

HOW DID JAPAN ATTACK PEARL HARBOR?

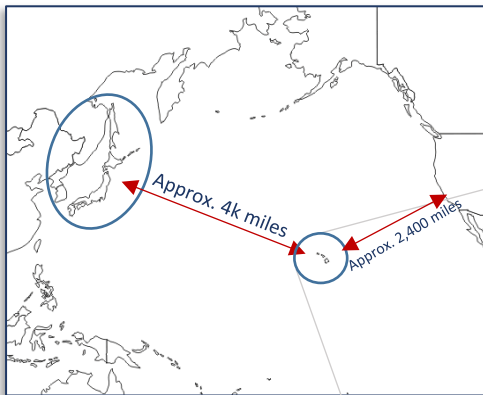


Overview

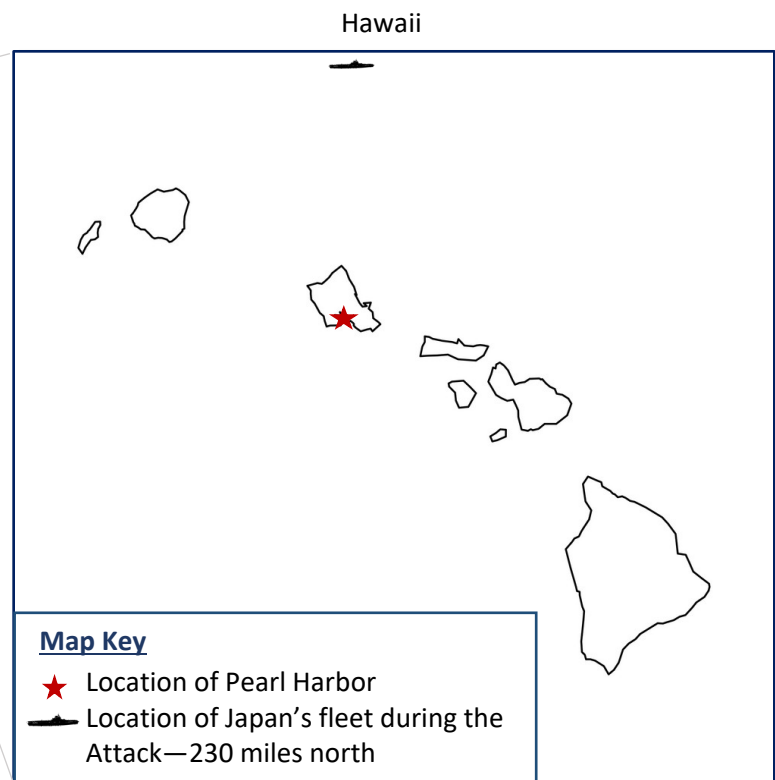
By the end of the 1930s, as war began to rage across the world, aircraft had drastically improved and began to change the way war was fought. Fighter planes, dive-bombers, and torpedo-planes carrying big guns or heavy bombs demonstrated that airpower could now dominate a battle.

As aircraft developed, battleships began to lose their naval superiority and were soon surpassed by the aircraft carrier. The top of an aircraft carrier is flat and acts as the runway and landing strip. These moveable runways allow aircraft to land and takeoff while at sea. The largest carriers can carry over 75 planes. Carriers have the ability to wage war from over 200 miles away verses about 20 miles for battleships. This allowed nations to attack remote targets, like Pearl Harbor, that seemed to be safe from airstrikes. The attack on Pearl Harbor, as well as other major naval battles, such as the Battle of Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway, showed the world the power of the carrier.

Map of the Pacific: Japan and Hawaii



Challenge: Label the Hawaiian Islands and locate the island that Japanese pilot, Nishikaichi, crashed on during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

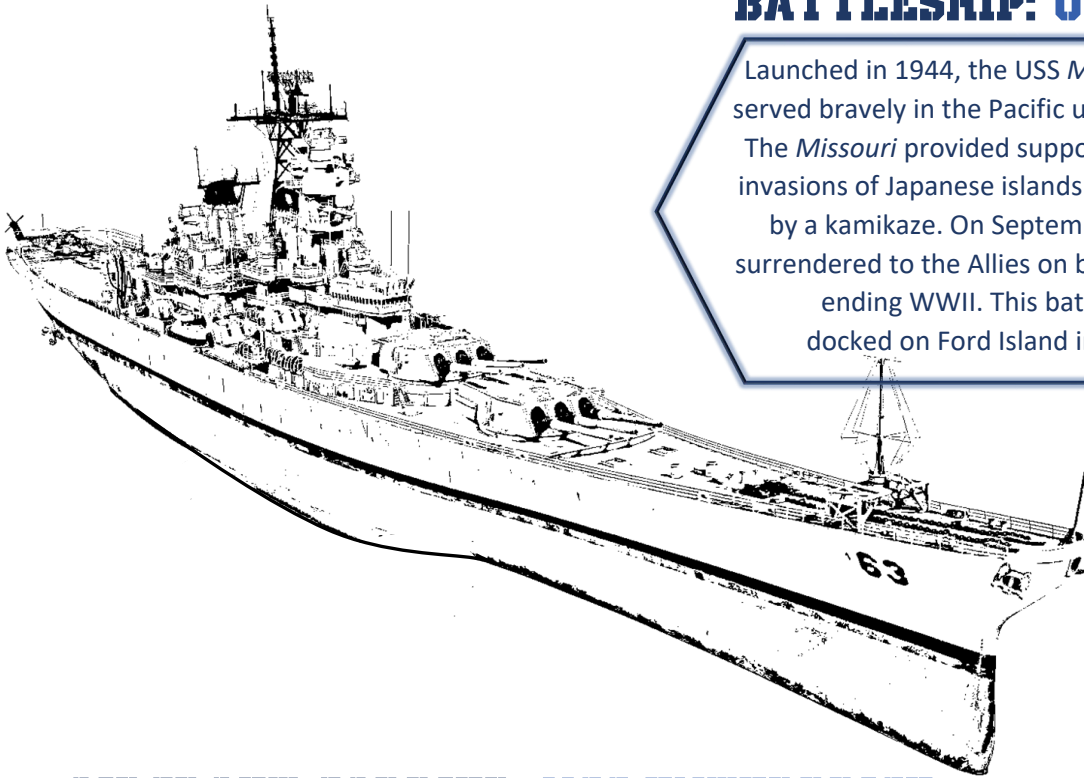


BATTLESHIPS VERSUS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS



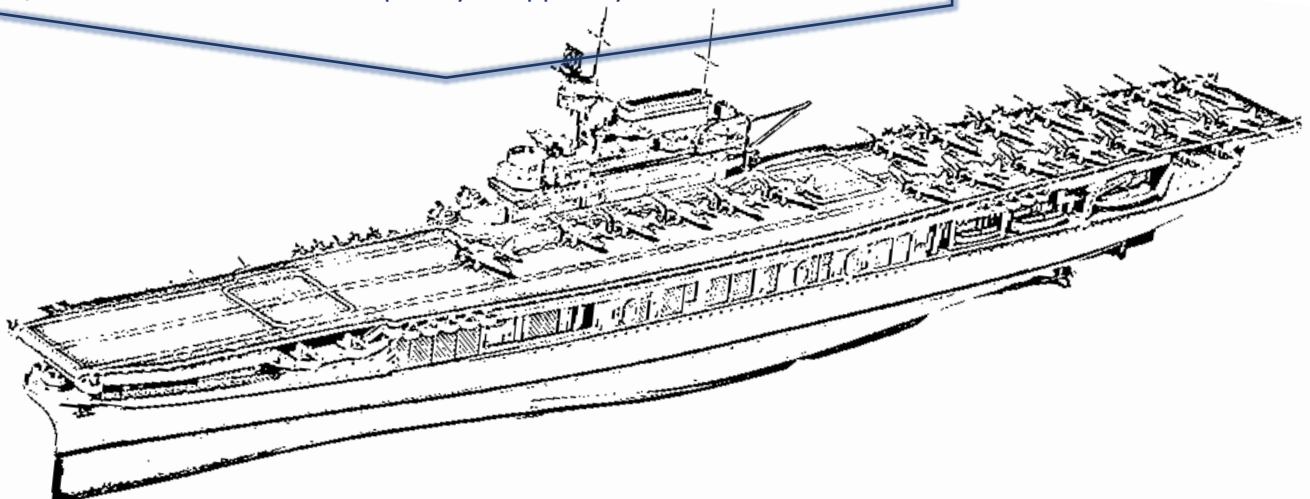
BATTLESHIP: USS MISSOURI

Launched in 1944, the USS *Missouri* and her crew served bravely in the Pacific until the end of WWII. The *Missouri* provided support for air strikes and invasions of Japanese islands and was even struck by a kamikaze. On September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies on board the Mighty MO ending WWII. This battleship is now docked on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor.



AIRCRAFT CARRIER: USS ENTERPRISE

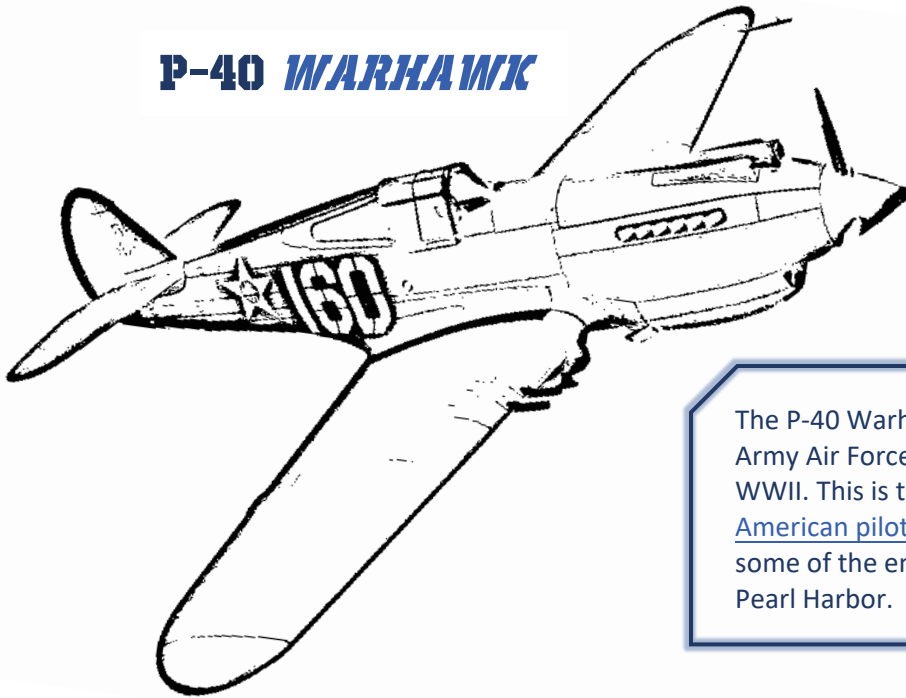
The USS *Enterprise* was launched in 1936 and served in the Pacific during all of WWII. The *Enterprise* was part of all but two of the major actions in the Pacific including the Tokyo Raid, in April 1942, which demonstrated that America was not afraid to fight back. Having downed over 900 planes and over 70 ships, the *Enterprise* was the most decorated ship of WWII. Unable to afford costs for repair, this famous vessel was completely scrapped by 1960.



JAPANESE ZERO VERSUS U.S. P-40 WARHAWK



P-40 WARHAWK



Fast Facts

Weight (loaded): 9,100 lbs.

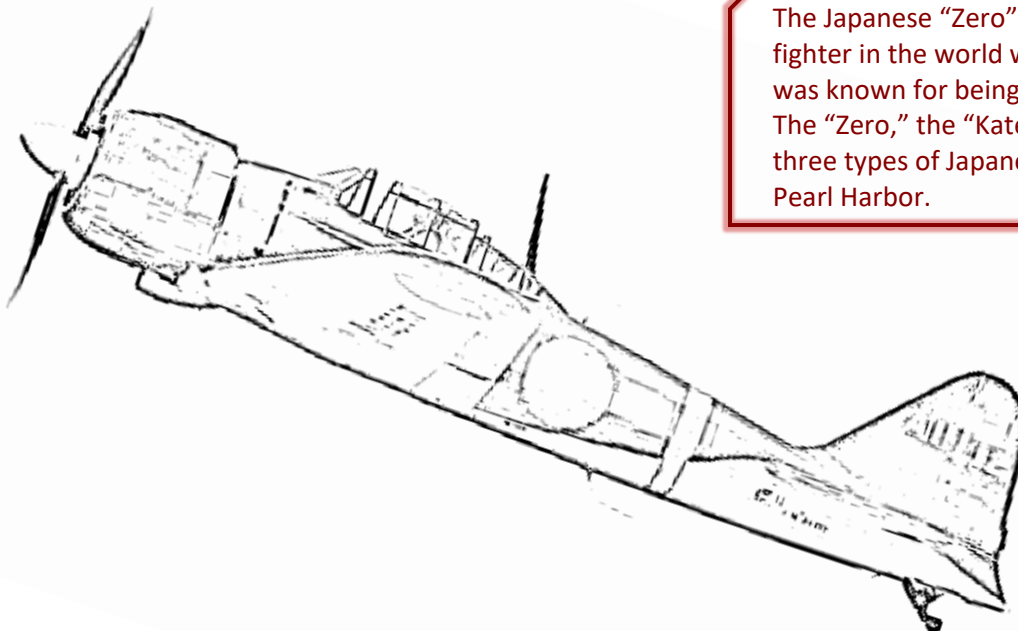
Max Speed: 362 mph

Armament: Six .50 cal machine guns on the wings

The P-40 Warhawk was one of the foremost Army Air Force pursuit fighters at the start of WWII. This is the type of aircraft flown by [two American pilots](#) whose quick action took out some of the enemy aircraft during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

WHICH AIRCRAFT DO YOU THINK WAS BETTER? Click [here](#) for the answer!

JAPANESE ZERO



The Japanese "Zero" was the best carrier-based fighter in the world when introduced in 1940. It was known for being fast and maneuverable. The "Zero," the "Kate," and the "Val" were the three types of Japanese aircraft used to attack Pearl Harbor.

Fast Facts

Weight: 5,309 lbs.

Max Speed: 331.5 mph

Armament: Two .30 cal machine guns on the nose, two 20 mm cannons on the wings