The War in the Pacific
Chapter 14 Section 3

A Slow Start
• Pearl Harbor destroyed America’s Pacific fleet, and gave the Japanese pride
• They captured many islands in the Pacific and Southeast Asia
• They were able to secure oil reserves in southeast Asia
• Americans and British were surprised at how good Japanese soldiers, aircraft, and ships were.
• Japanese were one powerful enemy.

The Philippines
• Douglas MacArthur lead the American defenses on the Philippines made up of Americans and Filipinos
• Eventually MacArthur had to leave his men, be promised to return
• The combined American and Filipino force had to surrender.
• Many died on the forced Bataan Death March from a lack of food and water.
• Japan had won.
Essential Questions
1. Why was Pearl Harbor a double-edged sword for United States?
2. Why did Japan want to take American and British colonies in the Pacific and Southeast Asia?
3. Why did the Americans have a hard time defending the Philippines?
4. What was the Batann Death March?

Fortunes Shift in the Pacific
- James Doolittle: Doolittle’s raid. American planes bombed Tokyo. It gave Americans something to cheer about.
- The Battle of Coral Sea: Americans stopped the Japanese and prevented them from invading New Guinea.

Midway
- Japan worried about more attacks like Doolittle’s on their mainland
- To avoid this, they needed to destroy America’s fleet
- They planned an attack on Midway island to draw America’s fleet out in order to destroy it
- Naval Intelligence officers broke Japanese codes before this and knew about the attack.
- They knew which direction and when the attack would occur
- Fighting went as planned and the Americans won a clear victory at the Battle of Midway. This was seen as a clear shift in power in the Pacific.
Essential Questions
1. Why was Doolittle’s attack on Tokyo so important?
2. What was Japan’s real motives behind attacking Midway?
3. Why was America so well-informed about the Battle of Midway?

The Allies make Progress
- **The Solomon Islands**: Americans won Guadalcanal after hard fighting for 6 months.
- **Island-hopping**: American began to win the Pacific one island at a time.
- Several factors helped American start to gain advantages in the Pacific.
  1. **Industrial Power**: Our factories could replace planes and ships lost, Japan could not
  2. **Success in Europe**: As the Soviets and Americans succeeded in Europe, America dedicated more troops and supplies to the Pacific.
  3. **Code Talkers**: Navajos who used their language to send messages, Japan could never break it.

Back to the Philippines
- **MacArthur** couldn’t wait to make good on his promise
- Americans would destroy Japan’s fleet with superior numbers at the **battle of Leyte Gulf**.
- Japan used **Kamikaze planes**: These were planes loaded with explosives that were crashed on purpose into boats.
- Kamikazes were feared but made little difference on the battle
- MacArthur came ashore victorious to make good on his promise.
Iwo Jima and Okinawa

- By 1944 B-29 Bombers regularly bombed Japanese cities
- America needed islands close to Japan to send these raids
- Iwo Jima was an island 750 miles from Japan

The Battle of Iwo Jima was a hard fought battle where the Japanese fought until the end, but the U.S. won
- Next target was Okinawa, only 350 miles from Japan
- This would be the bloodiest battle of the Pacific
- Once again the Japanese did not surrender and fought until the end.
- Over 12,000 Americans died, 110,000 Japanese died
- This battle would have lasting effects on the war.

Essential Questions

1. What factors led to a growing American advantage in the Pacific over Japan?
2. What was Island hopping?
3. What were Kamikaze pilots? Did they effect wins on the battle field?
4. Why did the United States want to capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa?
5. Why was fighting so hard on Iwo Jima and Okinawa?