



U.S. Army Museums Virtual Scavenger Hunt



Mission Topic: ***World War II: Victory over Japan (V-J Day)***

Introduction to V-J Day:

On Aug. 15, 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. On Sep. 2, 1945, Japan's formal surrender took place aboard a U.S. Navy ship in Tokyo Bay. Since then, both Aug. 15 and Sep. 2 have been known as "Victory over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." Following the surrender of Nazi Germany three months earlier, Japan's surrender in the Pacific brought six years of global warfare to an end.

How the Scavenger Hunt Works:

This worksheet has pictures of artifacts that must be found online at an Army Museum somewhere in the world to answer a specific question related to V-J Day. The questions provide hints for where to locate the artifact. You will need access to the internet to conduct your scavenger hunt and to answer the questions.



U.S. Army Museum websites can be found at the U.S. Army Center of Military History website under the MUSEUMS drop-down menu: www.history.army.mil

Are you ready to explore Army Museums? Let's March On!

1. **Background:** During World War II, the U.S. military fought alongside the Allies against the Japanese in the Pacific region in what has been called an "island-hopping" campaign to defeat Japanese forces and get closer to the home Islands of Japan. As part of the island-hopping campaign, the United States liberated Makin Island from Japanese forces in November 1943.

Question: This Japanese T95 tank was captured on Makin Island by the 27th Infantry Division in 1943 as part of the island-hopping strategy. Makin Island is part of what island chain? (*HINT: Find the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii*)



Answer: _____

2. **Background:** During World War II, more than 200,000 Army women served around the world. One-third were nurses who often worked in difficult circumstances treating others. Many came under fire working close to the front lines, and some were injured, killed, or taken prisoner.

Question: This canteen was used by Army Nurse Corps 1st Lt. Frances Nash while she was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese in the Santo Tomas internment camp from May 1942 until August 1945. Where was this camp located? (*HINT: Find the U.S. Army Women's Museum*)



Answer: _____

3. **Background:** After the fall of Nazi Germany and the end of fighting in Europe on May 8, 1945, many Army units were designated to redeploy from Europe to the Pacific to participate in the ongoing war there.

Question: What division is represented by the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia patch below that was redeployed from the European Theater to the Pacific Theater in preparation for the invasion of Japan? (*HINT: Find the National Infantry Museum & Soldier Center*)



Answer: _____

4. **Background:** The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest and most prestigious medal awarded for valor in combat.

Question: This Army general was the highest-ranking prisoner of war when he was captured and held by the Japanese from May 1942 until August 1945. He was a witness to the formal Japanese surrender and was awarded the Medal of Honor (pictured here) in September 1945. Who is he? (*HINT: Find the West Point Museum*)



Answer: _____

5. **Background:** During World War II, there was a scientific race between countries to build the first atomic bomb. The United States was the first to test and eventually use an atomic bomb that helped end the war. During the testing of the bomb in July 1945, this Fastax camera was used to record the detonation at Los Alamos in New Mexico.

Question: On July 16, 1945, the United States detonated the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos, N.M. What was the code name given to this test operation? (*HINT: Find the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range Museum*)



Answer: _____

6. **Background:** Fuses are used to detonate bombs, from hand grenades to artillery to nuclear weapons. They can be set to ignite a bomb at a specific time, a height above ground, or on impact. To prevent a bomb from exploding by accident, safety fuses or shipping fuses that have no ignition capability are inserted into the bomb. Once ready for use, the safety fuse is replaced with the actual fuse and set for the desired type of ignition.

Question: This safety fuse was part of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945. During flight en route to the target, this fuse was replaced with the active fuse

(which was painted red to distinguish the two). What was the name of the aircraft that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki? (*HINT: Find the West Point Museum*)



Answer: _____

7. **Background:** In the U.S. Army, Soldiers wear Shoulder Sleeve Insignia patches on some of their uniforms. These patches have unique designs that represent their units to help instill morale and pride. They normally are worn on the left shoulder, but if a Soldier served in a combat assignment with a specific unit the patch also can be worn on their right shoulder.

Question: This Shoulder Sleeve Insignia, which depicts a lightning bolt splitting an atom, was issued only to soldiers who worked on this top secret project. What is the name of the American program to develop the atomic bomb? (*HINT: Find the U.S. Army Engineer Museum*)



Answer: _____

8. **Background:** After the invasion and capture of the island of Okinawa in June 1945, the Allies began preparing to invade the home islands of Japan. This phase of the war was expected to have an estimated 3 million casualties.

Question: General Walter Krueger used this rubber topographical map of the Japanese island of Kyushu in preparation for the never-executed invasion of Japan. What was the code name of the operation to invade Kyushu, Japan? (*HINT: Find the 1st Cavalry Division Museum*)



Answer: _____

Bonus Question: When was this operation scheduled to occur?

Answer: _____

9. **Background:** From mid-1942, there were two Operational Commands of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific Area of Operations. Unlike Europe, which had General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander, there was no single overall commander of Allied forces in the Pacific.

Question: Which American general, who commanded Army operations in the South West Pacific Theater, was appointed Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to govern Japan after the surrender? (*HINT: Find the National Museum of the U.S. Army*)



Answer: _____

10. **Background:** After the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, the Japanese finally agreed to surrender on Aug. 15. The formal surrender ceremonies and signing of the surrender documents took place on Sep. 2, 1945. This date is known as Victory over Japan (V-J) Day.

Question: This painting depicts the Japanese delegation boarding a U.S. Navy ship to sign the surrender papers officially ending World War II. What is the name of the ship? The painting is entitled "Surrender Aboard [ship name]" (*HINT: Find the U.S. Army Art Collection*)



Answer: _____

CONGRATULATIONS, MISSION COMPLETED!

We hope you enjoyed exploring the U.S. Army Museums. Check back for more Mission Topics in the future and continue to explore our websites for more information about Army history.

Be sure to join us on social media for daily postings.

[\(Social Media Icons and handles\)](#)