at Bir Hacheim throw back further attacks.

7,000 Jap troops are killed at Chuhsien in two days, says Chungking.

12 die in line of service when two blimps crash into the sea during experiment.

The U-boat toll in the western Atlantic since Pearl Harbor has been set at 255 ships.

Thursday, June 11, 1942.

Thousands of Japanese perished in the battle of Midway, Admiral Nimitz announces. Japs claim that two U. S. carriers were sunk in fight.

Navy denies claim that Japs have occupied U. S. bases in Aleutians. Raids claimed by Japs on June 4, 5 and 8th. MacArthur reports 13 Jap fighters shot down at Lae, Salamaua.

The Reds fight savagely in sixth day of Sevastopol attack to hold city against mechanized Nazi army of 100,000.

Nazis raze Czech village of Libcice,

slaughter men, intern women, deport children. Exiled governments say 500,000 killed on continent.

Rome marks second year after II Duce's entry into war, as 30,000 Fascists are ousted for "anti-Germanism."

Reinforcements arrive for Free French at Bir Hacheim. Large Axis attacks are beaten off.

Chungking reports fierce fighting west of key city of Chuhsien, and in other inland sectors.

House approves \$50 soldier-sailor bill. War labor board is said to be ready to turn the heat on mediation panels to speed decisions.

From The Tunica Times-Democrat June 11, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Tunica Times-Democrat.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Reporting the War***

***Part I: Using the questions below as a guide, analyze the content of the newspaper article, radio broadcast, and newsreel to determine the quality of news reports given to the American people during World War II.***

1. Who is making the report? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the main purpose of the report? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Where was the report made from? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How soon after the event did this report occur? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the tone of the report? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Why would the American people be interested in this story or event? \_\_\_\_\_

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***Part II: Using what you have learned about reporting during World War II, choose a method of reporting (newspaper article, radio broadcast, or newsreel) and report on a current event in your school, family, or community.***

# Teacher's Propaganda Discussion Guide

## Part I: What is propaganda?

Propaganda is communication designed to influence people's actions or thoughts. Because its purpose is to influence its audience in one particular direction (to support one political candidate or to purchase one type of clothing) it is one-sided and does not present different opinions, statistics, or choices that are opposed to its own. Propaganda appeals to its audience in three ways. First, it calls for an action or opinion on the part of the viewer. Second, it maintains that the action or opinion is morally right. And third, it gives the viewer the impression of belonging to an elite group, being important, or feeling good.

Propaganda has commonly been used during wartime. During World War II, the Office of War Information distributed propaganda to the American people to boost their moral, encourage them to save resources, buy war bonds, and volunteer for military service. This propaganda took the form of newspaper articles and advertisements, radio broadcasts, newsreels and movies, and posters.

*Many special literary and visual techniques are used in the creation of propaganda. Some are listed below:*

**Transfer:** using the authority of the nation, state, or science to validate a cause or viewpoint.

- Example: Uncle Sam, representing the United States, saying "I Want You" to enlist today or a swastika crushing a church below the words "We're fighting to prevent this."

**Testimonial:** a famous or trusted person agreeing with a viewpoint or promoting a cause or product.

- Example: World champion boxer, Private Joe Lewis stating "We're going to do our part...and we'll win because we're on God's side."

**Bandwagon:** gives the idea that "everyone else is doing this or agreeing with this, why not you?"

- Example: A woman, with her arms full of fruit and vegetables, adamantly proclaiming "Of course I can!" or Rosie the Riveter proclaiming "We Can Do It!"

**Fear:** propaganda that warns its audience that if a certain action comes to pass or if they don't do a specific task, disaster will occur.

- Example: A young mother with a baby in her arms and two grasping hands moving towards them, one with a swastika on it and the other with the Japanese rising sun, and the words "Keep these hands off! Buy Victory Bonds."

**Plain Folks:** a claim by propagandists that they are "just like you."

- Example: A family in their Victory Garden with the words "You can use the land you have to grow the food you need."

**Name-Calling:** this links a person or idea to a negative symbol.

- Example: An image of an American alone in his car with the shadow of Hitler next to him and the words "When you ride alone you ride with Hitler! Join a car-sharing club today!"

**Glittering Generalities:** the use of words so general that they can be interpreted by different people as different things.

- Example: Norman Rockwell's series of the Four Freedoms.

**Card-Stacking:** the use of half-truths or selective disclosures.

- Example: Price control comparisons between 1918 and 1944 that give basic statistics but without any variables.

**Humor:** using humor to poke fun at individuals or ideas.

- Example: Bowling pins that look like Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito being knocked over by a bowling ball. The text reads "Bowl them over – more production."

**Word Play:** uses catchy phrases to grab people's attention.

- Example: "Loose lips sink ships."

**Symbols:** words and images that elicit strong responses from people.

- Example: A swastika with the words "This is the enemy." Similarly, a torn American flag with the words "Remember December 7<sup>th</sup>."

**Simplicity and Repetition:** propaganda must be simple and easy to understand and remember.

- Example: The message "Careless talk got them first" paired with a dead soldier, sailor, or marine.

**Part II: Use one or more of the following websites to view a collection of World War II era propaganda posters distributed by the United States Government:**

World War II Poster Collection, Northwestern University Library <http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/wwii-posters/index.html>

Powers of Persuasion: Poster Art from World War II, National Archives [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers\\_of\\_persuasion/powers\\_of\\_persuasion\\_home.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers_of_persuasion/powers_of_persuasion_home.html)

Take a Closer Look: Propaganda Posters, The National World War II Museum <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/take-a-closer-look/>

**Part III: Lead your class in a discussion about the posters using the following questions as a guide:**

- What is the purpose of the poster?
- To whom is the poster speaking?
- Who is the creator of the poster?
- What colors, images, or words reinforce the poster's message?
- What emotion does the poster elicit?
- Does the poster have an upbeat, hopeful tone or a violent, fearful tone? Which is more effective?
- What propaganda techniques (fear, bandwagon, testimonials, etc.) does the poster use?

**Part IV: Have students identify a current event occurring within their family, school, or community and create a propaganda poster either supporting or refuting the event.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Lesson One Quiz: The World at War***

***Choose the best answer from the multiple choice questions below.***

1. Identify the Axis powers.
  - a. Russia, Italy, United States
  - b. Germany, Italy, Russia
  - c. Germany, Japan, Italy
  - d. Japan, Russia, Germany
  
2. Germany invaded this country in 1939.
  - a. Belgium
  - b. Poland
  - c. the Netherlands
  - d. Russia
  
3. The D-Day Invasion occurred on the beaches of Normandy, France beginning on
  - a. June 6, 1944
  - b. August 25, 1944
  - c. May 8, 1945
  - d. August 15, 1945
  
4. The last major battles fought in the Pacific were at
  - a. Midway and Coral Sea
  - b. The Philippines
  - c. Iwo Jima and Okinawa
  - d. Pearl Harbor
  
5. What Japanese Navy attack occurred in the days before their attack on Midway?
  - a. Battle of Dutch Harbor, Alaska
  - b. Battle of the Coral Sea
  - c. Pearl Harbor
  - d. Battle of Leyte Gulf
  
6. The person responsible for the victory at Midway was
  - a. Admiral Ernest J. King
  - b. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto
  - c. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
  - d. Admiral William Halsey

7. Of the Battle of Midway, Nimitz said the following:
  - a. “Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged.”
  - b. “The attack was repulsed by local defenders in which all armed services are represented.”
  - c. Midway is “a momentous victory in the making.”
  - d. all of the above
  
8. Propaganda can come in the form of
  - a. the written word
  - b. art
  - c. film
  - d. all of the above
  
9. “Loose lips sink ships” is a type of propaganda known as
  - a. humor
  - b. word play
  - c. plain folks
  - d. none of the above
  
10. During World War II, this group distributed propaganda to Americans
  - a. Office of Price Administration
  - b. Department of Defense
  - c. Office of War Information
  - d. Office of Strategic Services

***Use a separate sheet of paper to complete the short answer questions below.***

1. Despite its reluctant involvement in World War I, the U.S. had held fast to its policy of isolationism until 1940. Given the unparalleled scope of World War II, do you think it would have been possible for the U.S. to return to its isolationist policies? Why or why not?
  
2. What was the effect of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the American people?
  
3. Think about the use of radios and newsreels during World War II and compare them to the introduction of the home television set in the 1950s. How did these media advancements impact society?
  
4. During World War II the Office of War Information not only distributed propaganda but also censored the media. This censorship was done at times for the safety of troops or the protection battle plans. Other times it was for the purpose of concealing mistakes or events of an especially devastating nature. Do you think that censorship has its benefits or that full disclosure by the government should be mandatory? Explain your reasoning.

## *Lesson One Quiz: The World at War Answer Key*

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. C