

## World War II

### Section 4



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. The Japanese continued advancing across the Pacific in 1942.
2. The Allies stopped Japan's advance with key victories over the Japanese navy.
3. The Allies began battling toward Japan.

### Key Terms and People

**Douglas MacArthur** general who commanded U.S. ground troops in the Pacific

**Bataan Death March** forced march of American and Filipino prisoners on the Bataan Peninsula, during which many died

**Chester Nimitz** American admiral who commanded U.S. Pacific fleet

**Battle of the Coral Sea** naval battle in which American fleet prevented Japanese invasion of Australia

**Battle of Midway** key Pacific battle in which Japanese navy was severely weakened  
**island hopping** strategy of attacking only key Pacific islands

**Battle of Leyte Gulf** largest naval battle in history; American navy defeated the Japanese navy to retake the Philippines

**kamikaze** tactic of purposely crashing piloted planes into enemy ships

### Academic Vocabulary

**execute** perform, carry out

### Section Summary

#### JAPAN ADVANCES

The attack on Pearl Harbor left the U.S. Pacific fleet weak. As a result the fleet was not able to react to the assault. Japan was able to conquer much of Asia and the Pacific. American forces under the command of U.S. general **Douglas MacArthur** were forced to leave the Philippines. MacArthur's forces could not stop the Japanese advance. More than 600 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died in the **Bataan Death March**.

**Why were the Japanese able to conquer much of the Pacific after the attack on Pearl Harbor?**

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**Section 4, *continued***

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**KEY ALLIED VICTORIES**

The Allies feared a Japanese attack on India, Australia, or the U.S. mainland. American code breakers learned to read the Japanese secret code, and Admiral **Chester Nimitz** found out that Japan planned to attack Australia. His aircraft carriers and fighter planes fought the Japanese in the **Battle of the Coral Sea**, and stopped the invasion.

The Allies learned that Japan was planning a surprise attack on the Midway Islands. Nimitz was ready for the attack. The Allies destroyed four Japanese carriers at the **Battle of Midway**, badly weakening the Japanese Navy. This allowed U.S. Marines to invade Guadalcanal. Allied forces took full control of the island six months later.

**What advantage did the American Pacific fleet have over the Japanese?**

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**BATTLING TOWARD JAPAN**

The battles at Midway and Guadalcanal were key victories. This **island hopping** strategy was successful but hard to execute. The Allied forces slowly moved across the Pacific.

In October of 1944 General MacArthur led his forces to retake the Philippines. The Allies won the **Battle of the Leyte Gulf**. After the battle MacArthur's troops fought for many more months to drive out the remaining Japanese forces.

Allied planes began bombing Japan in November 1944. At this time they fought two of the fiercest battles of the war on the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Near Okinawa, Japanese pilots used **kamikaze** tactics against American ships. More than 2,500 kamikaze missions were flown. After the victories at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Allies began to plan an assault on the main Japanese islands.

**What general led the mission to regain control of the Phillipines?**

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**Underline the tactic Japanese pilots used at the Battle of Okinawa.**

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** Why was island hopping a difficult strategy to execute?

**Section 4, *continued***

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**DIRECTIONS** Look at each set of terms below. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. a. island-hopping  | _____ 3. a. Battle of Midway |
| b. Battle of Coral Sea      | b. Douglas MacArthur         |
| c. Battle of Leyte Gulf     | c. Bataan Death March        |
| d. heavy casualties on land | d. the Philippines           |
| _____ 2. a. Chester Nimitz  | _____ 4. a. Battle of Midway |
| b. U.S. Pacific Fleet       | b. Bataan Death March        |
| c. Douglas MacArthur        | c. Battle of Leyte Gulf      |
| d. kamikaze                 | d. aircraft carriers         |

**DIRECTIONS** Match the terms in the first column with their correct definitions from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| _____ 5. Douglas MacArthur   | a. a battle between American and Japanese aircraft carriers that saved Port Moresby                               |
| _____ 6. Bataan Death March  | b. a naval strategy allowing Allied forces to cross the Pacific   |
| _____ 7. Battle of Coral Sea | c. the cause of thousands of deaths when the Japanese forced American and Filipino troops to walk to prison camps |
| _____ 8. Battle of Midway    | d. the Japanese tactic of crashing planes into enemy ships  |
| _____ 9. island-hopping      | e. lost but eventually retook the Philippines   |
| _____ 10. kamikaze           | f. victory that led Nimitz to proclaim, "Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged."                            |