

Pearl Harbor

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever heard of Pearl Harbor?
What do you know about it?
2. Why do you think it is considered acceptable to kill people in the context of war?
3. Have you seen the movie *Pearl Harbor*?
Do you think movies based on historical events are a good tool for learning about history?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. harbour | a) a ban on trade between two countries |
| _____ 2. assault | b) a state of underlying stress and anger |
| _____ 3. civilian | c) to forbid |
| _____ 4. tension | d) the act of flying airplanes |
| _____ 5. embargo | e) an attack |
| _____ 6. final straw | f) having a specific plan that makes it possible to gain an advantage or attain a goal |
| _____ 7. strategic | g) a group of ships usually belonging to the military |
| _____ 8. fleet | h) a person who is not in the military |
| _____ 9. intervention | i) something that commemorates a dead person or a historical event |
| _____ 10. memorial | j) an attempt to stop something that is already happening |
| _____ 11. aviation | k) the last event in a series of unpleasant events |
| _____ 12. prohibit | l) a place on the coast where ships can find shelter |

Reading

1. Pearl Harbor is a famous American naval base near Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii. It is the largest natural **harbour** in the state. Native Hawaiians originally named this beautiful location after the large number of pearls* that were found there.
2. Pearl Harbor is not only famous for its beauty. In fact, it is far better known for being the site of a famous surprise attack by the Japanese army during World War II. The **assault** happened on the morning of December 7, 1941, when hundreds of Japanese planes suddenly attacked the base. More than 2,400 Americans, both soldiers and **civilians**, were killed, and 20 ships and 300 airplanes were destroyed. On the other hand, only 64 Japanese soldiers were killed, and only one, a sailor named Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured.
3. There had already been a lot of **tension** between Japan and the US up until that point. One of the main issues was that the two countries disagreed about how to interact with China, which resulted in trade **embargoes**. The attack on Pearl Harbor was the **final straw**. The American president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, declared war on Japan the next day. Canada also declared war on Japan that day. The Japanese had attacked Hong Kong on the same day as Pearl Harbor, and many Canadian soldiers were stationed in Hong Kong.
4. The American base was not well defended since the US army did not expect Japan to attack them so close to home. However, the Japanese were being **strategic**. They knew that if they attacked Hawaii, the US Pacific **Fleet** would not be able to interfere with Japanese military activity in Southeast Asia.
5. The United States had had a policy of non-**intervention** for many years, but the attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. It marked the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War II, which had already begun two years before. A few days after that declaration of war, Japan's allies, Germany and Italy, declared war against the United States.
6. Nowadays, Pearl Harbor is a tourist destination and the site of a national monument. Visitors can explore the **memorials** dedicated to specific battleships, such as the USS *Arizona* and the *Battleship Missouri*, as well as the USS *Bowfin* submarine museum and park. There is also an **aviation** museum that contains many vintage aircraft. Because the harbour is still an active military base, visitors are **prohibited** from bringing bags inside the historic site.
7. When visiting this beautiful harbour, it is difficult to imagine such a violent attack. Although most American children learn about the historic event in school, many are more familiar with it because of the romantic war movie, also called *Pearl Harbor*, which came out in 2001.

"Yesterday, December 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."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, US president, 1933–1945

***Pearls**

A pearl is a shiny, round mass found inside of an oyster. Although pearls are considered very valuable, they are not actually precious stones. Instead, pearls are produced when a grain of sand gets stuck in the oyster's body. The oyster tries to make itself more comfortable by coating the grain with calcium carbonate, which later hardens and becomes luminous.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. Pearl Harbor is a man-made harbour.
- _____ 2. There had already been tension between Japan and the US before the attack.
- _____ 3. Canada declared war on Japan the day after the US did.
- _____ 4. 64 Japanese soldiers were captured by the Americans.
- _____ 5. Kazuo Sakamaki was the president of Japan.
- _____ 6. Pearl Harbor is still an active military base.

B. Quiz Your Partner

Create your own comprehension questions about the reading using the following question words. Try to include some of the **bold** words from page 2 in your questions. Quiz your partner.

1. Who?

2. What?

3. Where?

4. When?

5. Why?

6. How?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentence

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

1. If Sheila doesn't stop smoking, we will have to stage an _____.
2. Eric is very _____ about his homework.
He always does the most difficult assignments first so he can end with the easy ones.
3. I could never join the military. I prefer to be an ordinary _____.
4. I can sense a lot of _____ between my two coworkers.
I think they might hate each other.
5. There was an _____ on this street last night, so I would prefer to avoid it.
6. The captain's ship is always the largest one in the _____.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. There's an unfamiliar ship in the <u>harbour</u> . | 2. Running beside the swimming pool is <u>prohibited</u> . | 3. In Washington, DC, there is a big <u>memorial</u> dedicated to Holocaust survivors. |
| a) ocean | a) not recommended | a) monument |
| b) marina | b) foolish | b) museum |
| c) water | c) forbidden | c) funeral |



Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Choose the Correct Word cont.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4. It has taken him years to adapt to <u>civilian</u> life.
a) non-violent
b) non-political
c) non-military | 6. I was always interested in <u>aviation</u> , but instead I became a gardener.
a) flying airplanes
b) building airplanes
c) studying birds | 8. I've been fighting with my neighbour for years, but the <u>final straw</u> came when he stole apples from my tree.
a) last provocation
b) last chance
c) reconciliation |
| 5. I was never interested in self-defense until I heard about the <u>assault</u> .
a) seminar
b) attack
c) competition | 7. The United States still has an <u>embargo</u> against Cuba.
a) racist attitude
b) network of spies
c) trade ban | 9. This advertisement is very <u>strategic</u> . Every word has a purpose.
a) interesting
b) clear
c) well planned |

Discussion

1. Do you think the US should intervene when there is tension between two other countries?
2. Do you think tension still remains between the US and Japan? How about Canada and Japan?
3. At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, Hawaii was an American territory but not yet a state. How do you think native Hawaiians felt about being involved in World War II?
4. Do you think tourists should behave a certain way when visiting historical sites where tragedies occurred? How should they behave?

Further Learning

Joining World War II was a big decision for the American and Canadian governments. But how do you think the average citizens felt about it? Do some research to find out about the opinions of ordinary citizens during this time. Share your findings with the class.