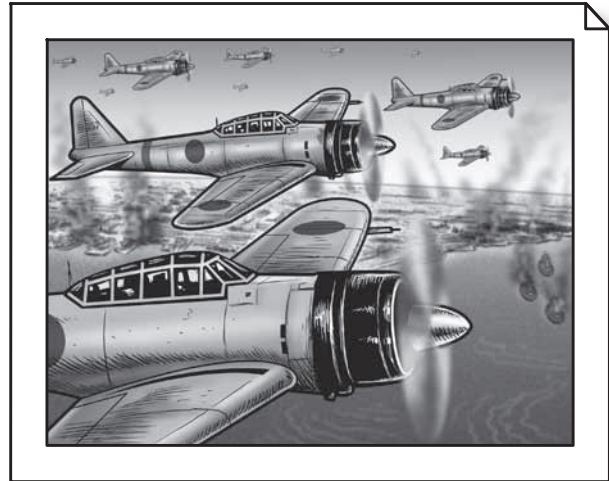




Japan Attacks

By the mid-1930s, the world's powerful nations were split into two opposing kinds of governments, democratic and totalitarian. In a democracy, citizens run the government by voting. The United States, Britain, and France had democratic governments. In a totalitarian state, a dictator rules by controlling everything in citizens' lives. Dictators governed Spain, Italy, and Germany. These dictators planned to expand their empires. They did not care if they had to go to war to do it. Militarists in Japan had the same idea.



Japan's militarists wanted to solve the country's problems by creating a large empire. They planned to conquer China and other areas in Asia. Taking over lands that had many natural resources would give Japan raw materials. It would also provide more room for Japan's growing population and more markets for Japanese products.

In 1931, Japan took over Manchuria, which belonged to China. When the League of Nations said that this action was wrong, Japan left the League. Japanese forces moved farther into China. Many cities fell to the Japanese army, but the Chinese fought back. As the war dragged on, it became expensive for Japan. To build up their resources, Japanese leaders looked for other places in Southeast Asia to conquer. Then, World War II broke out in Europe. Japan decided it was a good time to take over European lands in Asia.

Japan planned attacks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Japanese leaders believed the American naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, must be destroyed. Otherwise, the U.S. battleships could be a danger to Japan. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In a surprise attack, Japanese bombers sank or damaged 19 ships and killed more than 2,400 Americans.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese conquered Guam and Wake Island. They attacked and took over the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore. By March of 1942, the Japanese had conquered areas from China down to Southeast Asia and across the Pacific Ocean.

Japanese leaders thought that attacking Pearl Harbor would force the U.S. government to accept Japanese power in the Pacific. However, the attack had the opposite effect. The United States declared war on Japan the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. European nations, China, and the United States came together with the goal of defeating Japan.



Japan Attacks

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. Japan's militarists wanted to solve Japan's problems by _____.

- A. raising taxes
- B. electing a new leader
- C. creating a large empire
- D. joining forces with Hitler and Mussolini

2. When the League of Nations said it was wrong for Japan to take Manchuria, Japan _____.

- A. left the League of Nations
- B. attacked Pearl Harbor
- C. apologized and gave the land back to China
- D. declared war on Germany

3. In a/an _____, a dictator rules by controlling everything in citizens' lives.

- A. constitutional monarchy
- B. democracy
- C. totalitarian state
- D. oligarchy

4. Japan planned attacks in _____.

- A. North and South America
- B. Australia and New Zealand
- C. Eastern Europe and the Atlantic
- D. Southeast Asia and the Pacific

5. Japan bombed the American naval base in _____.

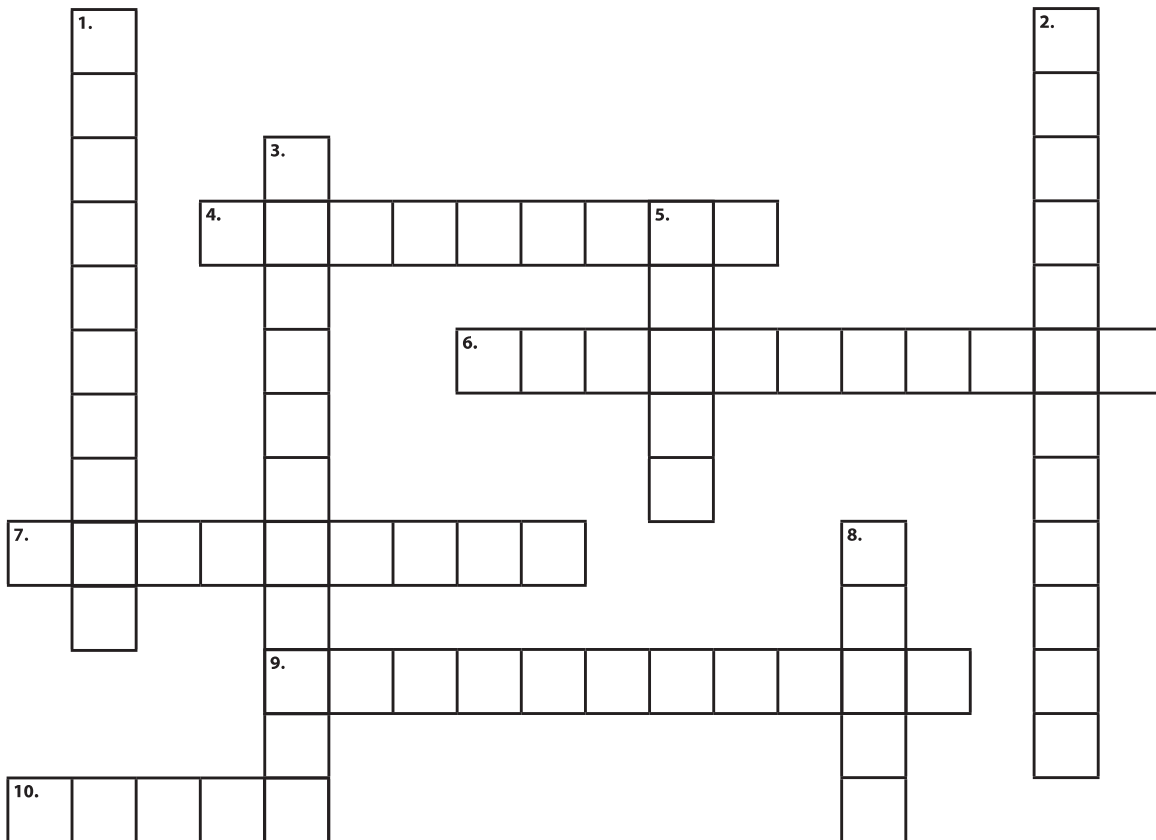
- A. Hawaii
- B. Puerto Rico
- C. Texas
- D. Maryland



Japan Attacks

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

4. In a/an _____, citizens run the government by voting.
6. Japanese _____ planned to conquer China.
7. The Japanese took over the Philippines, Hong Kong, and _____.
9. Japanese leaders thought that U.S. _____ could be a danger to Japan.
10. Japanese leaders thought that attacking Pearl Harbor would force the U.S. government to accept Japanese _____ in the Pacific.

DOWN

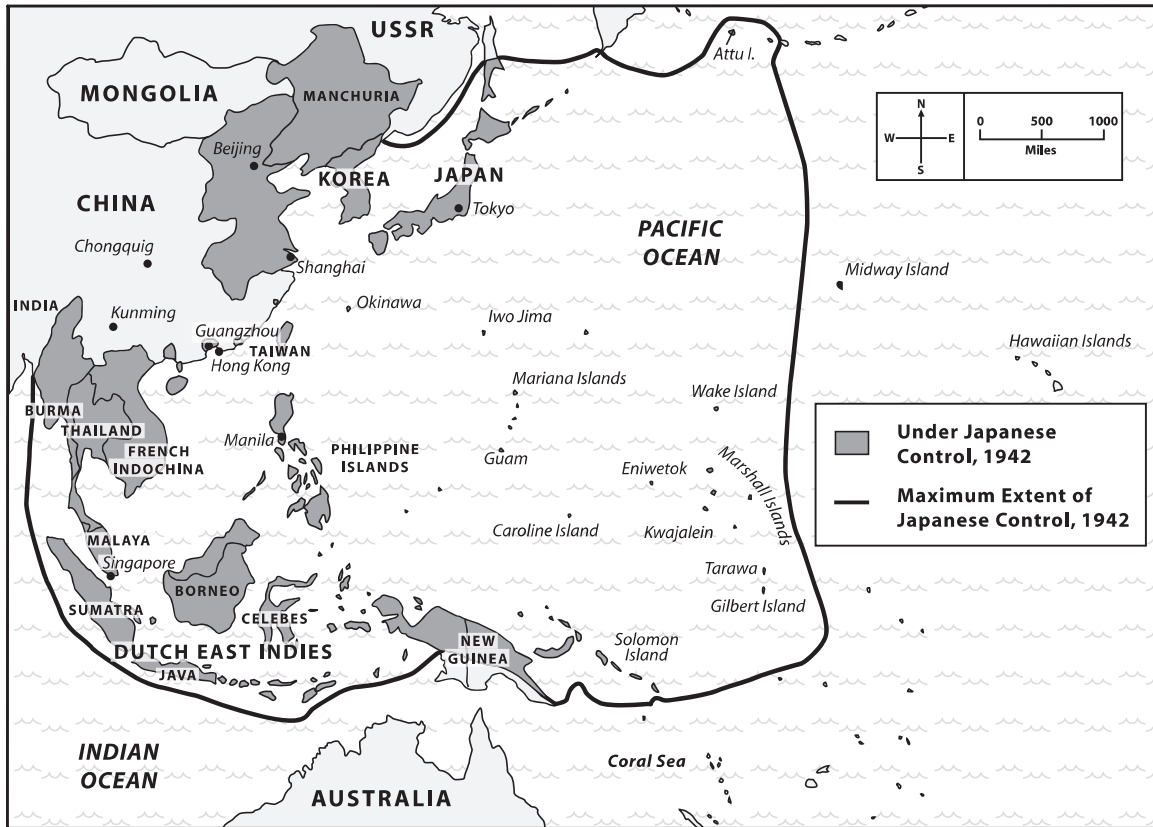
1. When _____ broke out in Europe, Japan attacked European lands in Asia.
2. Japan wanted lands that would provide _____.
3. The Japanese bombed _____ in a surprise attack on December 7, 1941.
5. As Japanese forces moved into _____, the Chinese fought back.
8. China, European nations, and the United States worked together to defeat _____.



Japan Attacks

Map – Areas Controlled by Japan, 1942

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.



1. List three countries under Japanese control.

2. Which ocean borders Japan?

3. How might geography make it hard for Japan to keep control of its empire?



Quiz: Japan Attacks

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. In a totalitarian state, a dictator rules by controlling everything in citizens' lives.
- _____ 2. Japan planned attacks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- _____ 3. Germany bombed Pearl Harbor, the American naval base in Hawaii.
- _____ 4. When World War I broke out in Europe, Japan attacked European lands in Asia.
- _____ 5. European nations, China, and the United States worked together to defeat Japan.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. Japanese _____ wanted to solve Japan's problems by creating a large empire.
- A. imperialists
 - B. militarists
 - C. democrats
 - D. fascists

7. The Japanese took over _____.
- A. Singapore
 - B. the Philippines
 - C. Hong Kong
 - D. all of the above

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Why did Japan want to take over China and other places in Asia?
