

Do Now

Write down anything you know about the dropping of the atomic bomb in 1945.



Objectives

- Formulate opinions using an opinion continuum on whether the United States was justified to drop both atomic bombs on Japan in 1945
- Examine the 1st and 2nd atomic bombs and how many people they each killed
- Understand when and why the bombs were dropped in Japan as well as their names and who dropped them
- Discuss the Manhattan Project
- Explain when the Soviet Union declares war on Japan

August 6, 1945

- Little Boy, a uranium bomb, is detonated over Hiroshima, Japan.
 - Killed 90,000-166,000 people
- First nuclear weapon used in warfare
- Dropped by B-29 *Enola Gay* 1,800 feet over Hiroshima, Japan
- Weighed about 9,000 lbs and produced an explosion equal to 20,000 tons of TNT.



August 9th, 1945

- Soviet Union declares war on Japan (allies with the United States)
- Soviet troops invade Manchuria

August 9, 1945

- “Fat Man”, second atomic bomb to hit Japan, was scheduled to be dropped at Kokura
- Poor weather caused target to move to Nagasaki: 60,000–80,000 killed
- Released by the B-29 *Bockscar*
- Damage was less extensive due to Nagasaki's hilly terrain
- “Fat Man” was a plutonium bomb



September 2, 1945

- Japan announces its formal surrender.



*Why did the United States drop 2 atomic bombs on Japan?

*Were there any other alternatives?

What was the Manhattan Project?

- The US Government's secret project to research, develop, and test an atomic weapon from 1942-1946
- Led by the United States with participation from the UK and Canada World War II.
- The Army component of the project was designated to the Manhattan District



Why were BOTH bombs dropped?

- After FDR's death; Truman becomes President-- just finds out about Manhattan project
- World has never seen weapons of this magnitude
- What was President Truman thinking?
 - Wanted unconditional surrender from Japan
 - Wanted to test out new weapons
 - Arms race; wanted to show Stalin how powerful US was
- What was the reason he dropped the second one?
- Would Japan have surrendered?---did not surrender after 1st bomb was dropped

Alternative...

- Invasion of Japan
- Why did the United States not invade Japan but instead drop the two atomic bombs?
- Reality is, although the bombs had horrible short and long term effects, it did save lives.
- Roughly 240,000 deaths from it---How many would have died with an invasion like D-Day?
- Japanese were trained to fight till death, would rather commit suicide than surrender
- Japanese would not surrender any other way

What do you think?

- In a 1 paragraph response answer the following questions:

After hearing the facts, hearing your classmates and hearing the presentation has your opinion changed on the decision for the United States to drop both atomic bombs? Why has it changed? Or why has it not changed?