



Fighting in the Pacific

Enduring Understanding:

The island hopping campaign led to Allied victories at the Battles of Coral Sea & Midway

Essential Questions:

1. What changes did the Allies make to ensure that they had enough resources for fighting the war?
2. Why were the Allies able to defeat the Axis Powers in the Pacific?



Objectives

- Explain how the Allies began to push back the Axis powers in Europe and the Pacific
- Describe how the Allies began to push back the Japanese in the Pacific



A Turning Point in the Pacific

- attack on Pearl Harbor = huge success for Japan
- damage to US Navy's Pacific Fleet
 - took time to overcome
 - limited American ability to strike back



Allies Fight Back

- Japanese advantages:
 - navy ruled the seas after Pearl Harbor
 - better equipped
 - fighting closer to home
- Japan conquered many strategic islands/territories in the Pacific



Allies Fight Back

- General Douglas MacArthur
 - April 1942, surrendered the Philippines (American territory) to Japanese

- Bataan Death March
 - 70,000 prisoners (American & Filipino soldiers) forced to march to a prison camp
 - 600 Americans & 10,000 Filipino prisoners died



Battle of the Coral Sea

- May 1942 → northeast of Australian coast
- Japanese forces were preparing to invade Port Moresby on New Guinea
- Allied vessels tried to block attack
- Japanese were stopped, but at great cost



Battle of Midway

- June 1942 → Midway was island in middle of Pacific
 - key American military base
- Japanese = more ships and aircraft carriers
- Americans = broken secret Japanese code
- Americans won
- Destroyed Japan's hopes of Pacific domination



Military Strategies

- island hopping
 - skipping over Japanese strongholds & capturing weaker targets
 - not always easy (ex: Battle of Guadalcanal)
- kamikazes
 - Japanese pilots who loaded planes with explosives & deliberately crashed into Allied ships

