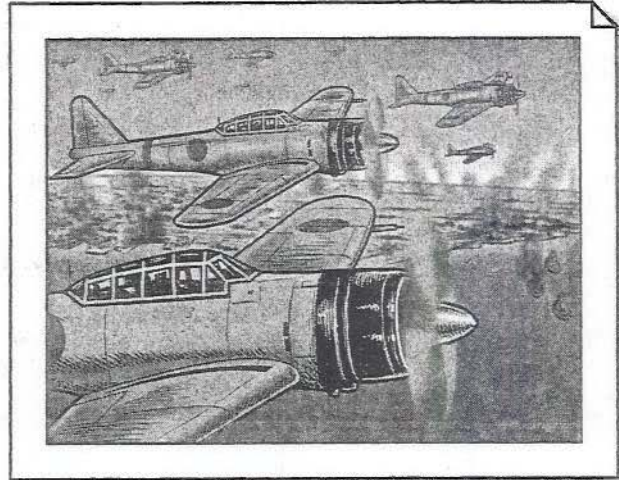




# Japan Attacks

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.

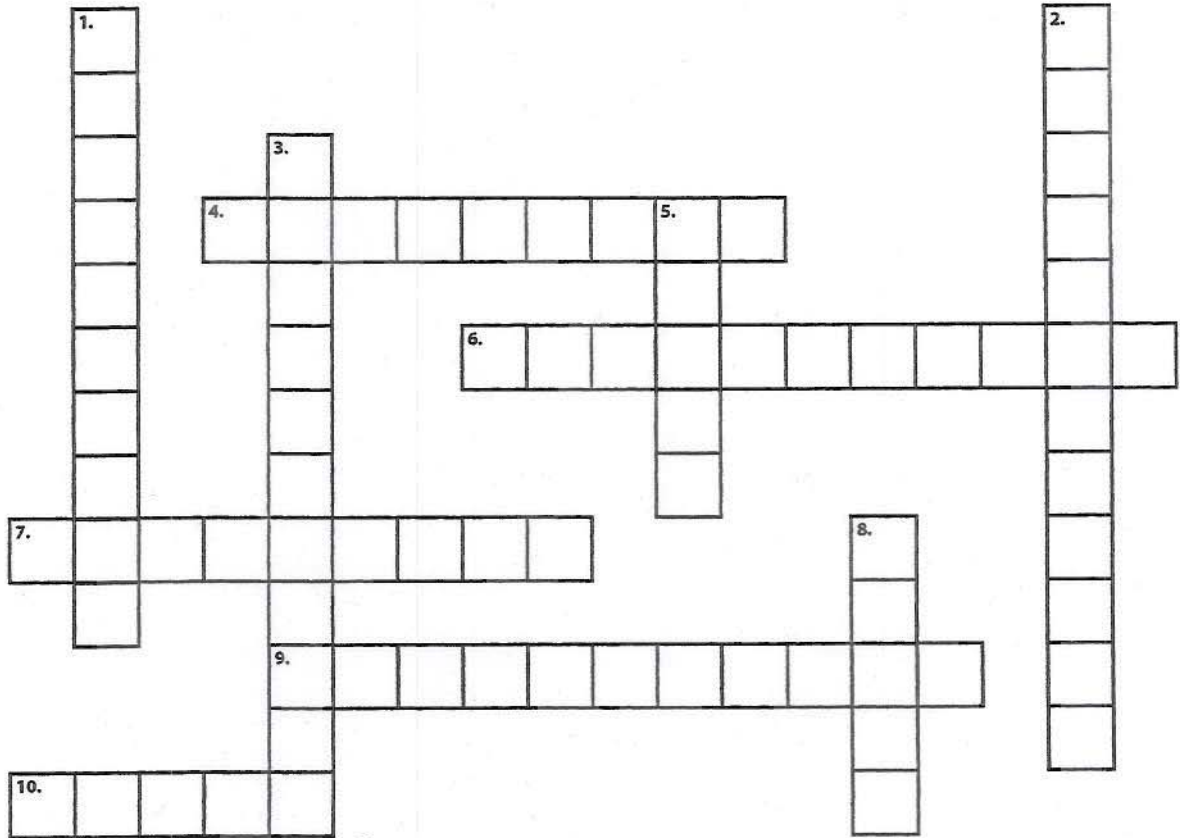
1. Japan's militarists wanted to solve Japan's problems by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. raising taxes
  - B. electing a new leader
  - C. creating a large empire
  - D. joining forces with Hitler and Mussolini
2. When the League of Nations said it was wrong for Japan to take Manchuria, Japan \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. left 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 \_\_\_\_\_.