

## President Obama to visit Hiroshima

25th May, 2016



On Friday, U.S. President Barack Obama will become the first American president to visit the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The visit is a huge event for both the USA and Japan. Hiroshima is the first

city in the world to suffer from atomic weapons. The bomb that U.S. forces dropped on the city in August of 1945 killed an estimated 140,000 in that year. Many historians say it helped bring an end to the Second World War. Others say it should never have happened. President Obama said his visit is to focus on the future. An advisor to the president said Mr Obama would not apologise for the bombing. The advisor said Obama, "will offer a forward-looking vision" that focuses on the shared future of the USA and Japan.

Barack Obama hinted in 2009 that he would one day like to visit Hiroshima. His trip to the city has got many people in Japan and the USA talking about the bombs that fell on Hiroshima, and later Nagasaki, which killed so many people. Mr Obama said his visit would be a time to think about how horrible war is and to remember the terrible loss of life. He said he hoped his time in Hiroshima would remind people that war causes unnecessary death and that nuclear weapons should never be used again. He said: "Part of my goal is to recognise that innocent people caught in war can suffer tremendously." He added: "And that's not just the thing of the past. That is happening today in many parts of the world."

Sources: *Newsday.com* / *Japan Times* / *Asahi.com*

## Writing

All countries should apologise for their acts of war. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

president / Hiroshima / visit / suffer / estimated / focus / future / apologise / Japan / hinted / horrible / terrible / nuclear weapons / loss of life / innocent / happening today

## True / False

- Barack Obama is the second U.S. president to visit Hiroshima. T / F
- The event is big in Japan but not so big in the USA. T / F
- President Obama said he would focus on the future during his visit. T / F
- An advisor said the president would not apologise for Hiroshima. T / F
- Mr Obama suggested in 2009 that he wanted to visit Hiroshima. T / F
- Obama said he wanted his visit to remind people of the horror of war. T / F
- President Obama said no one in war is innocent. T / F
- Mr Obama said there is not so much suffering in the world today. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. huge       | a. suggested    |
| 2. end        | b. awful        |
| 3. focus      | c. provide      |
| 4. apologise  | d. dropped      |
| 5. offer      | e. close        |
| 6. hinted     | f. not forget   |
| 7. fell       | g. very big     |
| 8. horrible   | h. taking place |
| 9. remember   | i. concentrate  |
| 10. happening | j. say sorry    |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the end of World War II?
- How important is President Obama's visit?
- How can we put an end to nuclear weapons?
- Are you for or against nuclear weapons?
- How can ordinary people stop leaders deciding to go to war?
- What do you know about the wars happening today?
- When will we stop going to war?
- What questions would you like to ask President Obama?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. the first American president to visit | a. to visit           |
| 2. The visit is a huge                   | b. weapons            |
| 3. helped bring an end to the            | c. looking vision     |
| 4. his visit is to focus                 | d. parts of the world |
| 5. Obama will offer a forward-           | e. event              |
| 6. he would one day like                 | f. Second World War   |
| 7. a time to think about how             | g. people             |
| 8. nuclear                               | h. the Japanese city  |
| 9. innocent                              | i. horrible war is    |
| 10. happening today in many              | j. on the future      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Hiroshima?
- Why is President Obama's visit a 'huge event'?
- Why are there still nuclear weapons in the world?
- Should President Obama apologise about the bombing of Hiroshima?
- How likely is it nuclear weapons will be used again?
- What would happen if terrorists got nuclear weapons?
- What will happen in the 'shared future of the USA and Japan'?

## Spelling

- suffer from atomic owespan
- killed an dteiamst 140,000
- saoihntsir say it helped bring an end
- Obama would not iosoapgel (UK) / poloaiegz (USA)
- offer a forward-looking snivoi
- the shared ufuret of the USA and Japan
- Obama idehtn in 2009
- talking about the mbbos that fell
- think about how rholeirb war is
- remember the rtilreeb loss of life
- enocnjin people caught in war
- That is apngnhepi today

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. b	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Syria

You think the war in Syria is the most difficult to bring to an end. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things why their wars are easier to end. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to end (and why): drugs wars, the Israel-Palestine conflict or cyber wars.

### Role B – Drugs wars

You think drugs wars are the most difficult to bring to an end. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things why their wars are easier to end. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to end (and why): the war in Syria, the Israel-Palestine conflict or cyber wars.

### Role C – Israel - Palestine

You think the Israel-Palestine conflict is the most difficult to bring to an end. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things why their wars are easier to end. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to end (and why): drugs wars, the war in Syria or cyber wars.

### Role D – Cyber wars

You think cyber wars are the most difficult to bring to an end. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things why their wars are easier to end. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to end (and why): drugs wars, the Israel-Palestine conflict or the war in Syria.

## Speaking – Wars / conflicts

Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult to end at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Syria         | • Yemen              |
| • War on terror | • Ukraine            |
| • Drugs wars    | • Israel / Palestine |
| • Cyber wars    | • Somalia            |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.