

# The Pacific Theater

A look at the World War II Fighting in Asia

# OBJECTIVE

- By the end of the lesson, SWBAT describe the major battles of the Asian theater during World War II.

# Lightning Round Review!

- Who was the leader of Japan during World War II?
- Who was the leader of the United States during World War II?
- Why didn't the U.S. enter World War II at first?
- Why did the U.S. enter World War II?

# Vocabulary

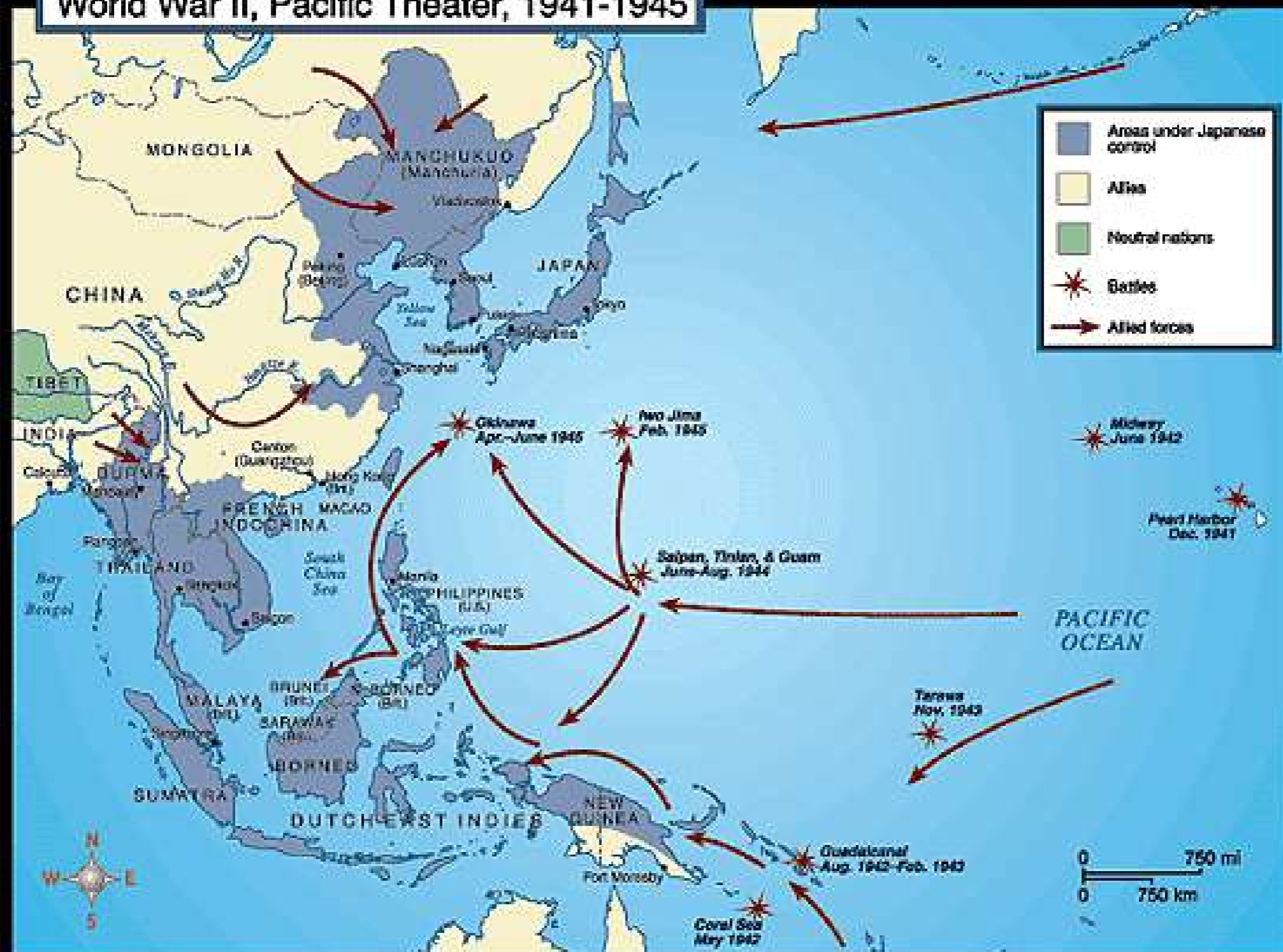
- Island Hopping - When the Allies went from island to island in the South Pacific in order to get closer to Japan.
- Aircraft Carrier - A large ship that carries airplanes far from land. Airplanes can take off from the ship.
- Code Talkers - Navajo Native Americans who used their language as a secret code to communicate messages that the Japanese could not understand.

# PEARL HARBOR

- The U.S. joined World War II on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor
- Until 1942, the Japanese were gaining land all over Pacific Ocean.
- The U.S. was not winning the war.
- Why do you think the U.S. was not winning the war right away?

# Pacific Theater

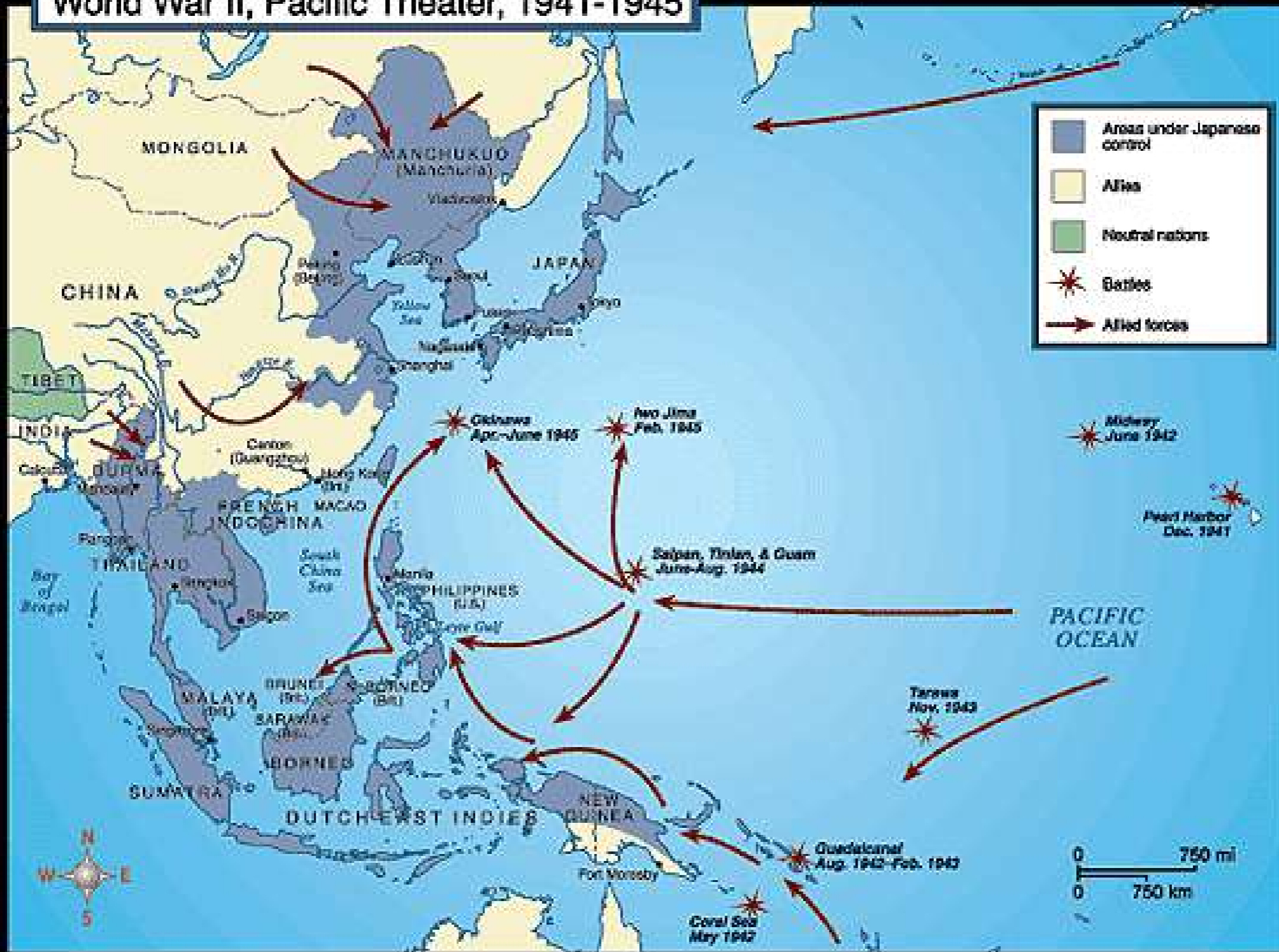
World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945



# Battle of Midway

- In 1942, the Allies had a major victory over Japan.
- American forces led by Admiral Chester Nimitz won the **Battle of Midway**.
- The battle was really hard fought because the Japanese were ruthless fighters.
- They would hide in caves and come storming out shooting at Americans.
- There were a lot of casualties.

# World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945





# Battle of Midway

- During the Battle of Midway and the other battles in the Pacific, the U.S. used **Aircraft Carriers**.
- From the aircraft carriers, the U.S. could fly jets that would help out with the different battles.
- Why would aircraft carriers be so important in Pacific Theater?



USS Essex (CV 9) at sea during the Okinawa Campaign. Her air group contains both F6F and F4U fighters. The ship was placed in commission Dec. 31, 1942, in Norfolk, Va., the first of 17 ships of her class commissioned during World War II. [80-G-373816 20 May 1945]



# Kamikazes

- In the Pacific Theater, the Japanese were ruthless fighters.
- Often times, the Japanese used Kamikazes to make dive bombs into the Allied Powers' aircraft carriers.
- Why would it be smart for the Japanese to use kamikazes?

# Kamikazes

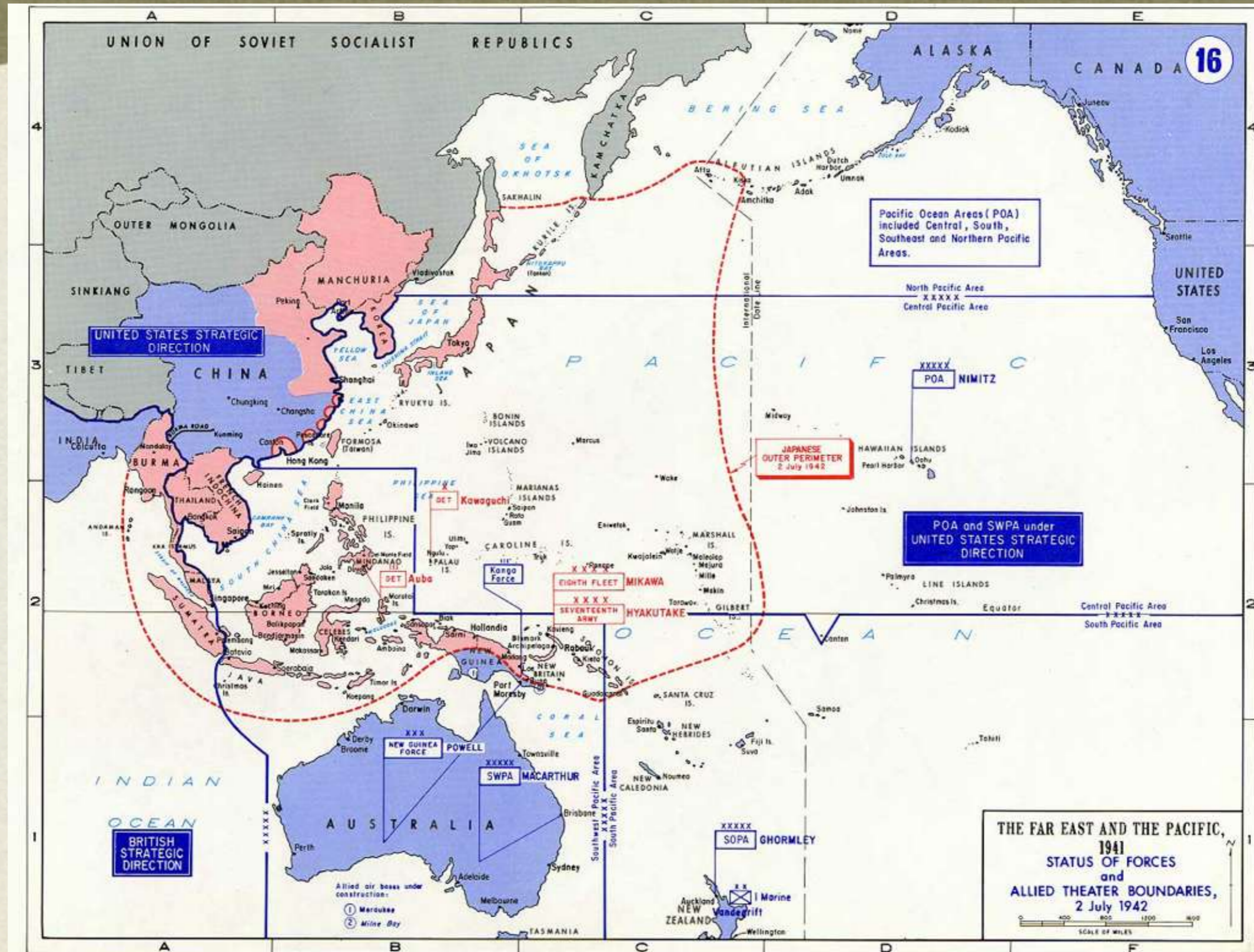


Photo # 80-G-312018 On board USS Yorktown after she was hit by dive bombers

# Island hopping

- During the war, the U.S. had to use an **Island Hopping** technique.
- They would have to hop from island to island fighting to get islands away from the Japanese.
- The goal was to get closer to Japan.
- Why would island hopping be challenging for the U.S.?

# Island Hopping



# Island Hopping



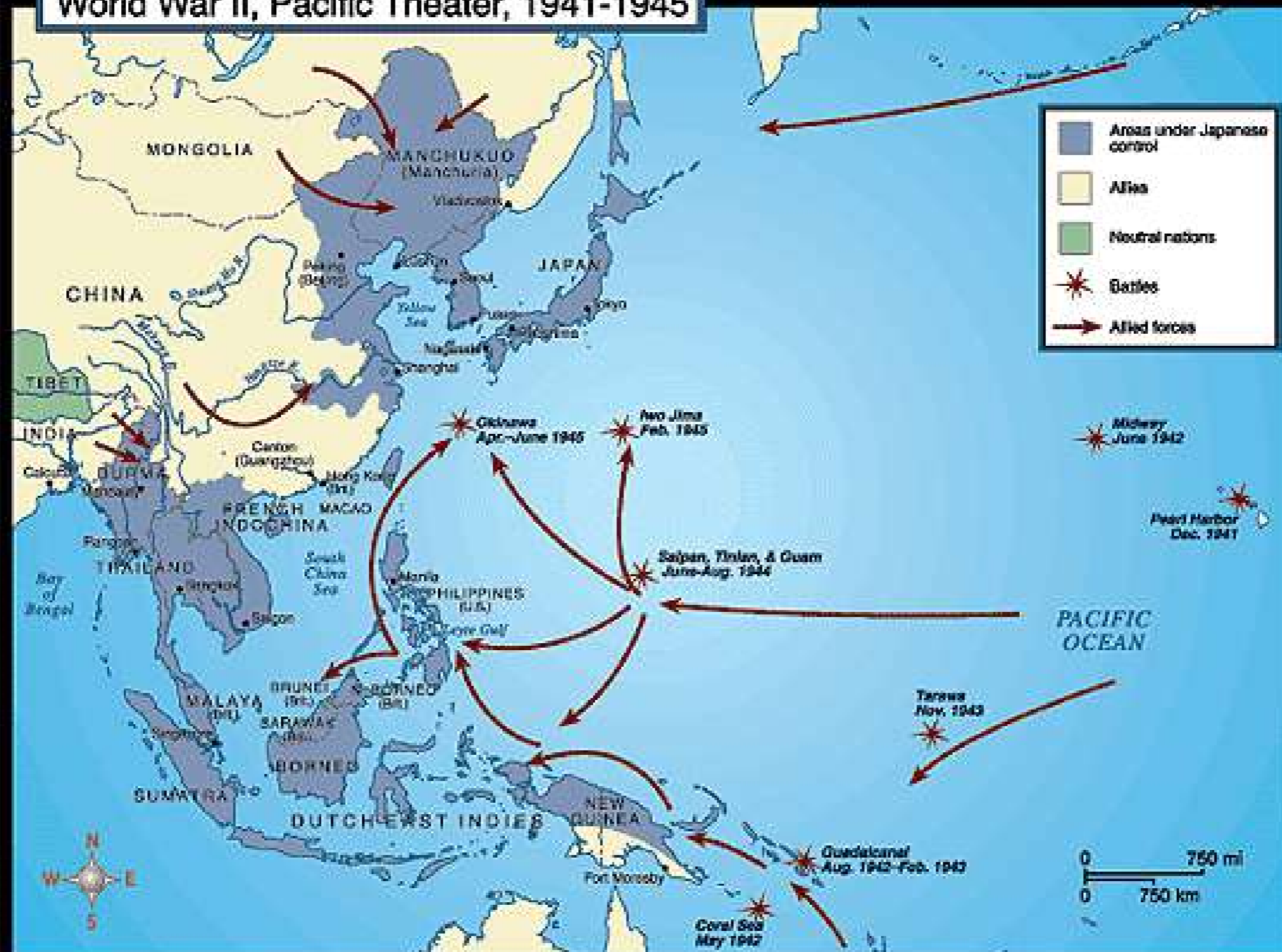
- Island hopping and battles against Japan continued for more than three years.
- During that time, the Allies captured important islands such as New Guinea, and **Iwo Jima**.
- These islands made it easier for U.S. to eventually attack Japan.
- The battles were very bloody!



# Iwo Jima



# World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945



# Code TALKERS

- Axis Power spies were always listening to the Allied powers communicate
- Therefore, the Allied Powers used Navajo Native American code talkers.
- They spoke in the Navajo language and would communicate important messages from island to island and boat to boat.
- Why was it important to have Navajo Code Talkers?

# Code Talkers



# Conclusion

- The Pacific Theater battles between the Axis and Allied Powers during World War II was very bloody.
- The Allied Powers used an Island Hopping technique to take over islands and get closer to Japan.
- Aircraft carriers were very important for the battles.