

## THE ATOMIC BOMB - HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

Read the facts at the bottom of the page and the primary source documents from 1945 to answer the questions on the back of this page.



*Hiroshima after the bomb attack*

Hatsuyo Nakamura, a widowed seamstress, was caught in her home's rubble with her children, but managed to free them and escape to a relative's home. She suffered many years with radiation sickness which made it very difficult for her to work and provide for her family.

Miss Toshiko Sasaki, a clerk, was in her office when the bomb struck. For many hours she lay buried beneath a pile of books. Her leg was crushed. Finally, she was dragged out and left under a lean-to for days. Her leg did not heal properly and despite several operations, she walked with a limp.

*Dr. Masakazu Fujii watched his house tumble into a river; he was trapped in tree branches wearing only his underwear. After struggling free, he escaped to a friend's house in the north. He died after spending nine years in a coma brought on by a suicide attempt.*

When I was rescued, my hair was burned; my face was inflated like a balloon. Pieces of my skin were hanging off my arms. It was hell. I saw people looking for water and they died soon after they drank it. I saw many people go to the river in search of water and who died. The whole city was destroyed and burning. There was no place to go.



*My army friend picked up the seven skeletons one at a time... his five children, his wife, his mother... and each time stared at the sky. "We soldiers were the ones who were supposed to die."*

### Facts:

On August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an Atomic Bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan.

- 60,000-80,000 people died as a direct result of the bomb blast
- About 100 square miles of the city was completely destroyed
- Over the next 10 years, 40,000 people died as a result of injuries from the bomb or radiation poisoning.
- On August 7, 1945, the U.S. demanded Japan surrender immediately and unconditionally.
- On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki