

Inquiry Lesson

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Main Topic: Why did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor?

- Causes of the Attack on Pearl Harbor: Open door policy, Japanese expansion, US trade restrictions

Objectives

- Students will engage in an inquiry lesson.
- Students will examine and analyze primary documents.
- Students will develop an understanding of the reasons for Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor..

Materials

- Powerpoint presentation
- Whiteboard and markers
- Source packets

Activities

1. *Warm-Up Activity*: Describe Japanese culture. How did it differ from American culture?
 - a. Have students answer this question individually in their weekly warm-up worksheet, then share and discuss their answers as a class. Students will have just learned about cultural differences between the United States and Japan in the previous lesson.
2. *Inquiry Lesson*: Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?
 - a. Students will initially answer this question as class. Have students share their answers, and write responses on the whiteboard.
 - b. Students will take out their document packets. In their small groups, have students examine each packet and complete the corresponding inquiry activity. Students will complete this exercise three times, for each document.
 - c. After giving students time to read each packet and answer the questions, discuss the documents and the questions. Ask for students to revise their hypothesis after they read each packet, writing their responses on the board.
 - d. Complete this process for each document packet.
3. *Discussion*: The Causes of the Attack on Pearl Harbor
 - a. At the end of the lesson, after students have read each packet, ask the inquiry question again. If needed, guide them with discussion questions and lecture.

Assessment

- Formatively assess students' knowledge and engagement throughout the class by monitoring student performance and participation.
- Summatively assess students' knowledge through the exit ticket.

Inquiry Lesson: Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?

Document Set #1: Open Door Policy

The Lansing-Ishii Agreement, November 2, 1917

The Twenty-one Demands created a minor crisis in U.S.-Japanese relations, but after the United States entered the war against Germany in April 1917 both sides saw the need to smooth over their differences. Tokyo sent a special envoy, Ishii Kikujiro, to Washington, where in November he signed the following document along with U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing.

The governments of the United States and Japan deny that they have any purpose to infringe in any way the independence or territorial integrity of China, and they declare, furthermore, that they always adhere to the principle of the so-called "open door" or equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China.

Moreover, they mutually declare that they are opposed to the acquisition by any government of any special rights or privileges that would affect the independence or territorial integrity of China or that would deny to the subjects or citizens of any country the full enjoyment of equal opportunity in the commerce and industry of China.

The Nine-Power Treaty Signed at Washington, February 6, 1922

One of several pacts signed at the Washington Conference of 1921-1922, the Nine-Power Treaty was an agreement among the United States, Belgium, Great Britain, China, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and Portugal to guarantee the "open door" in China.

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Powers...agree:

- 1) To respect the sovereignty, the independence, and the territorial and administrative integrity of China;
- 2) To provide the fullest and most unembarrassed opportunity to China to develop and maintain for herself an effective and stable government;
- 3) To use their influence for the purpose of effectually establishing and maintaining the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations throughout the territory of China;
- 4) To refrain from taking advantage of conditions in China in order to seek special rights or privileges which would abridge the rights of subjects or citizens of friendly States, and from countenancing action inimical to the security of such States.

Questions

1. What is the open door policy?

2. Under the open door policy, who is allowed to trade with China?

3. What countries agreed to this policy?

Document #2: Japan's Grievances

Excerpts from K.K. Kawakami, "The Problem of Japan: A Japanese View," November 1921:

The following comes from an article which appeared in the American journal The Nation in November 1921. Kiyoshi "Karl" Kawakami (1873-1949) was a Japanese journalist who covered American affairs.

Now let us consider the particular case of Japan. Even schoolchildren know that Japan consists of volcanic ranges. The country is virtually filled with mountains, affording but 15,000,000 acres of [usable] land, or only 16 per cent of the total area. This allows each inhabitant only one-quarter of an acre of farm land. In California farm land per capita of population is about nine acres... Because of the peculiar topography of Japan the country appears, and as a matter of fact is, much more crowded than may be judged from statistics on paper...

But it is not only the question of land shortage and overpopulation that weigh heavily upon Japan. Equally depressing is the fact that she has not within her own confines adequate mineral resources essential to modern industry. She depends almost entirely upon foreign countries for iron ores... But the most serious handicap is the lack of petroleum, a material which is becoming more and more important in transportation and in manufacturing industries. If you watch the chessboard of European and American diplomacy, you cannot fail to see how each nation is trying to outwit the other in gaining control of oil resources in different parts of the world.

And here is Japan, struggling to solve, partly at least, her population problem by becoming an industrial and trading nation, and yet harassed by the lack of three essential materials of industry—oil, iron, and coal. If she steps an inch out of her narrow precincts and tries to obtain, say in Siberia or China, the privilege of working such mineral resources, down comes the sword of Damocles in the shape of protest, official or otherwise, from the Western nations. It is obvious that the great Powers of the West have accumulated more land than they should rightly own...

"The Senate's Declaration of War": Japan Responds to Japanese Exclusion, April 29, 1924

In 1924 the U.S. Congress passed legislation severely limiting immigration from Europe, and cutting off almost all immigration from Asia. Two years earlier the Supreme Court had ruled that Asians were ineligible for U.S. citizenship. The Japanese viewed such measures as deliberate insults, and responded by organizing boycotts of American products. The following editorial appeared in an issue of the Japan Times and Mail.

There is no denying that the adoption by the American Senate of the exclusion amendment to the Immigration Bill has given a shock to the whole Japanese race such as has never before been felt and which will undoubtedly be remembered for a long time to come.

Nevertheless the fact remains that the Senate has passed, with an overwhelming majority, an amendment which they know is a most humiliating one to the Japanese race, and the event cuts the Japanese minds deep, a wound that will hurt and rankle for generations and generations...

Questions

1. What are Japan's grievances? Make a list!
2. What is Japan's attitude toward Western countries (United States and Europe)?
3. Based on these articles, how you think Japan is going to address their grievances?