

Atomic Bomb Reading Hand Out

1. What effects did the Atomic Bomb have on people's lives? _____

2. Look at the cartoon on the bottom left of the front side of the page and write a paragraph explaining its meanings.

3. More people were killed in air raids than from the two atomic bombs but it was the atomic bomb that was condemned. Why do you think this is?

WHY DID THEY DROP THE BOMB?

When Harry Truman the American president heard of the bombing he said, "This is the greatest thing in history." But even now people are still dying of the effects of the Atomic Bomb. These effects are so awful it is necessary to ask the question, "Why did they drop the bomb when the war was so nearly over?"

The Americans had pushed Japan out of all the land they had occupied in the Pacific region. In Europe, Hitler had been defeated. So why did the Americans drop the bomb?

Look at the four reasons to the right. Imagine you are President Truman in the White House. You are listening to your advisors.

4. Write out the reasons in order you consider most important for America _____

BELOW ARE FOUR POSSIBLE REASONS

- A. Americans believed Japan would never surrender. If the bomb had not been dropped thousands of Americans lives could have been lost in an invasion of Japan. (S or L?)
- B. The Bomb had cost a lot of money to develop and America wanted to use it. The bomb cost \$2 billion. It would have been difficult to justify not using after such a huge financial investment. (S or L?)
- C. The Japanese had been very cruel to prisoners of war. Some Americans thought they deserved to be taught a lesson. (S or L?)
- D. The U.S. wanted to show how much stronger it was than the Soviet Union(USSR) which it did not trust. (S or L?)

5. Some Reasons are short term and some are long term. Circle an S or an L beside each one.

6. Now imagine you are ~~against~~ the dropping of the bomb. Look at each reason and write down an argument against it, which you hope will stop the bombing. Each argument is lettered.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____