

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Empire of the Rising Sun

Japan is a crowded nation with few natural resources. Traditionally, the Japanese islands were the easternmost point of the Asia. The Japanese people call their islands the “Land of the Rising Sun” because it seems the sun rises from Japan, then spreads across the rest of Asia. Japan became an industrial leader in the early twentieth century but it was unable to expand their economy.

The Japanese believed that it was their destiny to liberate the people of Asia from European control. In 1894, Japan expanded into Korea. In 1937, as Germany was preparing to expand across Europe, Japan conquered Manchuria, a province in northeast China. By 1938, the Japanese controlled many important Chinese port cities and a great deal of the Chinese coastline.

Indochina is a peninsula between China and India in Southeast Asia. France had controlled Indochina for many years. Japan was able to assume control of Indochina when Germany occupied France in 1941. The United States demanded that Japan

leave Indochina, and halted oil sales. Japan depended on American oil to fuel its industries. The Japanese were forced to search for new sources of oil. The Dutch colonies on the islands of East Asia were an obvious target. The Japanese knew that they would face war with the Americans if they attempted to conquer the Dutch colonies while war raged in Europe. Japan decided to strike America by surprise.

On a quiet Sunday morning, more than 500 Japanese fighters and bombers attacked the American Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. In little more than an hour, the surprise attack killed more than two thousand Americans and significantly damaged the American war fleet in the Pacific. President Roosevelt announced that that date, December 7, 1941, was “a date which will live in infamy.” The Japanese believed they could destroy the American’s ability to contain their empire in Asia by destroying the naval ships in Pearl Harbor. They did not count on American resolve and industrial might.

### Answer in complete sentences

1. Why is Japan known as the “Land of the Rising Sun?”

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**Fill in the Blanks**

Japan became an i\_\_\_\_\_ leader in the beginning of the twentieth century. The archipelago nation had few n\_\_\_\_\_ resources, so they decided to build imperial \*c\_\_\_\_\_ in Asia as the European powers did in A\_\_\_\_\_ and A\_\_\_\_\_. Japan expanded into K\_\_\_\_\_, C\_\_\_\_\_ and I\_\_\_\_\_ by the beginning of World War II. The U\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ demanded that the J\_\_\_\_\_ leave I\_\_\_\_\_. When J\_\_\_\_\_ refused, A\_\_\_\_\_ halted the sale of much needed o\_\_\_\_\_ to Japan. Japan needed a new source for oil, and the D\_\_\_\_\_ colonies in East A\_\_\_\_\_ were the perfect target. The Dutch were busy fighting G\_\_\_\_\_, but Japan knew they would face w\_\_\_\_\_ with A\_\_\_\_\_ if they attempted to conquer the Dutch colonies. They decided to neutralize America with a s\_\_\_\_\_ attack on a n\_\_\_\_\_ base at P\_\_\_\_\_ Harbor in H\_\_\_\_\_.

Japanese f\_\_\_\_\_ and b\_\_\_\_\_ completed a\_\_\_\_\_ on D\_\_\_\_\_ 7, 1941. American President Franklin R\_\_\_\_\_ later said the date would "l\_\_\_\_\_ in i\_\_\_\_\_." The J\_\_\_\_\_ hoped to d\_\_\_\_\_ America's a\_\_\_\_\_ to contain their e\_\_\_\_\_, but they did not count on A\_\_\_\_\_ resolve or i\_\_\_\_\_ might.

**Answer in complete sentences**

\*2. What do you think was the eventual goal of the military leaders of Japan?

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\*3. Why did the Japanese attack the American Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii?

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