

- Review: During the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, how did troops move? How did the army move supplies?

What invention changed the method of moving troops in the Civil War?

- In World War I, troops had moved and attacked only on land. What invention made World War II different? How?

- *Student Activity Page 36-2.* Title the page, “Remembering Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941”. The students may list the losses suffered at Pearl Harbor, or summarize how the Americans were taken by surprise.

- *Student Activity Page 36-3.* Label Pacific Ocean, Japan, Hawaii, and United States.

Cultivating Student Mastery

1. Why did the Japanese bomb the United States base at Pearl Harbor? Why did that attack force the United States to enter the war?
2. What inventions were important in World War II?
3. How did military leaders communicate? Why?

***Leading
Idea***

Anticipating the Enemy

Student Text, pages 209-210

- “Less than six months after their victory at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese sent forth an enormous, combat-seasoned fleet of eighty-eight surface warships with the dual mission of capturing Midway atoll and luring the remains of the weakened U.S. Pacific Fleet to their destruction. . . .

“But events did not conform to the Japanese pattern. Forewarned through superior cryptanalysis and radio intelligence, American naval forces much inferior numerically to the Japanese. . . but superbly led and manned, sped past Midway and were waiting on the enemy’s

flank.

“The result was by no means a foregone conclusion. The Japanese spearhead held the veteran carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryu*, and *Soryu*, under the command of Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo. This was the admiral and four of the six carriers which had attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, and since then the Nagumo task force had scored one victory after another in the south Pacific and Indian Oceans.”¹⁵⁸

Gordon W. Prange, *Miracle at Midway*

For Reflection and Reasoning

- Review: Who controls the battle?
- Review: What European countries began World War II? Why?
- Review: What major event drew Amer-

ica into the war? Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?

- How did individual nations communicate with their military commanders? How did they protect their communications so the enemy would not know their plans?

- How did the Americans know that Japan was planning a major attack? What did they not know? How did they “trick” the Japanese into revealing their target?
- Why did Japan want to attack Hawaii or Midway?

- *Student Activity Page 36-4.* Write a summary of Japan’s plan. Begin to list the Providential events which changed the results of the battle. The *Student Activity Page* will be completed in a later lesson.

**Leading
Idea**

A miracle at Midway

Student Text, pages 210-212

• “Nagumo, his carrier captains, and his airmen fought skillfully and bravely at Midway as flight after flight of American bombers struck impotently. Then, suddenly, superb command decision, precision dive bombing and a pinch or two of luck all came together. When the battle ended, Japan had lost her four carriers, a heavy cruiser, and over 300 aircraft. Yet the battle could have gone the other way, and even so, the United States lost one carrier, *Yorktown*, and a destroyer, *Hammann*.

“Events at Midway cast serious doubt upon the popular contention that, had the Japanese not achieved surprise at Pearl Harbor, they would have been open to almost certain defeat. This time the U.S. Pacific Fleet knew the Japanese were coming, almost to the minute when they would strike, where and in what strength. American ships were in the open sea, free to maneuver and with the advantage of surprise. Nevertheless, the results were such a narrow squeak that we believe the title *Miracle at Midway* is not so much alliterative as exactly factual. Land-based bombing proved totally ineffectual and carrier-based efforts

equally so until the last-minute linking up and successful marksmanship of the dive bombers. In view of the fact that six months of war had passed since Pearl Harbor, with consequent combat seasoning on the part of commanders, ships and crews, one cannot help but suspect that, had the U.S. Pacific Fleet sortied to meet Nagumo’s task force on December 7, results might have been just as bad if not worse. This was the opinion of Admiral Nimitz, who frankly considered it ‘God’s mercy’ that Admiral Husband E. Kimmel’s ships were at their moorings instead of on the deep Pacific.

“In some ways, Midway was the reverse image of Pearl Harbor. This time the story was one of Japanese overconfidence, careless planning, slipshod training and contempt for the enemy; of American cool-headedness, ingenuity, and intelligence well acted upon. At the time, the nation rejoiced that Pearl Harbor had been at least partially avenged. Yet Midway was much more than that; it is generally conceded to have been the turning point in the Pacific war. . . .”¹⁵⁹

Gordon W. Prange, *Miracle at Midway*

For Reflection and Reasoning

- Review: What was Japan’s plan? How had the Americans learned of the plan?

- How did the American ships keep the Japanese from knowing of their preparations? Could this be accomplished in a war today? Why?

- The Japanese had three brand new battleships. Why did Commander Yamamoto decide not to use them in the battle of Midway?
- Instead of surprising the Americans at Midway when the Japanese began their attack — what happened?
- What change of plans did Nagumo make when the Japanese pilots spotted the American fleet? How did this change of plans help the Americans? Taking the time to load a different type of bomb delayed the planes from leaving the carriers

and provided better targets.

- On *Student Activity Page 36-4*, continue to identify the Providential events which changed the results of the battle.
- Review: See *Student Activity Page 19-3*. Note how a series of small events were used by God to bring forth the turning point in the Revolutionary War.
- As in the Revolutionary War, how did a series of small events produce a turning point in World War II? How is this an example of Divine Providence?

Supplemental Activities

- *Student Activity Page 36-5*. Students may decode the message.
- Armistice Day, later called Veterans Day, has been a special time of honoring the soldiers who have fought to preserve liberty in America. The Unknown Soldier was buried in the Tomb at Arlington Cemetery November 11, 1921. Students might enjoy researching the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.