

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

English 8

*Please keep this article in your classwork folder.*

Read the article below. As you read, circle words in the text with which you are not familiar.



### **Purpose for reading:**

“War in the Pacific,” Source: Cobblestone Publishing

Text		Your Gists
1	<p>THE BIG PICTURE</p> <p>In 1854, a U.S. naval squadron led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Tokyo Bay, near the Japanese capital. For more than two centuries, Japan had avoided almost all contact with Europeans and Americans. Perry's visit helped reopen Japan to foreign trade, and the Japanese began to adopt European technology (such as steamships, railroads, and modern weapons) and many European-style institutions (schools, a national legislature, and an army and navy).</p>	
2	<p>The Japanese also adopted the policy of imperialism, or colonialism. Many Japanese believed that if Japan was to become wealthy and powerful, it needed to acquire industrially important colonies. In 1894, Japan went to war with China and a year later won Korea and the island of Formosa (now Taiwan). Over the next four decades, Japan seized territory in Asia and the Pacific from China, Russia, and Germany.</p>	

Text	Your Gists
<p><b>3</b> By 1937, military leaders controlled Japan. In July, the Japanese launched an all-out war to take over China. The Japanese conquered much of eastern China, but by 1939, the two countries had fought to a stalemate. The United States sided with China against Japan, but most Americans did not want to go to war so far from home. Still, President Franklin D. Roosevelt threatened to cut American trade with Japan if it did not withdraw from China. In May 1940, he stationed the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as a further warning to Japan.</p>	
<p><b>4</b> But the Japanese did not stop. By August 1940, Japanese troops occupied the northern part of French Indochina (now Vietnam). In September, Japan signed a treaty of cooperation with Germany and Italy, whose armies were busy overrunning<sup>1</sup> Europe and North Africa. In July 1941, the Japanese occupied the southern part of Indochina. Roosevelt, busy aiding Britain in its war against Germany, ordered a freeze on trade with Japan.</p>	
<p><b>5</b> Japan had little oil of its own; without oil and gasoline from the United States, its army and navy could not fight. In October 1941, a new Japanese government, led by General Hideki Tojo, faced a dilemma. If Japan withdrew from China, American trade would resume, but the proud Japanese army would be humiliated. If the Japanese remained in China, Japan would need a new source of oil.</p>	

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<sup>1</sup> Overrunning: invading.

Text	Your Gists
<p><b>6</b> Tojo and his advisors knew that the United States would have a big advantage over Japan in a long campaign<sup>2</sup>. The United States had more people, money, and factories to manufacture weapons and war supplies. But the Japanese believed that the Americans and British, already deeply involved in the war against Germany, did not have the military strength to defend their Asian and Pacific territories. The Japanese had a large, modern navy and an army hardened by years of combat in China. They hoped that many quick victories over the Americans and British would force peace, leaving Japan in control of eastern Asia and the western Pacific.</p>	
<p><b>7</b> As the Japanese prepared for war, the Tojo government continued negotiating with the United States, hoping that Roosevelt might change his mind and resume trade with Japan. But the United States demanded that Japan withdraw from both Indochina and China. Roosevelt was confident that the Japanese would not risk attacking the powerful United States.</p>	
<p><b>8</b> As negotiations continued in the fall of 1941, the U.S. Army and Navy rushed to reinforce Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. U.S. military leaders warned Roosevelt that their forces would not be ready for war until the spring of 1942.</p>	

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<sup>2</sup> Campaign: a series of military actions.

Text	Your Gists
<p><b>9</b> On December 1, 1941, Tojo's government, with the consent of Japan's emperor, Hirohito, decided to end negotiations and attack U.S. forces on December 8 (December 7 in the United States). For strategic reasons, the Japanese planned a lightning strike on the huge naval force at Pearl Harbor. American leaders knew that Japan was about to strike (U.S. intelligence officials had broken the Japanese diplomatic code), but they did not know that Pearl Harbor would be a target.</p>	

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