



PEARL HARBOR

World War II was a time of great sorrow for countries around the world. Many countries in Europe were fighting against one another. The United States had managed to stay out of the war, but that soon changed.

On December 7, 1941, warplanes from Japan made a surprise attack on a naval base near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The results were deadly. More than 2,400 Americans were killed. Many warships were destroyed. It was a terrible day for the United States.

Japan attacked the United States because it had stopped selling needed goods to Japan. Japan was angry about this and decided to attack the United States.

The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States because they were friends with Japan. The United States became part of the war alongside Britain and the Soviet Union. Many more people were killed in World War II. It was one of the deadliest wars of all time.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. A different title for this reading passage could be . . .
 - a. "Beginnings of World War II."
 - b. "Adolf Hitler's Power."
 - c. "Pearl Harbor Attacked."
 - d. "V-Day and Pearl Harbor."

2. A similarity between the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001 is . . .
 - a. the fact that they were both surprise attacks.
 - b. that they were both attacks from Asian countries.
 - c. that they both took place in December.
 - d. that they took place when the United States was at war.

3. In the last paragraph, what does the word *deadliest* mean?
 - a. most people targeted
 - b. most people killed
 - c. most people shot
 - d. most people involved

4. Based on the information in the passage, why was Pearl Harbor attacked?
 - a. Japan was trying to get the U.S. involved in World War II.
 - b. The U.S. had bombed Japan.
 - c. Adolf Hitler asked Japan to do it.
 - d. Japan was upset with some decisions the U.S. made about selling goods to their country.