

Japan Prime Minister visits Pearl Harbor

29th December, 2016



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has visited the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Japan's surprise attack on December 7, 1941 led to the United States joining World War II. Mr Abe did

not apologize for the attack but did offer his condolences. He said: "President Obama, the people of the United States of America and the people around the world, as the Prime Minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives here." Mr Abe also paid tribute to those who died in the attack. He said: "We must never repeat the horrors of war again. This is the solemn vow the people of Japan have taken." President Obama welcomed Mr Abe, "in the spirit of friendship".

A total of 353 Japanese aircraft attacked the US base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2,403 US personnel. The 75-minute attack also damaged or destroyed 19 US Navy warships. Mr Abe is the first Japanese leader for decades to visit Pearl Harbor and the first to visit a memorial on the site of the sunken battleship the USS Arizona. Mr Abe acknowledged the US role in rebuilding Japan after WWII. He said: "When the war ended and Japan was a nation in burnt-out ruins as far as the eye could see, suffering miserable poverty, it was the USA and its good people that generously sent us food to eat and clothes to wear." He added that the friendship between the USA and Japan was an everlasting "alliance of hope".

Sources: bbc.com / Bloomberg.com / asia.nikkei.com

Writing

All countries currently at war with each other can become good friends. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United States / naval / base / apologize / condolences / paid tribute / horrors / war / aircraft / personnel / damaged / decades / memorial / ruins / miserable / poverty

True / False

- a) Japan's Prime Minister visited an Army base in Hawaii. T / F
- b) Shinzo Abe did not make an apology. T / F
- c) Shinzo Abe offered his condolences to those who lost their lives. T / F
- d) Mr Abe said Japan's people made a vow to avoid the horrors of war. T / F
- e) There were 353 Japanese planes involved in the attack on Pearl Harbor. T / F
- f) More than 100 U.S. ships were destroyed or damaged in the attack. T / F
- g) Mr Abe thanked the USA for giving him food and clothes. T / F
- h) Mr Abe said the US and Japan were in an "alliance of friendship". T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. base | a. employees |
| 2. apologize | b. passed away |
| 3. condolences | c. unhappy |
| 4. died | d. promise |
| 5. vow | e. say sorry |
| 6. personnel | f. optimism |
| 7. ruins | g. headquarters |
| 8. miserable | h. relationship |
| 9. friendship | i. remains |
| 10. hope | j. sympathy |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Should Mr Abe have apologized for the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- b) How important is Japan's friendship with the USA today?
- c) Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?
- d) How important was it that the USA helped rebuild Japan after WWII?
- e) How can we avoid a third world war?
- f) What should countries do in an 'alliance of hope'?
- g) What advice do you have for leaders of countries at war?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Prime Minister Abe?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Japan's surprise attack | a. tribute to those who died |
| 2. Mr Abe did not apologize | b. of war again |
| 3. Mr Abe also paid | c. sent us food |
| 4. We must never repeat the horrors | d. 19 US Navy warships |
| 5. Obama welcomed Mr Abe in the | e. for the attack |
| 6. A total of 353 Japanese aircraft | f. on the base |
| 7. damaged or destroyed | g. decades to visit |
| 8. the first Japanese leader for | h. out ruins |
| 9. Japan was a nation in burnt- | i. spirit of friendship |
| 10. people that generously | j. attacked the US base |

Discussion – Student B

- What was the importance of Pearl Harbor during WWII?
- How important is Mr Abe's visit to Pearl Harbor?
- How important is Japan's message of 'no more war'?
- What do you think of Mr Abe's words?
- Why do we keep on repeating the 'horrors of war'?
- What is the best way to pay tribute to those who died in a war?
- Who are your country's biggest war heroes?
- What can be learnt from the friendship between Japan and the US?

Spelling

- the United States nvlaa base at Pearl Harbor
- Mr Abe did not plieoozag (USA) / gsaioopel (UK) for the attack
- offer my crensie and everlasting condolences
- Mr Abe also paid juettbr to those who died
- the nsmeol vow the people of Japan have
- in the sitipr of friendship
- killing 2,403 US selorenp
- damaged or tedosdrye 19 US Navy warships
- the first Japanese leader for cdesdea to visit
- the first to visit a alimemor
- suffering miserable terypvo
- an everlasting "cleanila of hope"

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Trade

You think trade is the best way of avoiding war between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the United Nations, a nuclear deterrent or cultural exchanges.

Role B – The United Nations

You think the United Nations is the best way of avoiding war between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): trade, a nuclear deterrent or cultural exchanges.

Role C – Nuclear Deterrent

You think a nuclear deterrent is the best way of avoiding war between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the United Nations, trade or cultural exchanges.

Role D – Cultural Exchanges

You think cultural exchanges are the best way of avoiding war between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the United Nations, a nuclear deterrent or trade.

Speaking – No more war

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to avoid war between countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| • Education | • The United Nations |
| • Trade | • Nuclear deterrent |
| • Aid | • Cultural exchanges |
| • Sport | • Leaders' meetings |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.