

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

**On the continent of Asia,
in the early twentieth century,
Nations were under European
rule
from Arabia across to China's
sea.**

**One Asian nation was
independent,
home of the Samurai and
Bushido.
It was led by a military junta
and
an Emperor God, Hirohito.**



Emperor Hirohito

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Prepare a map to show the extent of European colonial control in Asia.**
- **Choose one of the colonial powers and profile one of its colonies.**
- **Research and report on Japanese colonial rule in Asia.**
- **Research and report on American colonial rule in Asia.**
- **Research and report on the Code of Bushido.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese Chrysanthemum Throne.**

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

To Japan's ruling party the focus was on expansion. Japan had to expand its Empire and not feel held to ransom.

Its destiny was to rule Asia and expel Europeans without fear.

It would secure needed resources with a Co-prosperity sphere.



RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- Prepare a map to show the extent of Japan's Co-prosperity sphere.
- Research and report on Japan's control of Korea.
- Research and report on Japanese invasion of Manchuria.
- Research and report on Japan's invasion of China proper.
- Research and report on the Japanese rationale for their invasions.
- Research and report on the impact initial Japanese victories over European powers had on the rise of post-war Asian nationalism.

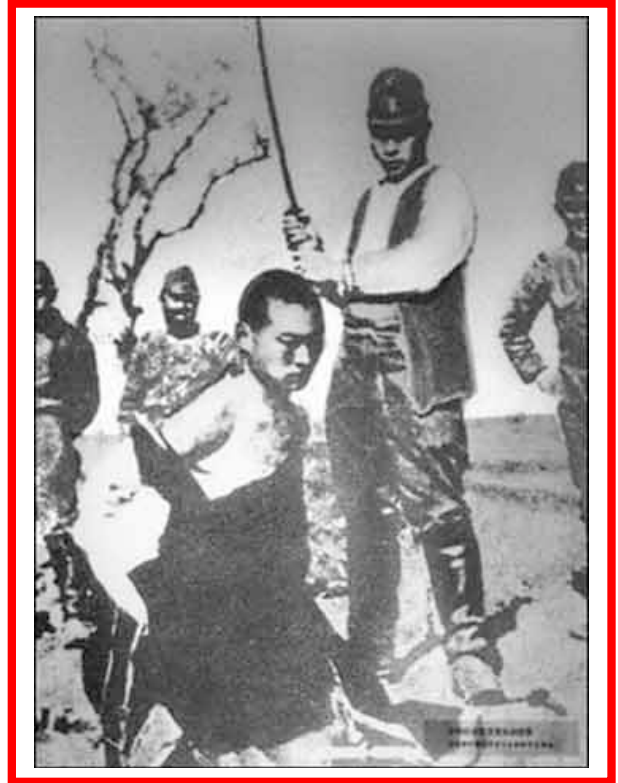
THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

Japan's ruthless military power was to Manchuria first sent. And China was first to suffer. The world considered it, "an incident."

European powers were 'powerless' to stem the Japanese blade and gun. They were witness to the strength and aggression of the Rising Sun.



Japanese soldier ready to behead Chinese citizen.

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Research and report on the Japanese sense of nationalism.**
- **Research and report on the role of the Japanese Emperor.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese Rape of Nanking.**
- **Research and report Western reactions to Japan's aggression.**
- **Research and report on American reactions to the Japanese threat.**

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

A pact with Hitler and Mussolini, established Japan in the Axis. The hope was that in Asia she would gain economic success.

An obstacle to this plan was the United States navy, so negotiate, gather intelligence, then strike a fatal blow and defeat.



Meeting of Axis Powers

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Research and report on why Japan chose to ally itself with Germany and Italy.**
- **Research and report on American reactions to Japan's economic and military power.**
- **Research and report on Japanese military plans to contain America.**
- **Research and report on Japanese naval strength.**

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

To contain American power, Yamamoto made a plan to defeat, in it's Pearl Harbor sanctuary, America's powerful Pacific Fleet.

The blow roused American fury after that Infamous 7th day, and revenge would soon follow at the Battle of Midway.



Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- Profile Yamamoto.
- Research and report on the strategic importance of Hawaii.
- Research and report on American unpreparedness.
- Research and report on the American reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Research and report on the significance of Japan's failure to sink the US Pacific Carrier group.

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

**In China, Malaya, and
Philippines,
Japan was victorious and strong.
MacArthur vowed, "I shall
return."
Then fell Singapore and Hong
Kong.**

**After Guadalcanal, the tide
turned.
American power, aroused from
its rest.
In the Islands of the Pacific
Ocean,
the US Marines met the test.**



Marines on Patrol on Guadalcanal

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Prepare a Time Line to show the Japanese advances from December 7th 1941.**
- **Research and report on the Japanese success in the Philippines.**
- **Research and report on the Canadians captured in Hong Kong.**
- **Research and report on the battle of Guadalcanal.**
- **Prepare a Time Line to show the US Marine Island Hopping successes.**

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

After years of island hopping, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Saipan, These stepping-stones enabled B-29s to reach the homeland of Japan.

Samurai spirit rose to project Nihon. A Divine Wind to protect, was called. To sink US Navy ships, the Kamikaze, too late, defeat could not be stalled.



Kamikaze attack on US Carrier

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Research and report on the significance of one of the following battles: Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, or Saipan .**
- **Research and report on the USAAF B-29 aircraft.**
- **Research and report on the mythology of the Kamikaze.**
- **Research and report on the Kamikaze attacks.**

THE RISING SUN



Focus Point

The world found peace at last on a bright, ninth August day, through the awesome atomic power released by Enola Gay.

In a surrender on board USS Missouri, Japan's odyssey had come to an end.

In the years that followed, yesterday's enemy became a friend.



Atomic Bomb

RESEARCH ONE TOPIC

- **Research and report on the reluctance of the Japanese to accept the surrender terms of the US and Allies.**
- **Research and report on decision to drop the atomic bombs.**
- **Research and report on American casualty estimates if Operation Coronet had to be carried out.**
- **Research and report on the post war economic rise of Japan. Did it finally achieve the Co-prosperity Sphere?**

The Rising Sun

By Tom Dykes © 2015

On the continent of Asia,
in the early twentieth century,
Nations were under European rule
from Arabia across to China's sea.
One Asian nation was independent,
Home of the Samurai and Bushido.
It was led by a military junta and
an Emperor God, Hirohito.

To Japan's ruling party
the focus was on expansion.
Japan had to expand its Empire
and not feel held to ransom.
Its destiny was to rule Asia
and expel Europeans without fear.
It would secure needed resources
with a Co-prosperity sphere.

Japan's ruthless military power
was to Manchuria first sent.
And China was first to suffer.
The world considered it, "an incident."
European powers were 'powerless'
to stem the Japanese blade and gun.
They were witness to the strength
and aggression of the Rising Sun.

A pact with Hitler and Mussolini
established Japan in the Axis.
The hope was that in Asia she
would gain economic success.
An obstacle to this plan was
the United States and its navy.
So negotiate, gather intelligence,
then strike a fatal blow and defeat.

To contain American power,
Yamamoto made a plan to defeat,
in it's Pearl Harbor sanctuary,
America's powerful Pacific Fleet.
The blow roused American fury
after that Infamous 7th day,
and revenge would soon follow
at the Battle of Midway.

In China, Malaya, and Philippines,
Japan was victorious and strong.
MacArthur vowed, "I shall return."
Then fell Singapore and Hong Kong.
After Guadalcanal, the tide turned.
American power, aroused from its rest.
In the Islands of the Pacific Ocean,
the US Marines met the test.

After years of island hopping,
Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Saipan,
These stepping-stones enabled B-29s
to reach the homeland of Japan.
Samurai spirit rose to project Nihon.
A Divine Wind to protect, was called.
To sink US Navy ships, the Kamikaze,
too late, defeat could not be stalled.

The world found peace at last
on a bright, ninth August day,
through the awesome atomic power
released by Enola Gay.
In a surrender on board USS Missouri,
Japan's odyssey had come to an end.
In the years that followed,
yesterdays enemy became a friend.

LYRICS & LESSONS

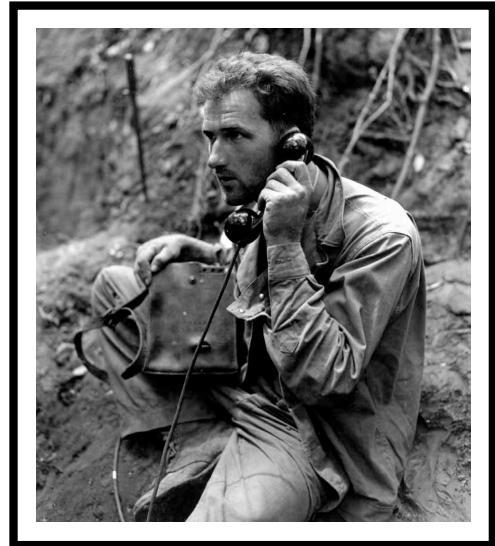
THE RISING SUN is a narrative poem intended as a support element in the **ABC of World War II – the Pacific Theater.** The Lyrics and Lessons unit provides an opportunity for students to explore another avenue of language (narrative poetry) to convey historical information.

Class or Individual Summative.

The Rising Sun unit provides an opportunity for student teams to undertake one element (a verse) and research the theme reflected. Upon completion, the class will have a researched vehicle that will stimulate discussion on the topic.

Student Developed Unit.

An extension of the class interpretation of **The Rising Sun**, is an invitation for the class to consider developing a multi-media vehicle. The challenge to combine text, photographs, music and radio broadcasts of the era, can provide a tremendous catalyst to individual and group creativity. Additionally, students can be challenged to develop their own narrative poem on the topic.





The



Rising



Sun



The Rising Sun

Teacher Note

- The **Rising Sun** is a narrative poem designed to provide students with an innovative way to convey basic information about the origins of the Pacific Theater of World War II.
- The poem lends itself to group research activities. Each of the verses can be assigned to a small group as a research topic. The teams will could be encouraged to produce a multi-media presentation that will explore the information the verse has presented.
- Students can be offered the opportunity to undertake their own narrative poem on the Pacific Theater, or any element of that conflict area.
- Students can be invited to offer a critique of the Lyrics to 'The Rising Sun' in the light of the emergence of post-war information, and political re-alignments.

