PEARL HARBOR: History, Memory, Memorial

NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for Teachers

July 25- August 1, 2009

East - West Center
Honolulu, Hawaii

❖ 40 U.S. teachers
❖ 10 Japanese teachers

Sponsors:
➢ National Park Service
➢ East-West Center
➢ Arizona Memorial
➢ National Endowment for the Humanities
➢ “We The People” Initiative

Aloha and Mahalo
This is me (Mr. Demas). I am standing above Honolulu, Hawaii on the Island of Oahu near the Punch Bowl Cemetery. Please enjoy my Pearl Harbor presentation. The next slide will show you a birds eye view of Oahu and some of the places I visited.
Welcome to Beautiful Waikiki

Pearl Harbor

Sunset Catamaran Cruise

Outrigger Resort

Waikiki Beach

WWI Memorial
(yes WWI)

Diamond Head Park and Music Theater

Ocean View Hotel
(where I stayed for the week)

Diamond Head Crater

Photo taken by Demas photography from atop Diamond Head
Meet our guide. Mr. Martinez led our group of teachers to all of the memorials and historic sites and more. He also invited us on a catamaran cruise around Diamond Head Volcano and to a dinner at La Bamba Restaurant in Honolulu.
Battleships Arizona and Missouri

In the background is the Arizona Memorial built over the U.S.S. Arizona. In the foreground is the U.S.S. Missouri. It was the last American battleship ever used. It was retired after serving in the Persian Gulf During Operation Desert Storm (1990 -1991).
Boat Ride to the U.S.S Arizona

On the right is the U.S.S Missouri. You can see the powerful 16” guns on its deck. These are the type of guns the U.S.S. Arizona would have mounted on its turret.
I am standing inside the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial. It is an iconic centerpiece of all the Pearl Harbor memorials.

Four bombs hit the ship which left almost half the causalities at Pearl Harbor. 945 men are entombed beneath me.

Over one million people visit here each year to pay respects and understand Pearl Harbor and its importance to our history and memory.
When looking off the side of the U.S.S Arizona Memorial a gun turret is visible. Drops of oil still trapped inside the ship continue to leak leaving a sheen in the water. Some say the oil equates to tears.

On deck of the Battleship U.S.S. Missouri, a plaque marks the spot where Admiral Nimitz, William “Bull” Halsey, and General Douglass MacArthur signed the surrender papers with the Japanese in Tokyo Bay.
7:55am marked the beginning of a surprise attack of three squadrons of planes off the decks of aircraft carries. Their mission: Bomb Pearl Harbor targeting battleships and airfields. There were over 350 planes and the attack lasted over 2 hours leaving major damage.
There were three types of bomber planes. From left to right they used a dive bomb, torpedo and high altitude bomb. Torpedo's were used to hit the outer ships on Battleship Row.

Sizing up a torpedo and high altitude bomb. A torpedo is about 18 feet long. The high altitude bomb is almost 2000 lbs. which struck the Arizona blowing it into two sections.

A wooden fin is fitted over the propeller of the torpedo to keep it buoyant in the shallow harbor.
Japanese Zero

A highly maneuverable and feared long range fighter plane.

A piece of tail fin shot off in battle

Manufacturer: Mitsubishi
Speed: 332 -370 mph
Guns:
Two 7.7 mm machine guns
Two 20mm cannons
Made from: Secret aluminum alloy

Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island
Battle Scars

Still visible today, Ranger Martinez points out where bombs fell and bullets strafed Ford Island in the middle of Pearl Harbor. An original airplane hanger is in the background.

Bullet holes are preserved in the walls at Hickam Air Force Base. They are a reminder to “never forget” what happened on that infamous day.

At top right, a bomb devastated an airplane hanger leaving only the tracks to the sliding door.
Mr. Ed Ichiyama was placed in a Japanese Internment Camp. He took a loyalty oath and volunteered for the famed 442 Japanese Regiment. In Europe the 442 helped save the “Lost Battalion” and liberate the Dachau concentration camp. He became a Civil Rights attorney after the war and married Mrs. Ichiyama seen to the right. Along with all the survivors and those that died he is heroic in his own right.
Punchbowl Cemetery

Below is Punchbowl Cemetery. Diamond Head is in the background.

There are thousands of graves at Punchbowl Crater Cemetery.
Grave Markers at Punchbowl

A grave marks two unknowns of the Battleship Utah sunk at Pearl Harbor. A sad reminder of that fateful day.

A lei surrounds Ernest Pyle a Purple Heart recipient who also served in WWI. Just one of many here who served in the Pacific Theater of War.
“Forever Friends” is inscribed on this plaque along with the American and Japanese flag and the message “On September 4th, 1995 WWII veterans met in reconciliation and friendship.”

Above Punch Bowl 40 American and 10 Japanese teachers line up and shake hands to commemorate the end of hostilities between nations to create a lasting peace.
Japanese Teachers
New Friends

Miyuki Yoneda, from Okinawa

Shuji Kaneda, from Osaka

Chih - mei Yang, from Higashi - Osaka

Miyuki Sasaki, from Fukuoka
“Working with other teachers, how they teach in Japan and how we approach it in the United States, [we can] communicate with our students about how they view the world and come to some conclusion so that we can become a more peaceful and prosperous world and learn from the past mistakes of war.”

- Mr. Demas 2009

Taken from an interview at Pearl Harbor and published in “Remembrance” magazine, a publication of the Arizona Memorial Museum Association.

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Around Oahu

Snorkeling in Hanumea Bay. A short film on protecting wildlife leads to an elevator ride down to the cove.

Riding a motorcycle around the island.

Hawaii’s treasured Green Sea Turtle
At the top of Diamond Head

Getting to the top requires hiking .7 miles of an uneven and unpaved trail with switchbacks. The trail leads through a dark tunnel and involves climbing 271 steps through a narrow spiral staircase inside an unlit military bunker. The hike takes approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. The reward – a spectacular panoramic view of South Oahu. I certainly hoped you enjoyed viewing my Pearl Harbor experience!
Pearl Harbor - Within Sight
“A date which will live in Infamy”
MAHALO!

Continue for a quiz on Pearl Harbor
On what Hawaiian Island is Pearl Harbor?
What Memorial do over 1 million visitors go to each year? Why is it a sacred or hallowed place?
What continues to leak from the hull of the U.S.S. Arizona? What do some Pearl Harbor survivors believe about it?
When did WWII begin?
When did it end?

On what battleship did the major WWII powers sign the surrender papers to end WWII? Where did the surrender ceremony take place?
What is the name of the Pearl Harbor Ranger and historian who was the guide for the week?
At what time did the attack on Pearl Harbor begin?
About how many planes were used?
Why were battleships easy targets for fighter planes and bombers?
What was the surprise attack supposed to do?
How long did it last?
What happened to Ed Ichiyama?
How could he be heroic?
How many Japanese teachers were there altogether? What were some of the cities they were from?
What are the different types of bombs used at Pearl Harbor? What is the name of the fighter plane?
What cemetery holds thousands of graves for those that sacrificed their life for freedom?
In your words why should we “Remember Pearl Harbor”?

What lesson(s) can Pearl Harbor teach about the clash of two different cultures separated by more than just an ocean?