

Day of Infamy

Carissa Lee

Central Elementary School

Jerome, Idaho

World War II, which had been raging in Europe since 1939, hit home for many Americans when the Japanese launched a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Richard Hansing joined the U.S. Navy in 1939, when he was 19 years old. Richard always knew he would enlist in the Navy. His grandfather, who had fought in the Civil War, had joined when he was 16.

Richard served with the Pacific Fleet based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He served on the battleship USS *Nevada*. Richard's job was to "jump the burners," which meant that he had to heat the oil before it could be used in the ship's engine.

Richard was stationed on the *Nevada* when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. When the bombs started falling just before 8 a.m., Richard was belowdecks on the *Nevada*.

A group of Japanese planes had orders to bomb the *Nevada*, which was docked at the northern end of Battleship Row, east of Ford Island. The *Nevada* was docked near the USS *Arizona*, which was heavily damaged in the attack.

Japanese bombers tried to hit the *Nevada* but had a hard time seeing the ship because of all the smoke coming from the sinking *Arizona*. The Japanese launched 21 bombs, eight of which hit the *Nevada*. The remaining 13 went into the water. A torpedo also hit the *Nevada*, opening a large hole in the ship's *port*, or left, side. The *Nevada's* crew fought many fires. Although the ship was badly damaged, it managed to steam down the channel toward the open sea. The slow-moving *Nevada* was an attractive target for the Japanese planes.

The planes dropped bombs on the moving battleship, hoping to sink it in the channel to block the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The commander of the *Nevada* beached the ship at Hospital Point, keeping the channel clear.

Although he was never injured in the war, Richard said Pearl Harbor was the worst day of the conflict. Of the *Nevada's* crew of about 1,500 men, 50 were killed. Richard's friend Glen Shape was killed.

On Nov. 30, 1942, at 11:25 p.m., two enemy torpedoes hit Richard's new ship, the USS *North Hampton*. The crew abandoned the sinking ship on December 1 at 3 a.m. The water was smooth and warm. There were no sharks in the area. He was in the water for about one and a half hours. Eleven hundred men were picked up and taken back to Pearl Harbor. Once there, Richard came home on the USS *Bernet*.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, which of the following ships did Richard serve on first?

- A USS *Arizona*
- B USS *Bernet*
- C USS *North Hampton*
- D USS *Nevada*

2. According to the description in the passage, how many men were saved after torpedoes hit the USS *North Hampton*?

- A 1,125 men
- B 1,100 men
- C 1,500 men
- D 50 men

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A Richard was unsure about joining the army
- B Richard always wanted to join the Navy
- C being in the Navy was an easy job
- D Richard could not swim

4. Read this sentence from the passage: "The Nevada was docked near the USS *Arizona*, which was heavily damaged in the attack."

As used in the passage, **damaged** means

- A hidden
- B injured
- C floating
- D armed

5. This passage is mainly about

- A the types of ships in the Navy during World War II
- B Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor during World War II
- C why Richard Hansing joined the U.S. Navy
- D how to survive a ship that is sinking

6. What ships did Richard Hansing serve on while in the U.S. Navy?

7. Based on the passage, were the Japanese able to see the U.S.S. *Nevada* clearly when they were attacking? Why or why not?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Japanese planes dropped bombs on the U.S. ships _____ they wanted to sink them.

- A but
- B because
- C although
- D after

9. Answer the questions based on the sentence below.

Japanese planes bombed the ship *Nevada* at the northern end of Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor.

What? Japanese planes

(did) What? _____

Where? _____

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: conflict (con · flict): a disagreement.

10a. Read the five sentences below and underline the word **conflict** in each sentence.

1. During World War II Japan and the U.S. were in conflict, which is why there were so many violent battles.
2. The conflict involved many other countries that were also fighting during World War II.
3. There was a small conflict when my friend and I could not agree on what movie to see, so we solved it by going to the playground instead.
4. The violence of the gangs' conflicts made everyone worried about walking on the streets at night.
5. People should decide to solve conflicts by talking rather than fighting.

10b. Which image shows a conflict?



11. If two people agree on everything, will they have any conflicts? Why or why not?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 890

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: This passage describes Richard Hansing's experience in the Navy during World War II when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

1. According to the passage, which of the following ships did Richard serve on first?

- A USS *Arizona*
- B USS *Bernet*
- C USS *North Hampton*
- D **USS *Nevada***

2. According to the description in the passage, how many men were saved after torpedoes hit the USS North Hampton?

- A 1,125 men
- B **1,100 men**
- C 1,500 men
- D 50 men

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A Richard was unsure about joining the army
- B **Richard always wanted to join the Navy**
- C being in the Navy was an easy job
- D Richard could not swim

4. Read this sentence from the passage: "The *Nevada* was docked near the USS *Arizona*, which was heavily damaged in the attack."

As used in the passage, **damaged** means

- A hidden
- B **injured**
- C floating
- D armed

5. This passage is mainly about

- A the types of ships in the Navy during World War II
- B **Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor during World War II**
- C why Richard Hansing joined the U.S. Navy
- D how to survive a ship that is sinking

6. What ships did Richard Hansing serve on while in the U.S. Navy?

Suggested answer: Hansing served on the U.S.S. *Nevada* in 1941 and the U.S.S. *North Hampton* in 1942. [see paragraphs 3 & 9]

7. Based on the passage, were the Japanese able to see the U.S.S. *Nevada* clearly when they were attacking? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: No, the Japanese were not able to see the U.S.S. *Nevada* easily when they were attacking, because the passage states that they had a hard time seeing the ship through the smoke from the *Arizona*. Also, out of the 21 bombs they launched, only 8 bombs hit the *Nevada*. [see paragraph 6]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Japanese planes dropped bombs on the U.S. ships _____ they wanted to sink them.

- A but
- B because**
- C although
- D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Japanese planes bombed the ship *Nevada* at the northern end of Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor.

What? Japanese planes

(did) What? **bombed the ship Nevada**

Where? **at the northern end of Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: conflict

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (con-flict)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is conflict. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "conflict."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "A conflict is a disagreement."
- b. Teacher says: "In the passage, the conflict is between Japan and the U.S. during World War II."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "conflict."]

Step 3: Practice the word

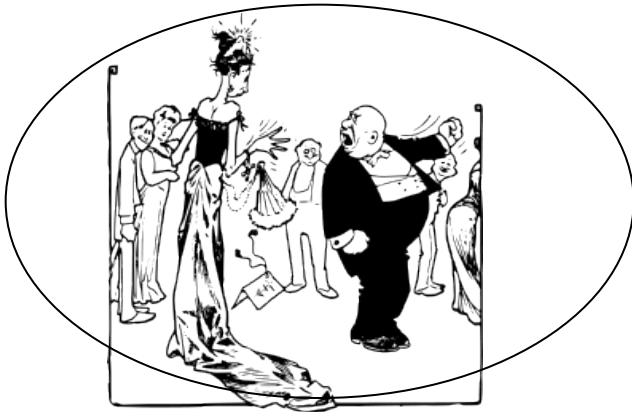
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the 1st sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. During World War II, Japan and the U.S. were in conflict, which is why there were so many violent battles.
 2. The conflict involved many other countries that were also fighting during World War II.
 3. There was a small conflict when my friend and I could not agree on what movie to see, so we solved it by going to the playground instead.
 4. The violence of the gangs' conflicts made everyone worried about walking on the streets at night.
 5. People should try to solve conflicts by talking rather than fighting.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which image shows a conflict?



- 11.** If two people agree on everything, will they have any conflicts? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: No, if two people agree on everything they will not have any conflicts because conflicts happen when two people don't agree on something.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: infamy, enlist