World War II Fact Sheet

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

- World War II 1939-1945, a worldwide conflict between two coalitions, designated as the Axis Powers and the Allies.
- The Axis Powers included Germany, Italy, Japan and their satellites. The Allies consisted of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China and their allies.
- The war began with the invasion of Poland by Germany on September 1, 1939.
- On December 7, 1941, Japan attached Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, and Malaya. War was declared on Japan by the United States on December 8.
- 16-million Americans served in uniform in World War II.
- 406,000 Americans died in World War II; 500,000 were wounded.
- Rosie the Riveter, created by Norman Rockwell in 1943, became a symbol of the more than 6 million women who entered the job force during the war, many of them taking up positions in defense industries.
- D-Day, June 6, 1944, saw an Allied armada deliver hundreds of thousands of soldiers to the shores of Normandy.
- On August 6, 1945, the *Enola Gay* dropped the Atom Bomb on the city of Hiroshima, the first city ever targeted to be bombed by an atomic weapon.
- Before the war ended with the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 7, 1945, and of Japan on August 14, 1945, a total of almost seventy nations were involved in the conflict in varying degrees.
- The formal signing that ended World War II took place on September 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay, aboard the battleship USS Missouri.