

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### Bell Ringer: Pearl Harbor

**Instructions:** Examine the picture. Read the background. Answer the questions.



**Background:** In 1931, Japan invaded and took an area in China called Manchuria. Since they were an island nation, they asserted they needed to control outside resources to increase their power. They joined in an alliance with Germany and Italy called the Axis Powers. Every nation in the Axis Powers was seeking to control outside regions and they united to stop any other nation for challenging their conquests. The Japanese lied to the USA and asserted they wanted peace with America. Yet, they were actually scheming behind the scenes to attack the USA. The USA had initiated an oil embargo on Japan to protest the conquests they were pursuing in the Pacific region. The goal was to remove economic support of Japan until they agreed to end their invasions of other sovereign areas. Japan seemed cooperative with this diplomatic tactic and even offered the USA peace medals, symbols of desired cooperation with the USA. Then, on December 7th, 1941, Japan attacked a naval base in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Hundreds of Japanese planes destroyed or severely damaged twenty American naval ships, which involved eight battleships and hundreds of airplanes. Close to 2,500 Americans died in the attack. Japan assumed the USA would be so intimidated by the attack that they would never stop Japan's Pacific Conquest. Yet, after the attack, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called on Congress to declare war on Japan. America then joined the Allies and not only went to war with Japan, but against the entire Axis Powers. Above is a primary source picture of the USS West Virginia under attack at Pearl Harbor.

1. Why did the USA place an oil embargo on Japan?

2. How did Japan respond to the oil embargos placed on them by the USA?

3. What did Japan hope to achieve by attacking Pearl Harbor? How did the USA respond?

**Answers:**

1. Why did the USA place an oil embargo on Japan?

To protest the Japanese conquests of various areas in the Pacific region.

2. How did Japan respond to the oil embargos placed on them by the USA?

They claimed to want peace with the USA. They even gave the USA peace medals. Yet, then they attacked Pearl Harbor.

3. What did Japan hope to achieve by attacking Pearl Harbor? How did the USA respond?

They assumed the USA would be intimidated and refuse to intervene in the Japanese conquest of the Pacific. Yet, the USA ended up declaring war on Japan and the entire Axis Powers.