

“Remember Pearl Harbor”

Goal: Students will come to realize the importance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in bringing about the entrance of the United States into World War II.

Objectives:

1. Students will practice their observational skills using two visual documents.
2. Students will draw conclusions about the events pictured in the two visual documents by synthesizing the information they gather from observation.
3. Students will make predictions and inferences based on their observations.
4. Students will express their ideas clearly in a written description of the events pictured.

Photograph # 1

Study the photograph below for a few moments. First form a general idea about the events that the photograph depicts. Then, study each section to see what new details become visible.



Sailors at Ford Island Naval Air Station watch the U.S.S. Shaw explode, December 7, 1941
Courtesy of the National Archives; War & Conflict # 1134

1) Use the following chart to list the people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

People

Objects

Activities

2) What clues does the photograph offer about the location at which the photo was taken?

3) What event (or kind of event) is pictured in the photo?

4) What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

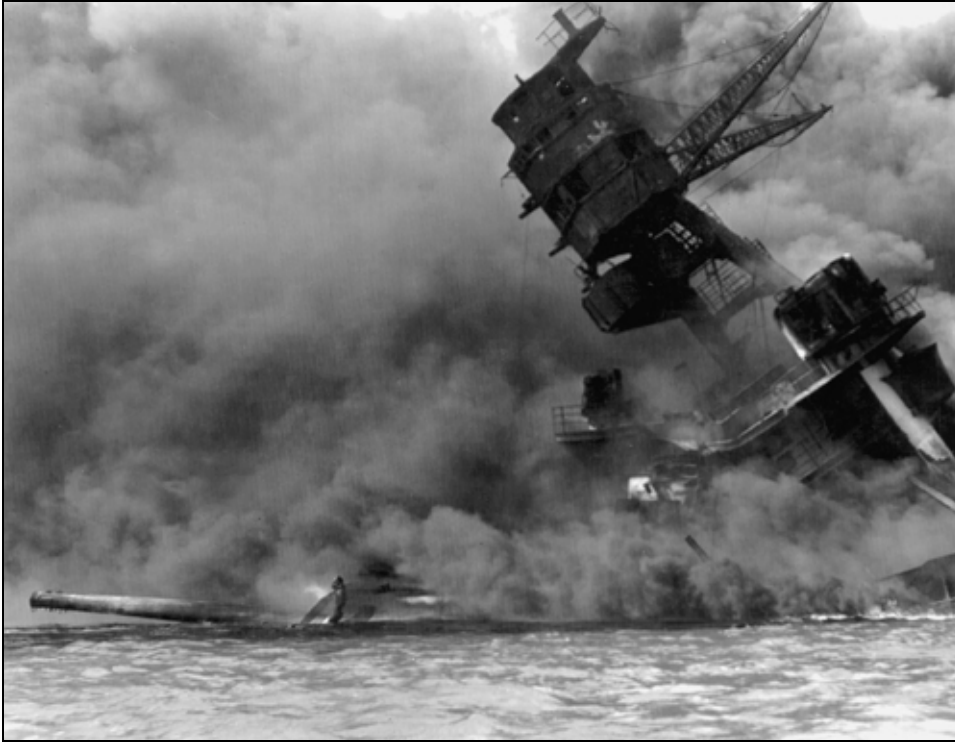
5) Where might you go to look for answers to your questions?

Activity:

Imagine that you are one of the sailors/soldiers in the foreground of the photo that is observing the events. Close your eyes and think about the sights, sounds, and smells that the soldiers photographed are experiencing. From the point of view of one of those soldiers, write a detailed descriptive paragraph about what is happening around you.

Photograph # 2

Study the photo below of the U.S.S. Arizona for a few moments, forming an idea about the events that the photograph depicts. Then, study each section to discover new details.



The U.S.S. Arizona burns after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941
Courtesy of the National Archives; War & Conflict # 1136

- 1) List three things in the photograph that you think are important.

- 2) In your own words, write a couple of sentences about what is going on in this scene.

- 3) Compare this photograph with the other pictured above. Both were taken at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Using the information that you gain from examining the photographs, write a statement describing the events that took place on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. After finishing your statement, look up “Pearl Harbor” in the encyclopedia and compare the information to your statement. Summarize the information given in the encyclopedia into one sentence.