











- 1  The War in the Pacific
- 2  Post – Pearl Harbor
 - Within 10 hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor Japanese forces attacked U.S. forces at a number of locations in the Pacific – most notably the Philippines.
 - U.S. forces in the Philippines were under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.
 - U.S. forces set up a defensive on the Bataan Peninsula with hopes of a naval rescue.
 - MacArthur eventually escaped to Australia; “I shall return”.
 - In April and May of 1942 U.S. and Filipino forces at Bataan and Corregidor were forced to surrender (76,000)
- 3  Bataan Death March
 - Following their capture, American and Filipino prisoners were forced to march 60 miles in the tropical heat.
 - The treatment of these prisoners was brutal: they were beaten, tortured and denied water or rest.
 - At least 10,000 died during the forced march
 - Those who could not keep up were executed.
 - Survivors were sent to prison camps where an additional 15,000 died.
 - Violation of the third Geneva Convention which had set standards for the treatment of POW's
- 4 
- 5  America Strikes Back
 - In April 1942 a group of American B-25 bombers took off from the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet.
 - The mission was led by Colonel James Doolittle
 - The squadron dropped bombs on Tokyo before crash landing in China.
 - Did little to influence the war but did raise American morale.
- 6  The War at Sea
 - With the fall of the Dutch East Indies in 1942 the Japanese had a clear path to Australia.
 - In May of 1942 an undersized U.S. Naval group engaged a superior Japanese fleet in the Coral Sea.
 - The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first ever battle fought between carrier launched planes.
 - The battle was a stalemate but it stopped the Japanese drive towards Australia.
- 7  The Battle of Midway
 - Midway Island, north of Hawaii, was vital to the defense of Hawaii.
 - Japanese Admiral Yamamoto wanted to lure what remained of the U.S. Pacific fleet to Midway and destroy it.
 - The U.S. fleet was commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz
- 8 
 - Like going to a gunfight carrying a knife.
 - The U.S. broke the Japanese Naval code prior to the battle and were aware of the Japanese strategy.
 - Fought between carrier launched planes.
 - The U.S. sank four Japanese aircraft carriers.
 - The U.S.S. Yorktown was sunk
 - The Japanese lost more than 250 planes and most of their skilled pilots.
 - Marked a major shift of power in the Pacific.
 - The U.S. would now go on the offensive.
- 9 

- 10  At this point the began an island hopping campaign. This would have the Americans moving from island to island in an attempt to return to the Philippines and an eventual attack on the main island of Japan.
- Guadalcanal: U.S. Marines vs Japanese soldiers. Intense battle lasted for months until the Japanese withdrew.
 - Philippines: U.S. forces returned to and liberated the islands from Japanese control. A very difficult undertaking.
 - Iwo Jima: Small island close to Japan. Both sides suffered heavy casualties during the jungle fighting. Flag raising atop Mt. Surabachi.
 - Okinawa: Ditto. The closer we got to Japan the more ferociously the Japanese fought. During the final two battles Kamikazee attacks became a regularity.
 - From Iwo Jima and Okinawa the U.S. would be able to exact an all out attack on the main island of Japan.