

drive west. On April 25, they met American troops at the Elbe River.

**Germany Surrenders** In Berlin, Hitler had refused to take his generals' advice to flee as the Soviets closed in on the city. Instead he fulfilled a vow he had made in 1939: "I shall stand or fall in this struggle. I shall never survive the defeat of my people." On May 1, the German government announced that Hitler had committed suicide. A few days later, on May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered.

American soldiers rejoiced and civilians celebrated V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) at home as the war in Europe came to an end. The war was not over yet, however, as Japan was still to be defeated.

**The Yalta Conference** In February 1945, two months before the fall of Berlin, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met at Yalta, a city in the Soviet Union near the Black Sea. The purpose of the **Yalta Conference** was to plan for the post-war world. The leaders agreed to split Germany into four zones, each under the control of one of the major Allies. The city of Berlin, which would lie in the Soviet zone, would be similarly divided. Stalin promised to allow elections in the nations his army liberated from the Germans. He also promised to enter the war against Japan soon after Germany surrendered.



A United States soldier and Russian soldier (left and right) share a moment of camaraderie after meeting at the Elbe River in April 1945. **Foreign Relations** How did Soviet assaults in 1945 help end the war?

The agreements at Yalta were only partially fulfilled. Stalin refused, for example, to honor his promise for free elections. Roosevelt and Churchill were accused of not doing enough to prevent Soviet domination of Eastern Europe. The issue of Eastern Europe would be at the heart of the problems that later arose between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies.

## SECTION 2 REVIEW

### Comprehension

- 1. Key Terms** Define: (a) Atlantic Charter; (b) GI; (c) Battle of Stalingrad; (d) carpet bombing; (e) D-Day; (f) Battle of the Bulge; (g) Yalta Conference.
- 2. Summarizing the Main Idea** What events helped turn the tide of war in favor of the Allies?
- 3. Organizing Information** Create a four-column chart on a sheet of paper. Label the columns 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1945. In each column list the major battles and events in the European and North African theaters of war for that year.

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Explain how the Allied decision to delay an invasion of Western Europe and fight instead in North Africa and Italy affected war efforts in the Soviet Union.
- 5. Checking Consistency** Why do you think Americans who were denied full rights at home were eager to take part in the war against fascism?

### Writing Activity

- 6. Writing an Expository Essay** Joseph Stalin repeatedly asked the Allies to invade Western Europe in order to take the pressure off the Soviet Union. Write an essay convincing the Allied leaders to support this plan, or write a reply explaining why the invasion had to be delayed.



**May  
1942**  
*Battle of the  
Coral Sea*

**June  
1942**  
*Battle of  
Midway*

**Feb.  
1943**  
*Japanese abandon  
Guadalcanal*

**June  
1944**  
*Americans capture  
Mariana Islands*

**Feb.  
1945**  
*Land invasion  
at Iwo Jima*

**Aug.  
1945**  
*Atomic bomb dropped  
on Hiroshima*

**1942**

**1944**

**1946**

## 3 The War in the Pacific

### SECTION PREVIEW

#### Objectives

- 1 Summarize the Japanese advance in the Pacific in 1941 and 1942 and describe Allied victories that turned the tide of the war.
- 2 Describe the Allied struggle for the Pacific islands, including Iwo Jima and Okinawa.
- 3 Describe the Manhattan Project and its effect in bringing an end to the war.
- 4 **Key Terms** Define: Bataan Death March; Battle of the Coral Sea; Battle of Midway; Battle of Guadalcanal; *kamikaze*; Battle of Iwo Jima; Battle of Okinawa; Manhattan Project.

#### Main Idea

Fierce fighting and heavy casualties characterized the war in the Pacific Ocean as the Allied forces struggled to turn back Japanese advances.

#### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** Sketch a map that shows the areas where fighting took place in the Pacific Ocean. As you read the section, mark the major battle sites on your map. Also note who won each battle.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor was only the first of several Japanese offensives across the Pacific. Just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese warplanes based in China hit Clark Field, the main American air base in the Philippine Islands. (American troops had occupied the Philippines since the Spanish-American War in 1898.) The American planes sat neatly parked along the runways at Clark Field. As Japanese planes swept over the airfield, strings of bombs fell toward their targets. Planes and buildings were blown to pieces. Returning to their base, the Japanese attackers rejoiced over their success. Many were puzzled, however. They asked, What was the matter with the enemy? Didn't the Americans know the war had started?

### *The Japanese Advance, 1941–1942*

Although news of Pearl Harbor had reached Douglas MacArthur, the commanding general, the Americans at Clark Field had not expected

an immediate attack. About half of General MacArthur's air force was destroyed as it sat on the ground.

Within days, a large Japanese force landed in the Philippines. MacArthur withdrew most of his troops to the Bataan Peninsula on Manila Bay. There he set up defenses, hoping the navy would be able to evacuate his army to safety.

**The Philippines Fall** For some four months, American and Filipino troops held out on the Bataan Peninsula. In March, realizing the situation was hopeless, President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to escape to Australia. The general was reluctant to abandon his soldiers to the Japanese, but promised, "I shall return."

When the peninsula's gallant troops surrendered to Japanese forces in early April, about 2,000 soldiers and nurses escaped to the fortified island of Corregidor in Manila Bay. Joining the fort's defenders, they fought on for another month. The holdouts survived nearly constant Japanese bombing and artillery barrages by living in the rock tunnels of the



fortress. Finally, running low on ammunition and food, over 11,000 Americans and Filipinos surrendered on May 6, 1942.

As the Bataan Peninsula fell, some 76,000 Filipinos and Americans became prisoners of war. Japanese soldiers split the prisoners into groups of 500 to 1,000 and marched them some 60 miles to a railroad. Those who survived the ordeal were shipped to prison camps where they were held for the rest of the war. However, already weakened from weeks without enough food or medicine, at least 10,000 prisoners died during the 6- to 12-day march. Many were executed by the guards when they could not keep up.

Word of what became known as the **Bataan Death March** did not reach America until three years later, when three soldiers escaped from their prison camp. After the war the general blamed for organizing the march was one of six Japanese executed for war crimes.

**The War at Sea** As Japanese forces spread across the Pacific, the battered American navy fought desperately to stop them. In May 1942, a largely American naval group halted a Japanese advance by engaging a superior enemy fleet in the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia. The **Battle of the Coral Sea** was the first naval combat carried out entirely by aircraft. The enemy ships never came within sight of one another. Planes launched from the aircraft carriers bombed and strafed the enemy forces more than 70 miles away.

The costs of the five-day battle were high. Both sides lost more than half their aircraft. The American aircraft carrier *Lexington* was destroyed, and the *Yorktown* was badly damaged. But one Japanese carrier sank, another lost most of its planes, and a third was put out of action. Militarily the battle was probably a draw. However, it prevented the Japanese from establishing the bases they needed to bomb Australia, thus blocking the invasion of that nation.

## Allied Victories Turn the Tide

While the Soviets resisted German advances and the Allies prepared to invade North Africa, two critical battles took place in the Pacific. Midway Island, near Hawaii, and Guadalcanal, in the western Pacific near the Coral Sea, were small but strategic islands. In mid-1942, the battles for these islands changed the course of the war in the Pacific.

**The Battle of Midway** Despite his success at Pearl Harbor, Japanese admiral Isoroku Yamamoto believed that American naval power still held the key to victory or defeat in Asia. He hoped to destroy what remained of the Pacific Fleet by luring it into battle at Midway Island, northwest of Hawaii. Yamamoto committed a large part of Japan's navy to his plan. He correctly believed that American admiral Chester Nimitz would use all his resources to protect Midway, which was vital to the defense of Hawaii.

The **Battle of Midway** erupted on June 4, 1942. Like the action in the Coral Sea, it was fought entirely from the air. The American planes found the Japanese carriers at a vulnerable time—the Japanese were still loading bombs onto their planes. The Americans swiftly demolished three of four Japanese carriers as bombs stacked up on their decks exploded in the attack. The fourth was destroyed trying to escape. The sinking of these carriers, plus the loss of some 250 planes they carried, was a devastating blow to Japanese naval power. After the Battle of Midway, Japan was unable to launch any more offensive operations.

**The Battle of Guadalcanal** The victory at Midway allowed the Allies to take the offensive in the Pacific. Their first goal was to capture Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. When more than 11,000 marines landed on

### Main Idea CONNECTIONS

Why was the Battle of Midway an important victory for the Allies?



This eerie scene of Guadalcanal, painted by Kerr Eby, is called *Ghost Trail*. **Geography** What was the geographical challenge of the Battle of Guadalcanal?



the island in August 1942, some 2,200 Japanese fled into the jungle. Months of fighting followed. By November the American navy controlled the waters around Guadalcanal.

The **Battle of Guadalcanal** provided the marines with their first taste of jungle warfare. As they slogged through swamps, forded rivers, and hacked through tangles of vines, they frequently encountered enemy units. The marines made easy targets for Japanese snipers hidden in the underbrush or in the tops of palm trees. When Japan's forces finally slipped off the island in February 1943, their withdrawal went undetected until the marines discovered their empty boats on the beach.

## Struggle for the Islands

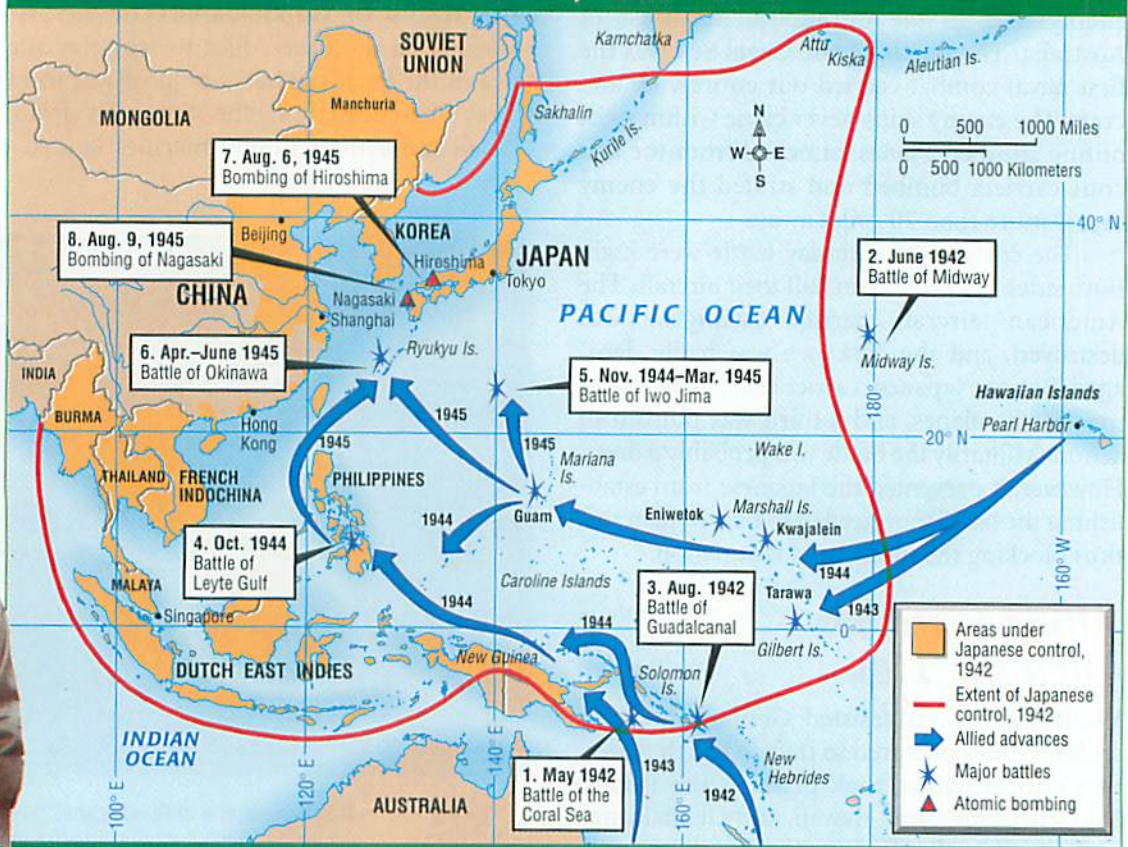
From Guadalcanal, American forces began island-hopping, a strategy of selectively attacking or bypassing specific enemy-held islands. The Japanese fiercely defended their positions.

Both sides suffered heavy casualties before the Allies won the war in 1945.

**Island-Hopping in the Pacific** In 1943 and 1944 the Allies pushed north from Australia and west across the central Pacific. As forces under General MacArthur and Admiral William Halsey leapfrogged through the Solomon Islands, other Americans led by Admiral Nimitz began a similar campaign in the Gilbert Islands. After seizing the island of Tarawa, Nimitz used it to launch bombing raids on Japan's bases in the Marshall Islands. By February 1944, these attacks had crippled Japanese air power. This allowed Nimitz's forces to seize Kwajalein and Eniwetok at the northwest end of the island group.

From the Marshalls, Nimitz captured parts of the Mariana Islands in June. American long-range bombers were able to reach Japan from this location. By the end of 1944, American planes were dropping tons of explosives on Japanese cities.

## Allied Advances in the Pacific, 1942–1945



General Douglas MacArthur (left) was Allied commander of the southwest Pacific during World War II. **Location** What does the map reveal about why the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941?



**The Philippines Campaign** As American forces pushed forward in the summer of 1944, military planners decided to bypass the Philippine Islands. MacArthur vigorously opposed this strategy, claiming that the United States had an obligation to free the Filipino people. The general's arguments convinced Roosevelt, who reversed the decision.

In mid-October, some 160,000 American troops invaded the Philippine island of Leyte. After the beach was secure, General MacArthur dramatically waded ashore from a landing craft. As news cameras recorded the historic event, MacArthur proclaimed, "People of the Philippines, I have returned."

While American troops fought their way inland, the greatest naval battle in world history developed off the coast. More than 280 warships were engaged during the three-day Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese high command directed nearly every warship still afloat to attack the enemy. This battle saw the first use of *kamikazes*, or suicide planes.<sup>†</sup> Japanese pilots deliberately crashed their aircraft, which were heavily loaded with bombs, into their targets. Despite this tactic, the Japanese were badly beaten and their navy was virtually destroyed.

Japanese land forces continued to resist, however. In the more than two months it took American troops to control Leyte, some 80,000 Japanese defenders were killed. Fewer than 1,000 Japanese surrendered. The battle for Manila, the Philippines' capital city, on the island of Luzon, was equally hard fought. The nearly month-long struggle left most of Manila in ruins and some 100,000 Filipino civilians dead. Not until June 1945 were the Philippines securely in Allied hands.

## Iwo Jima and Okinawa

The **Battle of Iwo Jima** was one of the bloodiest of the war. The struggle for this tiny volcanic island, less than 700 miles from Japan, was both long and intense. The island's steep rocky slopes were honeycombed with caves and tunnels. More than 600 guns, many encased in concrete bunkers, were protected by the natural terrain. In November 1944, American bombers, based in the recently conquered Marianas, began to pound Iwo Jima from the air. For 74 days

<sup>†</sup> The term *kamikaze* means "divine wind" and refers to a typhoon which reputedly saved Japan in 1281 by destroying a Mongol fleet that was sailing to invade the islands.



## World War II Deaths

Country	Military Deaths	Civilian Deaths	Total Deaths
<b>Axis</b>			
Germany	3,250,000	2,350,000	5,600,000
Italy	226,900	60,000	286,900
Japan	1,740,000	393,400	2,133,400
<b>Allies</b>			
France	122,000	470,000	592,000
Great Britain	305,800	60,600	366,400
United States	405,400	—	405,400
Soviet Union	11,000,000	6,700,000	17,700,000

Source: *World War II: A Statistical Survey*, by John Ellis

**Interpreting Tables** Accurate death tolls are hard to determine, and figures vary widely. Scholars do not dispute, however, the horrific human cost of the war. **Culture** Which nation suffered the greatest human loss?

American planes and warships poured nearly 7,000 tons of bombs and more than 20,000 shells onto Iwo Jima's defenders.

In mid-February 1945, marines stormed the beaches from the ships offshore. They encountered furious resistance from the Japanese. After three days of combat, the marines had advanced only about 700 yards inland. Eventually nearly 110,000 American troops were involved in the campaign. Although fewer than 25,000 Japanese opposed the Americans, it took almost a month for the marines to secure the island. The enemy fought virtually to the last defender. Only 216 Japanese were taken prisoner.

The American forces suffered an estimated 25,000 casualties in capturing this 14-square-mile island. Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded for actions on Iwo Jima, more than in any other single operation of the war. Admiral Nimitz described the island as a place where "uncommon valor was a common virtue."

The **Battle of Okinawa**, fought from April to June 1945, was equally bloody. Nearly 100,000 defenders occupied this island, which was little more than 350 miles from Japan itself. The Japanese troops on Okinawa knew they were the last obstacle to an Allied invasion of the Japanese home islands. Many had pledged to fight to the death to prevent their homeland from falling.

The American and British force amassed at Okinawa was second in size only to the



Normandy invasion in Europe. Some 1,300 warships and more than 180,000 combat troops were gathered to drive the enemy from the island. Japanese pilots flew nearly 2,000 *kamikaze* attacks against this fleet. On the island, defenders made equally desperate *banzai* charges—attacks designed to kill as many of the enemy as possible while dying in battle.

One GI described the long, hard-fought campaign to take Okinawa:

#### AMERICAN VOICES

“Our attack pattern was: barrage a hill with bombs and shells, move up the foot soldiers, hold it against counterattacks, fight down the reverse slope, then start on the next one. We would attack during the day, dig in for the night—not for sleep, but for safety. A hole was never deep enough when the Japanese started their barrage. And then, at night, they would come, a screaming *banzai* or a single shadow.”

—An American GI at Okinawa

In June, when the Japanese resistance finally ended after almost three months, only 7,200 defenders remained to surrender. For American forces, nearly 50,000 casualties made the Battle of Okinawa the costliest engagement of the Pacific war. At long last, however, the way was open for an invasion of Japan.

## The Manhattan Project

After the grueling battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, American soldiers began to prepare themselves for the invasion of Japan. They knew how costly such an invasion would be. Unknown to them, however, work was nearly done on a bomb that would make the invasion unnecessary.

The story begins in August 1939, when President Roosevelt received a letter from Albert Einstein, a brilliant Jewish physicist who had sought refuge in America from the Nazis.<sup>†</sup> In his letter, Einstein suggested

that an incredibly powerful new type of bomb could be built. He hinted that the Germans were already at work on such a weapon. Roosevelt,

concerned that Germany not develop this weapon first, organized the top secret **Manhattan Project** to develop such a bomb.

Scientists had already succeeded in splitting the nucleus of the uranium atom. However, to make an atomic bomb they had to create a controlled chain reaction. In such a reaction, particles released from the splitting of one atom would cause another atom to break apart, and so on. The theory was that the energy released when so many atoms were split would produce a massive explosion. In 1942, Enrico Fermi, a scientist who had left Fascist Italy, accomplished such a chain reaction in a laboratory at the University of Chicago.

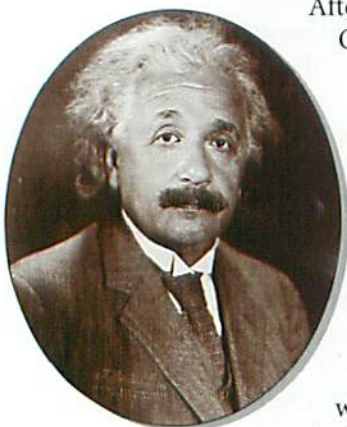
On July 16, 1945, Manhattan Project scientists field-tested Fermi's work. In the desert of New Mexico they detonated the world's first atomic bomb. With a blinding flash of light, the explosion blew a huge crater in the earth and shattered windows some 125 miles away. As he watched, J. Robert Oppenheimer, who headed the building of the bomb, remembered the words of the *Bhagavad Gita*, the Hindu holy book: “Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

**The Decision to Drop the Bomb** Once the bomb was ready, the question became whether to use it. Other courses of action existed for bringing an end to the war. Allied planners had already worked out plans for a massive invasion of Japan. However, Japanese resistance to an attack on their home islands was expected to be even greater than it had been in the rest of the Pacific.

A naval blockade or continued conventional bombing could also help defeat Japan. A demonstration of the new weapon on some deserted island might show the Japanese the atomic bomb's awesome power. Some diplomats believed that Japan might give up more quickly if the United States softened its insistence on an unconditional surrender.

An advisory group of scientists, military leaders, and government officials, called the Interim Committee, formed in the spring of 1945. The committee members debated these ideas and many others. In the end, they found themselves unwilling to recommend any of the alternatives. The heavy American casualties at Iwo Jima and Okinawa were a factor in the committee's support for using the bomb.

Although the recommendation was unanimous, many other scientists who had worked



Physicist  
Albert Einstein

<sup>†</sup> Albert Einstein is also famous for the development of the theory of relativity that linked energy and matter in the now well-known formula  $E=mc^2$ .



on the bomb's development disagreed with the Interim Committee's endorsement of its use. The final decision, however, rested with the President. That burden fell on Harry S. Truman, President for barely three months after Roosevelt's sudden death in April 1945. Truman had no difficulty making up his mind. He considered the bomb to be a military weapon and had no doubt that it should be used. Despite the controversy that later arose over whether the bombing was justified, Truman never regretted his decision. "You should do your weeping at Pearl Harbor," he said to his critics in 1963.

**Japan Surrenders** On August 6, 1945, an American plane dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a city in southern Japan and the site of a large army base. No one knows for sure how many people were killed. The official Japanese estimate is that 140,000 died in the explosion or within a few months from burns or radiation poisoning. Thousands of others survived, but with horrible burns. Some 90 percent of the city's buildings were damaged or totally destroyed. A Hiroshima resident described the scene after the bombing as follows:

**“Wherever you went, you didn't bother to take the roads. Everything was flat, nothing was standing, no gates, pillars, walls, or fences. You walked in a straight line to where you wanted to go. Practically everywhere you came across small bones that had been left behind.”**

—Hiroshima survivor



A moment before the bomb code-named "Little Boy" leveled Hiroshima, the American GI above would have been standing in the midst of a thriving city. **Science and Technology** How was the atomic bomb different from other war technology?

Three days later a second bomb, dropped on Nagasaki, produced similar devastation, disfigurement, and death. The Japanese people were stunned by these developments. On August 14, the government of Japan accepted the American terms for surrender. The next day Americans celebrated V-J Day (Victory in Japan Day). The formal surrender agreement was signed on September 2, 1945, in a ceremony aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. The long and destructive war had finally come to an end.

## SECTION 3 REVIEW

### Comprehension

- 1. Key Terms** Define: (a) Bataan Death March; (b) Battle of the Coral Sea; (c) Battle of Midway; (d) Battle of Guadalcanal; (e) *kamikaze*; (f) Battle of Iwo Jima; (g) Battle of Okinawa; (h) Manhattan Project.
- 2. Summarizing the Main Idea** Which two battles changed the course of the war in the Pacific?
- 3. Organizing Information** Use information from the section to create a chart that identifies the Allied successes in the Pacific from 1943 to 1945.

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Write a sentence or phrase that connects each entry to the one that follows it.
- 5. Identifying Alternatives** What were some of the alternatives to dropping the atomic bomb on Japan?

### Writing Activity

- 6. Writing an Expository Essay** Write a brief essay that explains why the Japanese were able to advance through the Pacific so easily in 1941 and 1942. Also note how the Allies succeeded in changing the momentum of the war.



## Examining Photographs

**P**hotographs are a form of visual evidence that can provide valuable information about an event or historical period. They show what people or places in recent history looked like and can document momentous occasions. Photographers, however, like other observers of events, have their own points of view. Therefore, you must analyze their photographs carefully.

By their choice of subject, lighting, and camera angle, photographers can influence what is seen and how it is perceived. They may choose to photograph a scene that strikes them as interesting, dramatic, or revealing but that, in reality, is not typical or representa-

tive. Photographers may also distort the appearance of objects in their pictures to create an illusion or convey a particular mood. By making these choices, photographers affect what may be learned from their pictures.

The photograph below, taken by Joe Rosenthal, is one of the most famous photographs taken during World War II. The photograph shows victorious United States Marines hoisting the American flag on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. Use the following steps to analyze and evaluate the photograph.

**1. Study the photograph to identify the subject.** Look at the photograph as a whole, then study the details.

(a) What do you see in the picture? (b) What broad subject does the photograph seem to illustrate? (c) Was the photograph likely taken before, during, or after a battle? Explain.

**2. Analyze the reliability of the photograph as a source of information.**

(a) What mood or emotion is captured in this photograph? (b) What aspects of the photograph capture this mood? (c) Does the photograph look as if it may have been altered in any way by the photographer? Explain. (d) Does it seem as if the soldiers posed for the photograph?

**3. Study the photograph to learn more about the historical period.**

Refer to the photograph and what you have read about World War II to answer the following questions. (a) What could you learn about the Pacific campaign if this photograph were your only source of information? (b) What can photographs such as this one contribute to knowledge of an event that written sources cannot?



### TEST FOR SUCCESS

From what you have read in this chapter about the fighting in the Pacific islands during World War II, do you think this photograph presents a realistic picture of the war? Explain.