PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: CRACKING THE CODE

Directions: This puzzle is called a Cryptogram. At the top there is a KEY that lists all the letters from A thru Z with a box below. Each of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6	**20**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**24**	**5**	**13**	**1**	**10**	**17**	**26**	**16**	**11**	**15**	**14**	**19**	**23**	**21**	**12**	**25**	**7**	**18**	**9**	**22**	**8**

_ _

12 13 4 20 6 12 12 26 4 15 24 16 1 3 18 6 22 18 6 21

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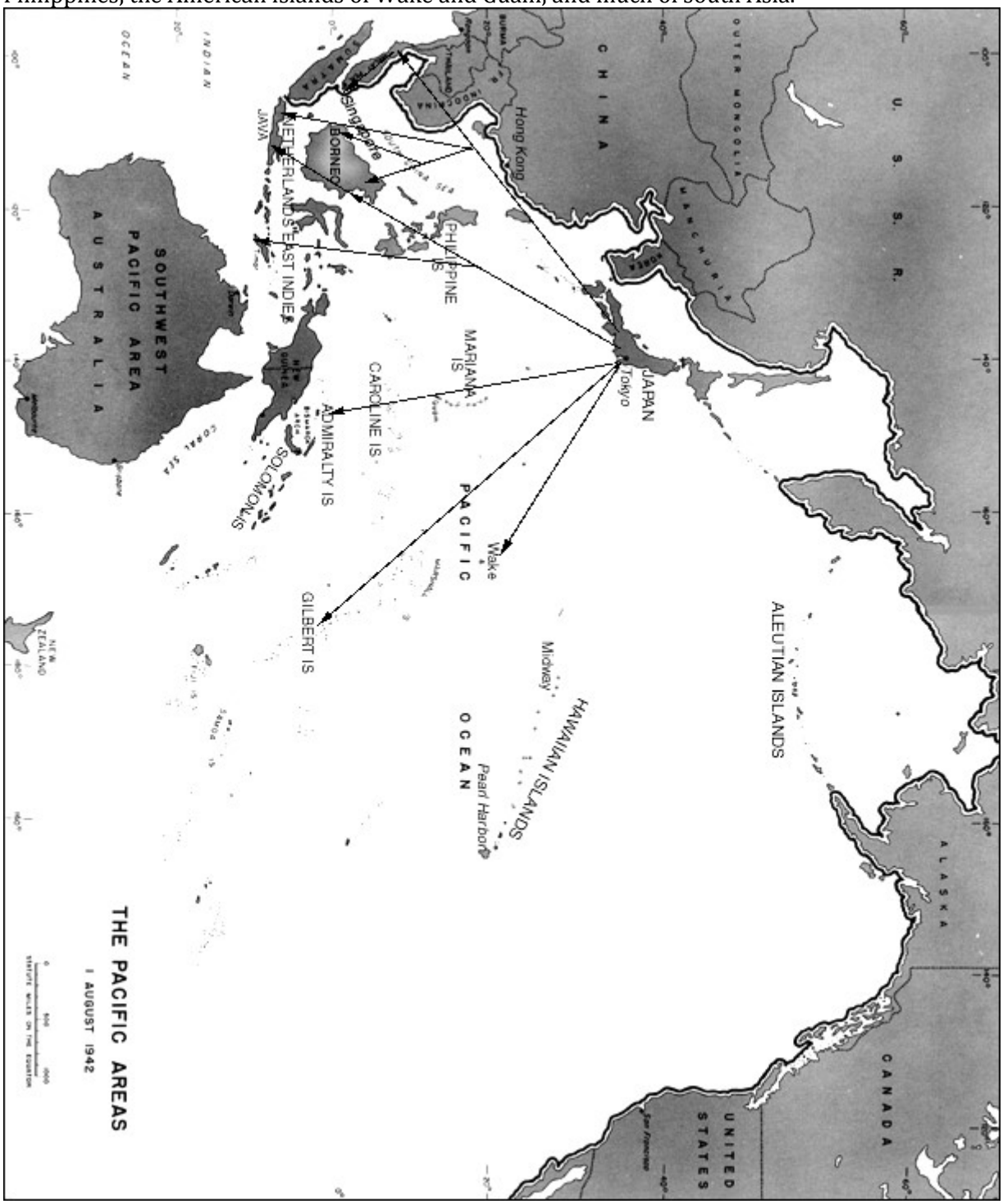
12 13 4 12 25 23 11 1 11 5 14 15 1 11 12 1 11 12 13 4

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14 6 2 1 24 1 2 18 6 23 18 1 12 13 10 6 14 6 11

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

Directions: South Asia, with its supplies of oil, tin, rubber, and quinine, was the first priority in Japanese plans for the war. The arrows on this map show Japan's apparently unstoppable advance during the months following Pearl Harbor. By early May, the Japanese controlled Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, the American islands of Wake and Guam, and much of south Asia.



THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!
Directions: Using the map on the previous page, answer the following questions.

1. Locate Hawaii, Japan, China, and the clusters of islands between Hawaii and Japan. The headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were in Hawaii. Why do you think Americans were so shocked by the attack on Pearl Harbor? Explain.

2. Find Midway Atoll, an island chain, located northwest of Honolulu about 3000 nautical miles from the west coast of the United States and 2250 from Tokyo, Japan. How do you think these tiny Pacific islands might have been useful to whatever country that controlled them during World War II? Explain.

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: WHY MIDWAY?

Directions: Read the following passage. Answer the questions following the reading in your own words and in complete sentences

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"Out of Obscurity"

After the first recorded landing on the atoll in 1859, Midway became a United States possession in 1867. A trans-Pacific cable station was established there in 1903. **In 1935, Pan American Airways used Sand Island as a stopover on its new seaplane route between the U.S. and Asia. A 1938-39 study of U.S. defense needs recommended Midway as a base for Navy patrol planes and submarines.** Soon thereafter, construction began on a seaplane hangar and other facilities on Sand Island and an airfield on the smaller Eastern Island.

Midway occupied an important place in Japanese military planning. **According to plans made before Pearl Harbor, the Japanese fleet would attack and occupy Midway and the Aleutian Islands in Alaska as soon as their position in South Asia was stabilized.** Two Japanese destroyers bombarded the Navy base on Midway on December 7, 1941, damaging buildings and destroying one patrol plane. **In the spring of 1942, flush with victory after victory in the Pacific and southeast Asia, Japan prepared to establish a toehold, an advantage, in the Aleutians; to occupy Midway and convert it into an air base and jumping off point for an invasion of Hawaii; and to lure what was left of the U.S. Pacific Fleet into the Midway area for a decisive battle that would finish it off.**

The Americans had their own plans for the little atoll. **With the fall of Wake Island to the Japanese in late December 1941, Midway became the westernmost U.S. outpost in the central Pacific.** Defenses on the atoll were strengthened between December and April. Land-based bombers and fighters were stationed on Eastern Island. U.S. **Marines provided defensive artillery and infantry. Operating from the atoll's lagoon, a shallow body of water, seaplanes patrolled toward the Japanese-held Marshall Islands and Wake, checking on enemy activities and guarding against further attacks on Hawaii.** There were occasional clashes when planes from Midway and those from the Japanese islands met over the Pacific.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, inspected Midway in early May 1942, conferring (meeting) with the local commanders, Navy Capt. Cyril T. Simard and Marine Col. Harold D. Shannon. Based on reports coming from U.S. intelligence, Nimitz believed the Japanese were planning an attack on Midway. **The Japanese Combined Fleet depended on a complex system of codes to communicate by radio. The codes were regularly modified to avoid detection, but in the confusion of the rapid Japanese expansion in the South Pacific the change scheduled for early 1942 was delayed.** In Washington, DC, and Hawaii, **codebreakers worked around-the-clock to interpret every detail of the**

complex secret messages. By the spring, they were having some success--picking up words and phrases that gave them clues to Japan's naval strategies. **One communication from the Japanese navy suggested they needed supplies for a powerful long distance strike.** Were they planning to hit Hawaii again? The West Coast of the United States? Midway? The abbreviation "AF" appeared frequently in radio communications. **Navy intelligence in Hawaii concluded that Midway was the target and they convinced Admiral Nimitz.**

Top Naval officers in Washington were not so sure. They could not believe that the Japanese would send a huge fleet to take a little atoll. It would be like fishing for minnows (small fish) with a harpoon (big spear). **Lt. Comm. Jasper Homes came up with a brilliant idea.** Knowing that Midway depended on desalinated water, he used the old undersea cable to send a message to the military there. **He asked them to send out an uncoded radio message stating that the purification system had broken down: "We have only enough water for two weeks. Please supply us immediately." A few days later, the code breakers picked up a Japanese message saying that AF had water problems.** That made it certain. They now knew that the Japanese would send a small force to the Aleutian Islands, as originally planned, but that **the main target would be Midway**.

Nimitz asked Simard and Shannon what they needed to protect the islands. They reeled off (came up with) a long list. He asked Shannon: "If I get you all these things you say you need, then can you hold Midway against a major amphibious (submarine) assault?" The reply was a simple "Yes, sir." Within a week anti-aircraft guns, rifles, and other war materiel arrived at Midway. Eastern Island was crowded with Marine Corps, Navy, and Army Air Force planes--fighters,
small dive bombers, and larger B-17 and B-26 bombers. **Every piece of land bristled with barbed wire entanglements and guns, the beaches and waters were studded with mines.** Eleven torpedo boats were ready to circle the reefs, patrol the lagoon, pick up ditched airmen, and assist ground forces with anti-aircraft fire. Nineteen submarines guarded the approaches from 100 to 200 miles northwest and north. **By June 4, 1942, Midway was as ready as possible to face the oncoming Japanese.**

QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions in detail and in complete sentences,

1. What did the Japanese hope to accomplish by occupying Midway? Explain.

2. Why did the Americans want to protect the Midway islands? Explain.

3. How did the Navy determine that Midway was the target for the Japanese fleet? Explain.

4. Why was it difficult to convince people in Washington that the information provided by the code breakers was correct? Explain.

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: THE BATTLE ON FILM

Directions: Answer the following questions as you watch the film.

1. How much bigger was the Japanese force than the American force?

2. Was the first American attack against the Japanese at Midway successful?

3. How did the Americans save their planes during the Japanese attack?

4. What damage was done to the islands in the Japanese attack?

5. Did the Japanese destroy the American airfield?

6. How did the United States' attack the Japanese? Explain

7. How successful were the United States' attacks on Japan at Midway? Why?

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE,
MITSUO FUCHIDA

Directions: Read the following passage about the Battle of Midway, written by Mitsuo Fuchida commanded one of the Japanese carrier squadrons at Pearl Harbor, but did not participate in the action at Midway because he was recovering from an appendectomy. He observed the battle from *Akagi*. Answer the questions from his point of view.

Preparations for counterstrike against the enemy had continued on board our four carriers throughout the enemy torpedo attacks. One after another, planes were hoisted from the hangar and quickly arranged on the flight deck. At 10:24 the first Zero fighter gathered speed and whizzed off the deck. At that instant a lookout screamed: "Hell-divers!" I looked up to see three black enemy planes plummeting toward our ship. Some of our machine guns managed to fire a few frantic bursts at them, but it was too late. The plump silhouettes of the American Dauntless dive-bombers quickly grew larger, and then a number of black objects suddenly floated eerily from their wings. Bombs! Down they came straight toward me! I fell instinctively to the deck and crawled behind a command post mantel.

The terrifying scream of the dive-bombers reached me first, followed by the crashing explosion of a direct hit. There was a blinding flash and then a second explosion, much louder than the first. I was shaken by a weird blast of warm air. There was still another shock, but less severe, apparently a near miss. Then followed a startling quiet as the barking of guns suddenly ceased. I got up and looked at the sky. The enemy planes were already out of sight.

The attackers had gotten in unimpeded because our fighters, which had engaged the preceding wave of torpedo planes only a few moments earlier, had not yet had time to regain altitude. Consequently, it may be said that the American dive-bombers' success was made possible by the earlier martyrdom of their torpedo planes. We had been caught flatfooted in the most vulnerable condition possible--decks loaded with planes armed and fueled.
Looking about, I was horrified at the destruction that had been wrought in a matter of seconds. Planes stood tail up, belching livid flame and jet-black smoke. Reluctant tears streamed down my cheeks as I watched the fires spread. Explosions of fuel and munitions devastated whole sections of the ship. As the fire spread among planes lined up wing to wing on the after flight deck, their torpedoes began to explode, making it impossible to bring the fires under control. The entire hangar area was a blazing inferno, and the flames moved swiftly toward the bridge.

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE,
MITSUO FUCHIDA

Directions: Pretend you are Mitsuo Fuchida, watching the Battle of Midway take place. Using the passage you just read, answer the following questions in complete sentences, in your own words.

1. How did you feel during the attack? Were you afraid? Did you think that you were going to die? Explain.

2. How did you feel after the attack? Why did tears fall down your face? Did you believe the Japanese still had a chance to win the war? Explain.

3. Thinking critically- using the Venn diagram provided, compare and contrast the Battle of Midway from both the Japanese and the American perspective. Use the previous reading and the film clip to complete the chart. In order to receive full credit, you must list at least three things in each category. Questions to think about- how did each side feel during the attack? Was the attack destructive for one side or both?

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC: ATTACK ON MIDWAY

Directions: Read the following passage. Answer the questions at the end of the reading.

"The Battle of Midway"

By early June, the Japanese attacks on the Aleutians and on Midway were underway. The Midway attack force was divided into three parts. First the aircraft carriers would approach from the northwest and knock out the islands' defenses. Coming in from the west and southwest, the Second Fleet would invade and capture Midway. Admiral Yamamoto's battleships would remain 300 miles to the west, awaiting the U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Because of the work of the American code breakers, the United States knew Yamamoto's plans in detail by the middle of May: his target, his order of battle, and his schedule. When the battle opened, the U.S. had three carriers waiting in ambush, 200 miles to the east of Midway. The two opposing fleets sent out search planes; the Americans to locate an enemy they knew was there and the Japanese as a matter of ordinary prudence.

Seaplanes from Midway also were looking for the expected enemy fleet. One of the planes spotted the Japanese carrier force at about 5:30 on the morning of June 4. The plane also reported Japanese aircraft heading for the atoll. Marine Corps planes from Midway soon intercepted the enemy formation. However, the Marines were hopelessly outnumbered and their planes were no match for the Japanese "Zero" fighter planes. They were able to shoot down only a few of the enemy bombers, while suffering great losses themselves. The torpedo boats and anti-aircraft fire from Midway's guns were somewhat more successful in disrupting the Japanese attack.

One hundred and eight Japanese planes hit Midway's two islands at 6:30. Twenty minutes of bombing and machine-gun fire knocked out some facilities on Eastern Island, but did not disable the airfield there. Sand Island's oil tanks, seaplane hangar, and other buildings were set afire. The commander of the Japanese attack radioed that another air strike was required to soften up Midway's defenses for invasion.

The Japanese carriers received several counterstrikes from Midway's torpedo planes and bombers. Faced with overwhelming fighter opposition, these uncoordinated efforts suffered severe losses and hit nothing but seawater. The only positive results were photographs of three Japanese carriers taken by the high-flying B-17s, the sole surviving photos of the day's attacks on the Japanese carriers.

Meanwhile, a Japanese scout plane had spotted the U.S. fleet and reported the presence of a carrier. Japanese commander Nagumo had already begun loading bombs into his second group of planes for another strike on Midway. This news forced him to rethink his strategy. He decided to wait for the planes returning from Midway and rearm all the planes with torpedoes for an attack on the U.S. ships. He almost had enough time.

Beginning about 9:30, torpedo planes from the U.S. carriers *Hornet, Enterprise*, and *Yorktown* made a series of attacks that, despite nearly total losses, made no hits. Then, about 10:25, everything changed. Three squadrons of dive bombers, two from *Enterprise* and one from *Yorktown*, almost simultaneously dove on three of the four Japanese carriers, whose decks were crowded with fully armed and fueled planes. By 10:30, *Akagi, Kaga*, and *Soryu* were ablaze and out of action.
Of the once overwhelming Japanese carrier force, only *Hiryu* remained operational. Shortly before 11:00 she launched 18 of her own dive-bombers. At about noon, as these planes approached *Yorktown*, they were intercepted by U.S. fighter planes, which shot down most of the bombers. Seven survived, however, hitting *Yorktown* with three bombs and stopping her.

The *Yorktown's* crew managed to repair the damage and get their ship underway. Two more groups of torpedo planes and fighters from *Hiryu* soon spotted the *Yorktown*, which they mistook for a second U.S. carrier. Despite losses to the defending fighters and heavy anti-aircraft fire, the Japanese planes pushed on to deliver a beautifully coordinated torpedo attack. The stricken ship again went dead in the water. Concerned that the severely listing vessel was about to roll over, her captain ordered his crew to abandon ship. Late on June 4, U.S. carrier planes found and bombed *Hiryu*, which sank the next day. Two days later, a Japanese submarine located the *Yorktown* and the U.S. destroyer *Hammann*, which was helping the *Yorktown* return to Pearl Harbor for repairs. The submarine torpedoed both vessels. The *Hammann* sank immediately, and the *Yorktown* finally sank the following morning.

By the end of the battle, the perseverance, sacrifice, and skill of American pilots, plus a great deal of good luck, cost Japan four irreplaceable aircraft carriers, while only one of the three U.S. carriers was sunk. The Japanese lost 332 of their finest aircraft and more than 200 of their most experienced pilots. Deprived of useful air cover, and after several hours of shocked indecision, Yamamoto called off the Midway operation and retreated. The Japanese navy never fully recovered from its losses. Six months after it began, the great Japanese Pacific War offensive was over. From June 1942 to the end of the war three years later, it was the Americans who were on the offense.

QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions. In order to receive credit, answers must be on a separate sheet of notebook paper, in your own words, and in complete sentences.

1. What three elements were involved in the Japanese attack on Midway?

2. What damage was done to the islands in the Japanese attack?

3. How successful were Midway's counterattacks? Why?

4. What changed at 10:25? Admiral Nimitz later said that the dive-bombers were "worth their weight in gold." What did he mean by that?