

75 Years Ago: Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives, 80-G-19942

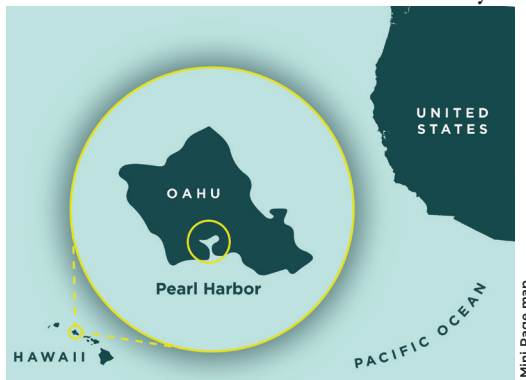
Mini Fact:

On the USS Arizona, 1,177 officers and crewmen died when a bomb detonated a **magazine** (storehouse of explosives).

“... December 7, 1941, a date which will live in **infamy*** ...”

These are the famous words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he addressed the U.S. Congress on Dec. 8, 1941. The day before, Japan had attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

Next week, Americans will remember this important turning point in World War II as we commemorate its 75th anniversary.



Mini Page map

What is Pearl Harbor?

For ancient Hawaiians, Wai Momi, or Waters of Pearl, was a productive area for fishing and diving for oysters. Hawaii was ruled mostly by chiefs and kings or queens until 1898, when it became a territory of the United States.

U.S. military officers realized that having a base in the Pacific Ocean would be a good strategic move. Starting in 1902, the U.S. government widened and deepened

* **Infamy** means being well known for some terrible act or quality.

the channel into the harbor so that huge battleships and other vessels could dock there.

In 1911, the USS California was the first U.S. ship to arrive at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

World War II

In the late 1930s, Adolf Hitler was leading Germany into wars with many European nations. President Roosevelt did not want to enter the war, but the U.S. did help its **allies**, or friends, in Europe.

By 1940, Japan had become allies with Germany and Italy.

The attack

In 1941, the Navy's Pacific Fleet was based at Pearl Harbor. More than 150 U.S. Navy ships and boats were in the harbor on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 7. Thousands of Marines and sailors were starting their day. Some were getting ready to go to church. At nearby airfields, almost 400 airplanes were on the ground.

Just before 8 a.m., 353 Japanese planes swooped in and launched torpedoes toward Battleship Row, where eight battleships were **moored**, or anchored.

Dive-bombers attacked parked airplanes and **hangars** (buildings where aircraft are stored) at airfields. Bombs that were dropped from Japanese aircraft destroyed the USS Arizona. But the attack wasn't over.

A second wave of dive-bombers came in about 30 minutes later, damaging more ships and airplanes. Overall 2,403 Americans were killed.

A declaration of war

On Dec. 8, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war on Japan. A few days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, and the U.S. was officially part of World War II.



NPS photo by Brett Seymour

The USS Arizona Memorial attracts millions of visitors each year.

Pearl Harbor today

After explosions destroyed much of the USS Arizona, the **superstructure**, or parts above the main deck, sank to the bottom of the harbor. Most of the men on the ship sank with it.

In 1962, the USS Arizona Memorial was built to honor those who died in the attacks. The memorial is built right over the remains of the ship. Visitors can read the list of those killed on a marble wall inside. Some people throw flowers or wreaths into the water over the ship.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/2cEhj3X
- bit.ly/2cEjw4g

At the library:

- “What Was Pearl Harbor?” by Patricia Brennan Demuth
- “Pearl Harbor” by Stephen Krensky
- “Pearl Harbor” by Gary E. Barr

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Pearl Harbor are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AIRFIELD, ALLIES, BASE,
DECEMBER, FLEET,
HANGAR, HARBOR,
HAWAII, INFAMY, ISLAND,
MEMORIAL, MILITARY,
NAVAL, OAHU, OCEAN,
PACIFIC, PEARL, PLANE,
SUPERSTRUCTURE,
TORPEDO, WAR.

T E E L F M I Y R A T I L I M
E S A B S P E S U H A O D I L
N A V A L E A M L X A M U I R
Y M A F N I I C O A K N R A A
P L A N E A N L I R N Z G W E
R E B M E C E D L F I D U A P
M A I R F I E L D A I A K H R
X H W A T O R P E D O C L U Y
E R U T C U R T S R E P U S H
N A E C O H A R B O R M G S M

Cook's Corner

Roasted Baby Carrots

You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) bag of baby carrots, washed and dried
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon pepper (optional)



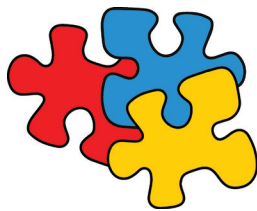
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 475 degrees.
2. Toss carrots, oil and spices in a broiler pan.
3. Spread carrots in a single layer; roast for 12 minutes.
4. Shake the pan several times and roast for 10 to 12 minutes more. Carrots are done when they are tender and slightly browned. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of World War II.



agnyrme _____
ipcfaci _____
erupoe _____
errmebem _____

Answers: Germany, Pacific, Europe, remember.

Mini Jokes



Peter: What's a bank robber's favorite dance?
Penny: The vaultz!

Eco Note



The places where animals and plants live are called **habitats**. Unfortunately, to make places for people to live, we have destroyed a lot of habitats for other living things. National Wildlife Refuges provide homes for 700 bird species, 220 mammal species, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 kinds of fish. Support our National Wildlife Refuges!

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For later:

Look for stories about the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in your newspaper.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

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