


GUIDED READING *The War in the Pacific*
Section 3

- A.** As you read about the defeat of Japan and the end of the war, write notes to describe important wartime and war-related events. (Leave the shaded box blank.)

The War in the Pacific		
Date and Place	Leaders Involved	What happened?
1. April 1942, Bataan		
2. June 1942, Midway		
3. August 1942, Guadalcanal		
4. October 1944, Leyte Gulf		
5. March 1945, Iwo Jima		
6. June 1945, Okinawa		
7. September 1945, Tokyo Bay		

The Science of War		
Date and Place	Leaders Involved	What happened?
8. July 1945, Los Alamos		
9. August 1945, Hiroshima, Nagasaki		

Planning and Rebuilding for Peace		
Date and Place	Leaders Involved	What happened?
10. February 1945, Yalta		
11. April 1945, San Francisco		
12. 1945–1949, Nuremberg		

- B.** On the back of this paper, explain or define **kamikaze** and **Manhattan Project**.



Section 3

RETEACHING ACTIVITY *The War in the Pacific***Reading Comprehension**

- _____ 1. After scoring numerous victories throughout the Pacific, the Japanese navy was finally turned back at the
- Battle of the Bulge.
 - Battle of the Coral Sea.
 - Battle of Midway.
 - Battle of Leyete Gulf.
- _____ 2. The island on which nearly 8,000 U.S. soldiers and some 110,000 Japanese soldiers lost their lives was
- Iwo Jima.
 - the Philippines.
 - Okinawa.
 - Midway.
- _____ 3. The Japanese finally surrendered after the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on
- Nagasaki.
 - Hiroshima.
 - Tokyo.
 - Okinawa.
- _____ 4. The Nuremburg Trials sought to punish for war crimes mainly the leader of
- Germany.
 - Japan.
 - Italy.
 - the Soviet Union.
- _____ 5. The Yalta Conference to discuss the fate of the post war world brought together the leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and
- France.
 - China.
 - Spain.
 - the Soviet Union.
- _____ 6. In the wake of its defeat, Japan was occupied and rebuilt by forces from
- China.
 - France.
 - Great Britain.
 - the United States.

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Section 3

PRIMARY SOURCE **The Bombing of Nagasaki**

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. When Japan's leaders did not surrender at once, a second bomb was dropped over Nagasaki three days later. Notice the descriptive details that New York Times reporter William L. Laurence used to report the bombing.

We flew southward down the channel and at 11:33 crossed the coastline and headed straight for Nagasaki, about one hundred miles to the west. Here again we circled until we found an opening in the clouds. It was 12:01 and the goal of our mission had arrived.

We heard the prearranged signal on our radio, put on our arc welder's glasses, and watched tensely the maneuverings of the strike ship about half a mile in front of us.

"There she goes!" someone said.

Out of the belly of *The Great Artiste* what looked like a black object went downward.

Captain Bock swung around to get out of range; but even though we were turning away in the opposite direction, and despite the fact that it was broad daylight in our cabin, all of us became aware of a giant flash that broke through the dark barrier of our arc welder's lenses and flooded our cabin with intense light.

We removed our glasses after the first flash, but the light still lingered on, a bluish-green light that illuminated the entire sky all around. A tremendous blast wave struck our ship and made it tremble from nose to tail. This was followed by four more blasts in rapid succession, each resounding like the boom of cannon fire hitting our plane from all directions.

Observers in the tail of our ship saw a giant ball of fire rise as though from the bowels of the earth, belching forth enormous white smoke rings. Next they saw a giant pillar of purple fire, ten thousand feet high, shooting skyward with enormous speed.

By the time our ship had made another turn in the direction of the atomic explosion the pillar of purple fire had reached the level of our altitude. Only about forty-five seconds had passed. Awestruck, we watched it shoot upward like a meteor coming from the earth instead of from outer space, becoming ever more alive as it climbed skyward through the white clouds. It was no longer smoke, or dust, or even a cloud of fire. It was a living thing, a new species of being, born right before our incredulous eyes.

At one stage of its evolution, covering millions of years in terms of seconds, the entity assumed the form of a giant square totem pole, with its base about three miles long, tapering off to about a mile at the top. Its bottom was brown, its center was amber, its top white. But it was a living totem pole, carved with many grotesque masks grimacing at the earth.

Then, just when it appeared as though the thing had settled down into a state of permanence, there came shooting out of the top a giant mushroom that increased the height of the pillar to a total of forty-five thousand feet. The mushroom top was even more alive than the pillar, seething and boiling in a white fury of creamy foam, sizzling upward and then descending earthward, a thousand Old Faithful geysers rolled into one.

It kept struggling in an elemental fury, like a creature in the act of breaking the bonds that held it down. In a few seconds it had freed itself from its gigantic stem and floated upward with tremendous speed, its momentum carrying it into the stratosphere to a height of about sixty thousand feet.

But no sooner did this happen when another mushroom, smaller in size than the first one, began emerging out of the pillar. It was as though the decapitated monster was growing a new head.

from *New York Times*, September 9, 1945. Reprinted in Richard B. Morris and James Woodress, eds., *Voices from America's Past*, vol. 3, The Twentieth Century (New York: Dutton, 1962), 161–163.

Research Options

1. Find out more about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. How many people were killed by the bomb blasts? How many were injured?
2. Use on-line or print resources to research the debate in 1945 among scientists and government officials over whether the atomic bomb should be used on Japan. Then, with your classmates, hold a debate in which you argue for or against using the bomb.