



A day that lived in infamy (Pearl Harbor)

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for U.S. History

Target audience – U.S. History learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity Investigate how the expansion of the Japanese Empire resulted in the United States' involvement in World War II.

C3 Standards C3: D2.His.2.9-12. Analyze change and continuity in historical eras.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to describe Japan's strategy to disable the U.S. forces on Oahu.
- Students will be able to determine whether Japan achieved its military objective.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/historyGeoInquiry12>

Ask

Why would Japan want to attack Pearl Harbor?

- ? What is Japan's relative location? *[It is on the eastern edge of Asia near Korea and China, north of Australia.]*
- ? Using the Measure tool, what is the distance between Japan and Hawaii? *[~3,840 miles.]*
- ? What is the distance between Hawaii and Los Angeles? *[~2,575 miles.]*
- ? How is distance important in military decisions? *[Troop movement can be difficult; isolated areas are more protected.]*
- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Turn on the layer, Japanese Occupation.
- ? Where in Asia was the Japanese Empire? *[It was in the east and southeast.]*
- ? In which directions was the Empire expanding? *[It was expanding in the south and southeast.]*

Acquire

Where were American military installations and forces located in Hawaii?

- Press the button, Bookmarks. Select Oahu, HI.
- Turn on the layer, American Military in Hawaii.
- Identify locations of American military on the island. *[Kaneohe Naval AS, Kaneohe Naval AS, Wheeler Field, Hickam Field, Bellows Field, Shofield Barracks, Ewa USMC AS, and Pearl Harbor-Ford Island.]*
- ? What is the pattern of defense of Oahu? *[There were four military branches, mostly located on the perimeter. Ships were in a protected harbor and used mobile radar.]*

Explore

If you were Japanese leadership, what might be your military strategy to eliminate U.S. military influence in the Pacific?

- Explore the various map icons on Oahu.
- ? What types of military armaments were on Oahu? *[Oahu had Navy aircraft carriers, ships, and submarines, as well as air fields with fighter planes.]*
- ? From which direction would the Japanese most likely attack? *[North/northwest.]*
- ? Which military locations could alert the rest of the military in Hawaii if the Japanese attacked? *[The radar stations at Kahuku Pt. could alert the others.]*
- ? If you were the Japanese commander, where would you direct your attack first? *[Answers may vary, including air fields, ships, and radar.]*

more

Analyze

What was the Japanese strategy?

- Turn on the layer, Japanese Attack On Oahu-1st Wave.
- ? From which direction did the Japanese attack? [*They attacked from the north and circled the island on the west to attack from the south.*]
- Turn on the layer, Japanese Attack On Oahu-2nd Wave.
- ? What did the Japanese attack in both the first & second waves? [*Aircraft carriers and air fields*]
- ? How was the second wave different? [*There was more focus on the air fields and hangars, without torpedo attacks.*]

Act

Were the Japanese able to effectively eliminate the threat of American involvement in the Pacific Theater of WWII?

- ? What was the goal of the Pearl Harbor attack? [*Disable U.S. aircraft carriers and fighter planes.*]
- Click the Bookmark button; select Pacific Theater. Turn on layer: Japanese Defensive Perimeter Plan 1942.
- Turn on the Post Pearl Harbor Attack layer and play the time slider.
- ? What appeared to be the U.S. strategy in fighting the Japanese? [*The U.S. moved progressively from east to west, taking back Japanese-occupied territory.*]
- ? Were the Japanese able to prevent U.S. military involvement in the Pacific Theater by their attack on Pearl Harbor? [*No.*]

VIEW LAYERS & IDENTIFY SYMBOLS

- To view a map layer: From the Details pane, click the Content button. (If the layer name is gray, zoom in to activate it.)
- To identify symbols: From the Details pane, click the Content button, and then click the layer name or the legend icon under the layer name.

MEASURE

- Open the Measure tool, click Distance (the middle icon), and then choose the measurement unit from the drop-down list.
- Click once to start measuring, once to change the line direction, and double-click to stop measuring.
- The measurement shows in the Measurement Result box.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Create a Map Journal to document U.S. military involvement in the Pacific Theater.
- Create a multi-ring buffer around Japan where each ring is the average day traveled by a warship to show the sphere of Japanese control.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these texts.

- *American Vision* by Glencoe — Chapter 20
- *American Anthem* by Holt — Chapter 24
- *The Americans* by McDougal Littell — Chapter 25
- *America: Pathways to the Present* by Prentice Hall — Chapter 24