

Lesson One: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Carousel

Lesson plan

Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson students will:

- Know what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945
- Understand events that occurred prior to and subsequent to the bombings
- Be able to put the events in chronological order

Overview

In this carousel activity, the class will work in six teams to find out what happened before, during and after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After the initial PowerPoint, the teams will rotate around six tables and discover resources relating to the bombings. Each table will have a piece of flipchart paper with a question, and each team will answer it in their coloured pen. When they have done a full circuit, the groups will feed back from their original table. Then in pairs, the students will be given a comic strip and will have an opportunity to put the captions in chronological order to show their understanding of the sequence of events.

Equipment needed

- PowerPoint downloadable from www.cnduk.org/education
- Room set out with six tables with:
 - Flipchart paper on each table with appropriate question written on the top (pp 48-49).
 - Corresponding sources for your subject (pp 12-47 and Overview pp 48-49).
 - Different coloured pen for each group
 - Reflections sheets (pp 9-11)
 - Cartoon and captions for plenary for each student (pp 50-53)

Starter (5-10 minutes)

- Ask the class if they have heard of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If so, why?
- Go through the PowerPoint to give a brief overview of the events. (Optional: if you want your class to do the activity with no prior knowledge at all then skip this step).

Carousel (35-40 minutes)

- Split the class into six equal groups.
- On each table there will be at least one source, a brief explanation and a piece of flipchart paper with a question written on the top (the sources will be different depending on subject and ability level of the students).
- You can assign the students roles such as researcher, scribe etc.
- Students spend five minutes on each table examining the sources and answering the questions. After five minutes, they rotate to the next table until they arrive back at their 'home' table. (NB: five of the groups will be gathering the information out of chronological order. This will add interesting perspective to the lesson and chronology will be addressed later).
- At each table, as well as writing on the flipchart paper, ask the group to write on the 'my group thinks' part of the reflections sheet.
- When back at their original table, each group will feedback all the comments on the flipchart paper left by each of the other groups. The class will discuss and the teacher can provide any additional background information.
- Every student will fill in a sheet summarising each table's information after each discussion. They will fill in things that other groups have mentioned, as well as their own thoughts.

Plenary (15-20 minutes)

- In pairs give each student a copy of the cartoon strip of events and the captions.
- Ask the students to match the caption to the picture to put the events surrounding the bombings in a chronological order.
- Go through the answers on the PowerPoint.

Differentiation

Main activity:

- Lower ability: In small groups the students all view the same sources, one source at a time. Then after each source the class feeds back on the questions. For textual sources, key sentences could be highlighted and paraphrased.

Plenary:

- Higher ability: Students are given just the drawings and write the captions themselves, or students produce their own drawings to match the captions.
- Lower ability: Students put a pre-drawn and captioned comic strip in order.

All resources available for download from:

<http://www.cnduk.org/information/item/2008>

Lesson One: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Carousel

List of sources

Use these tables to help decide which subject-specific sources to use.

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Table 1: Historical context

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Table 2: Pilots of the planes

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Table 3: Hiroshima 06/08/1945

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Table 4: Nagasaki 09/08/1945

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Table 5: Reactions to the bombings

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Table 6: Ongoing effects

What did your group think?

What did other groups think?

What do you think?

Between 17th July and 2nd August 1945, Truman, Churchill and Stalin (the leaders of the USA, UK and the USSR – the Western Allies) met in Potsdam to discuss the remaining problems in Europe now that Nazi Germany was defeated, and to discuss how to end the war in the Far East. This is known as the Potsdam Conference.

Below are extracts from the Potsdam Declaration, signed by the USA, the UK and China (but not the USSR), and issued to Japan on 26th July 1945 as 'an opportunity to end this war.' Japan did not accept the demands.

The Potsdam Declaration

3. The result of the futile and senseless German resistance to the might of the aroused free peoples of the world stands forth in awful clarity as an example to the people of Japan. The might that now converges on Japan is immeasurably greater... The full application of our military power, backed by our resolve, will mean the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitably the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland.
...
5. Following are our terms. We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.
6. There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest.
...
9. The Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.
10. We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation, but stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners...
...
13. We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.

(Source: The Potsdam Declaration, issued 26th July 1945, cited on Japan National Diet Library website)



The US Navy destroyer USS Shaw after the attack on Pearl Harbour
Credit: US National Archives



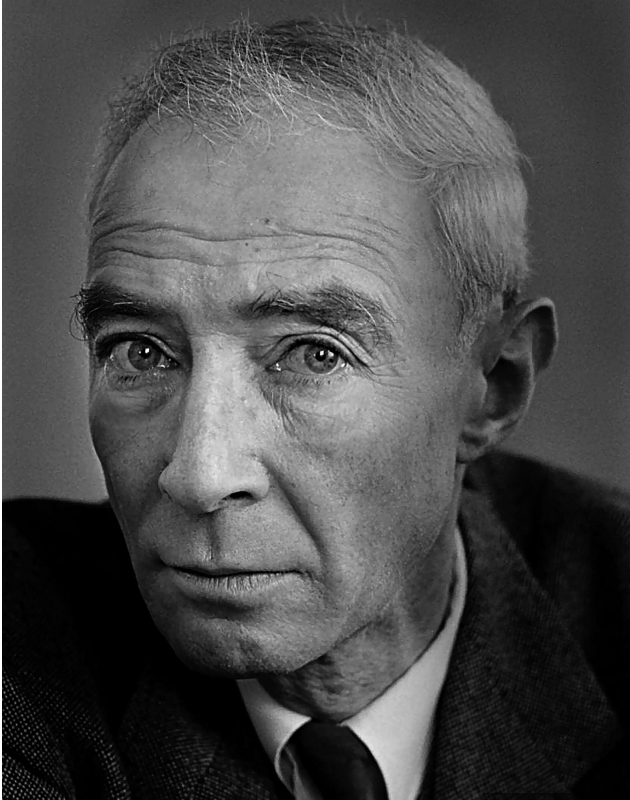
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941. USS Arizona, to the left of her
are USS Tennessee and the sunken USS West Virginia.
Credit: National Museum of the US Navy



Text translation:
'With the help of Japan, China and Manchukuo, the world can be in peace'
Credit: Wikipedia (public domain)



This poster was released by the United States army towards the end of World War Two
Credit: James Montgomery Flagg/Jay Pitsby <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>



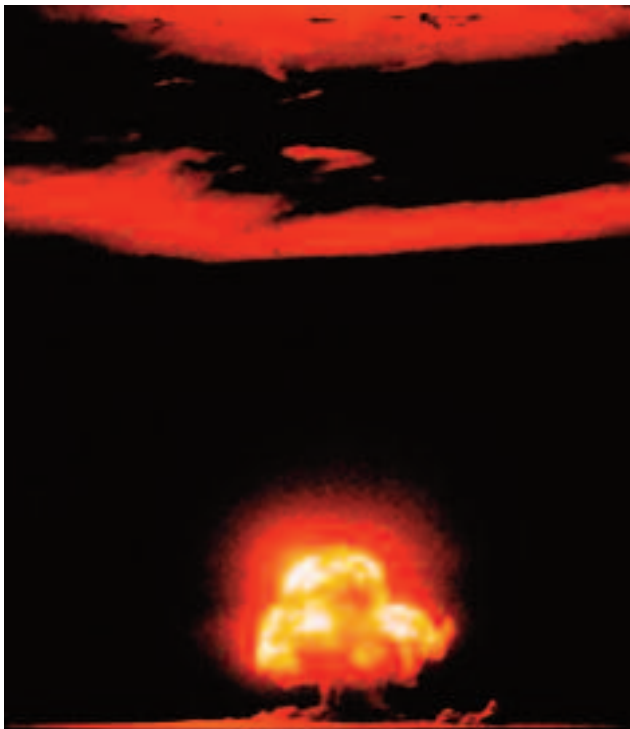
Credit: Alfred Eisenstaedt/James Vaughan

"I am become death.

The destroyer of worlds."

This photo is of Robert Oppenheimer, who was the head of the secret Manhattan Project that made the bomb.

When they first tested it, he thought of the quote above. It is from the Hindu holy text, the Bhagavad Gita.



Credit: trinityremembered.com

This is a photo of the first ever test of a nuclear bomb. It was called the Trinity test, and took place on 6th July 1945, in the desert in New Mexico, USA.

It was so powerful it turned the sand around the test area to glass.

It cost \$26bn (£17bn) in today's money to build.

**'Enola Gay' by OMD,
lyrics by Andy McCluskey**

Enola Gay

**You should have stayed at home yesterday
Ah-ha words can't describe
The feeling and the way you lied**

These games you play

**They're going to end in more than tears some day
Ah-ha Enola Gay
It shouldn't ever have to end this way**

It's eight fifteen

**And that's the time that it's always been
We got your message on the radio
Conditions normal and you're coming home**

Enola Gay

**Is mother proud of little boy today
Ah-ha this kiss you give
It's never ever going to fade away**

Enola Gay

**It shouldn't ever have to end this way
Ah-ha Enola Gay
It shouldn't fade in our dreams away**

It's eight fifteen

**And that's the time that it's always been
We got your message on the radio
Conditions normal and you're coming home**

Enola Gay

**Is mother proud of little boy today
Ah-ha this kiss you give
It's never ever going to fade away**

© Lyrics from the song Enola Gay by OMD. Written by Andy McCluskey. Published by EMI publishing.
Permission granted by Andy McCluskey.





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Enola Gay crew and Stopped watch



The crew of the Enola Gay, the plane that carried the nuclear bomb to Hiroshima. Taken 1945. It was named Enola Gay after the pilot's mother.

Credit: US Air Force



This pocket watch was found in the destruction after the Hiroshima bomb. It is stopped at exactly the time was dropped. Many others like it have been found.

Credit: Chris Gladis, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

'August 6, 1945' **lyrics by Alison Fell**

In the Enola Gay
five minutes before impact
he whistles a dry tune

Later he will say
that the whole blooming sky
went up like an apricot ice.
Later he will laugh and tremble
at such a surrender, for the eye
of his belly saw Marilyn's skirts
fly over her head for ever

On the river bank,
bees drizzle over
hot white rhododendrons
Later she will walk
the dust, a scarlet girl
with her whole stripped skin
at her heel, stuck like an old
shoe sole or mermaid's tail

Later she will lie down
in the flecked black ash
where the people are become
as lizards or salamanders
and, blinded, she will complain:
Mother you are late, so late

Later in dreams he will look
down shrieking and see
ladybirds
ladybirds.

Glossary of Terms

Enola Gay

Name of the plane that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima

Apricot Ice

A type of pudding, like ice-cream

Marilyn's skirts

A famous photograph of the actress Marilyn Monroe showing her standing on an air vent with her skirts blowing out.

Rhododendrons

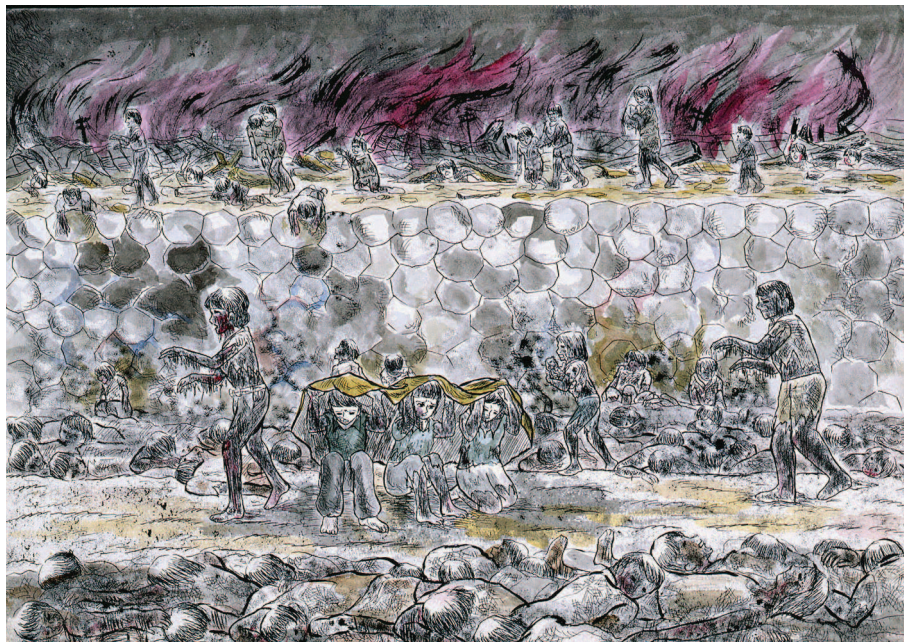
Big shrubs or small trees with showy flowers

Survivor artwork 1

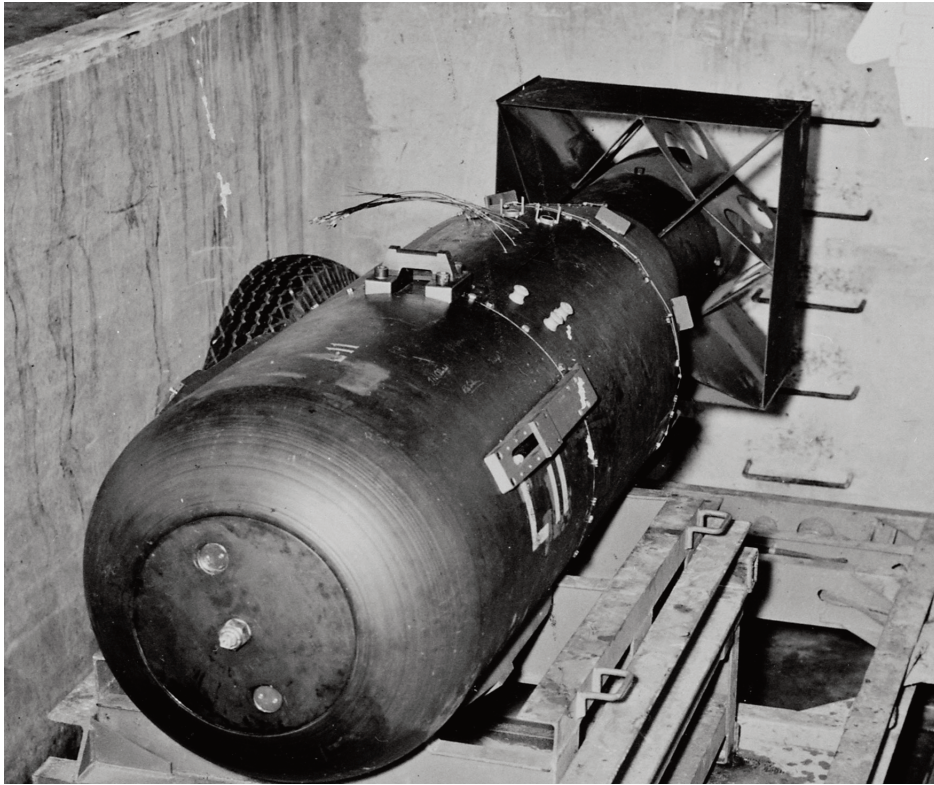


Painted by a Hiroshima survivor of the Hiroshima bomb.
A woman is trapped in the rubble. Shoichi Furukawa.
Reproduced with permission of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Survivor artwork 2

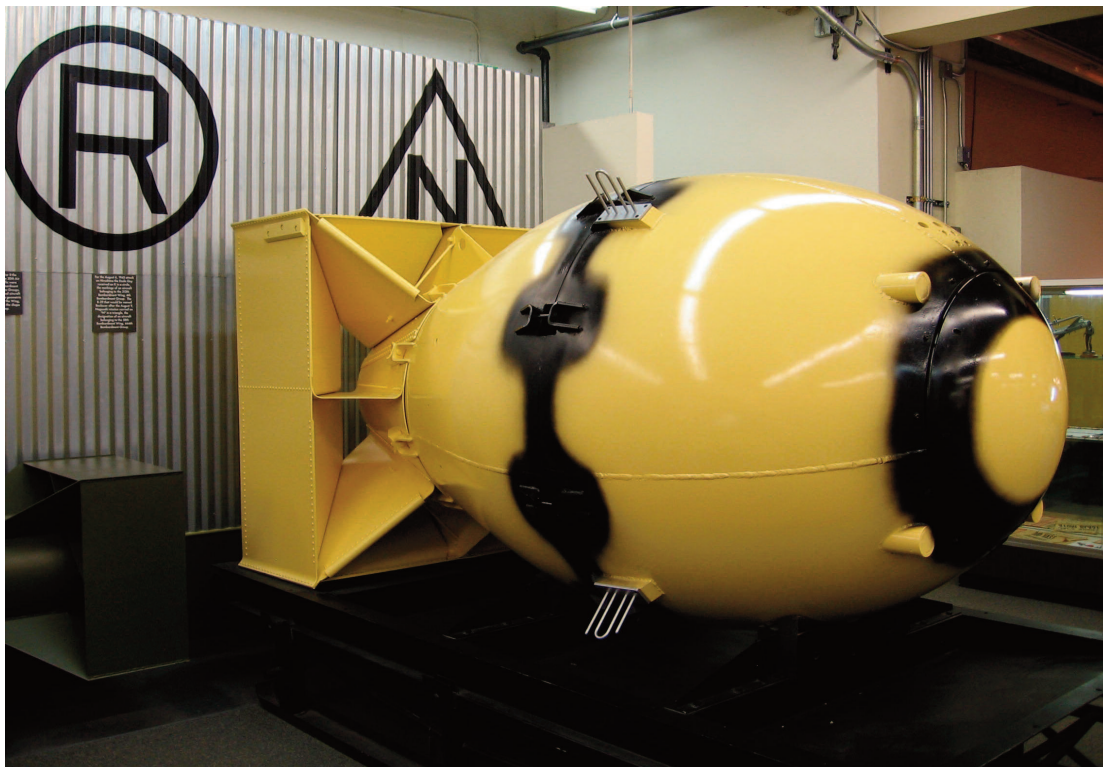


Painted by a Hiroshima survivor of the Hiroshima bomb,
she was a 17-year-old student nurse. Harue Takashiba.
Reproduced with permission of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



A model of the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.
The bomb was nicknamed the 'Little Boy'

Credit: James Vaughan, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>



A replica of the bomb which was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945,
known as 'Fat Man'.

Credit: Marcin Wichary, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

Truman's decision to drop the bombs



Credit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/legalcode>

'I have to decide Japanese strategy – shall we invade Japan proper or shall we bomb and blockade? That is my hardest decision to date. But I'll make it when I have all the facts.'

(source: Truman's diary, 17th June 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library)

'Just spent a couple of hours with Stalin... He'll be in the Jap war on August 15. Fini Japs when that comes about.'

(source: Truman's diary, 17th July 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library)

'Discussed Manhattan [Project] (it is a success)... Believe Japs will fold up before Russia comes in. I am sure they will when Manhattan appears over their homeland. I shall inform Stalin about it at an opportune time.'

(source: Truman's diary, 18th July 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library. NB: Stalin refused the Japanese request that the USSR helped negotiate a surrender for them).

'I casually mentioned to Stalin that we had a new weapon of unusual destructive force. The Russian Premier showed no special interest. All he said was that he was glad to hear it and hoped we would make 'good use of it against the Japanese'.'

(source: Truman's memoirs, 1955, nuclearfiles.org. NB: Admiral Leahy, the most senior US military officer during the War, recalled Stalin's reaction slightly differently: that, according to Truman, Stalin had said 'he hoped we would use it effectively' – Source: Leahy's memoirs, 1950, nuclearfiles.org)

'We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world... This weapon is to be used against Japan between now and August 10. I have told the Sec. of War, Mr. [Henry] Stimson, to use it so that military objectives and soldiers and sailors are the target and not women and children. Even if Japs are savages, ruthless, merciless and fanatic, we as the leader of the world for the common welfare cannot drop this terrible bomb on the old capital [Kyoto] or the new [Tokyo]. He & I are in accord. The target will be a purely military one and we will issue a warning statement asking the Japs to surrender and save lives. I'm sure they will not do that, but we will have given them the chance. It is certainly a good thing for the world that Hitler's crowd or Stalin's did not discover this atomic bomb. It seems to be the most terrible thing ever discovered, but it can be made the most useful.'

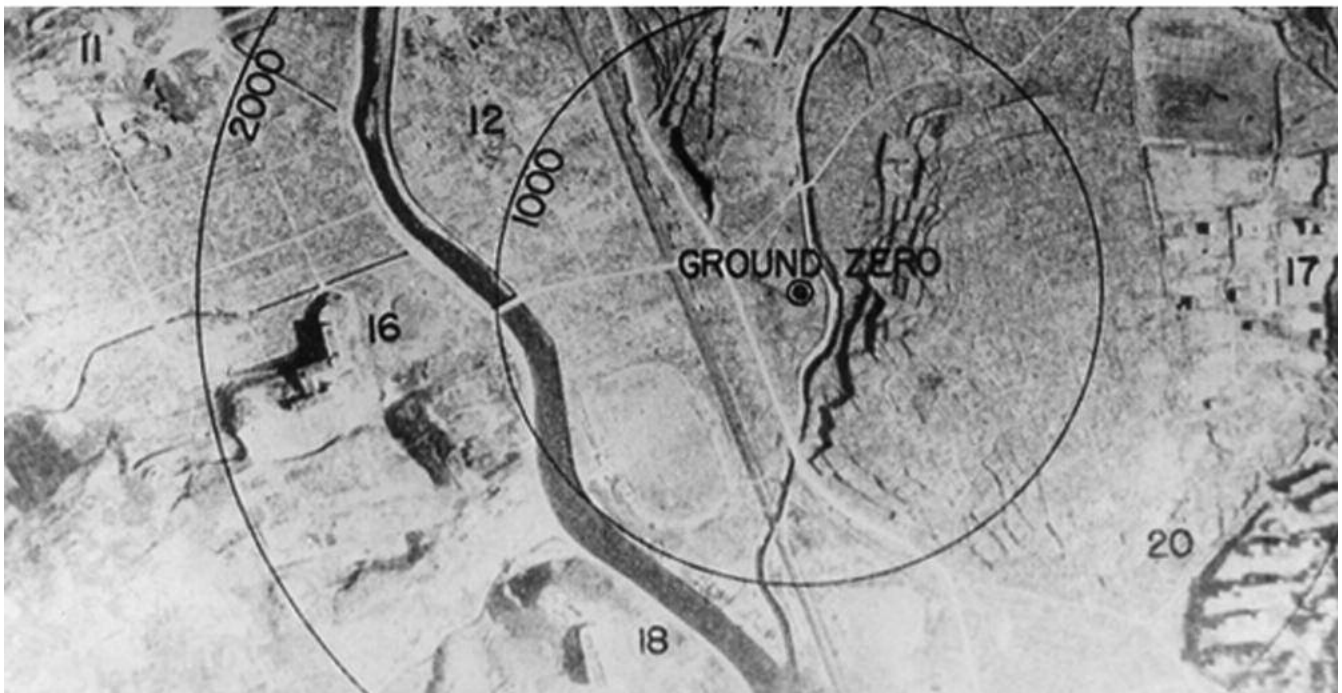
(source: Truman's diary, 25th July 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library)





Barefoot Gen: Vol 1 © Keiji Nakazawa, 2004.
Published by Last Gasp. Permission granted by Last Gasp.

Nagasaki before and after

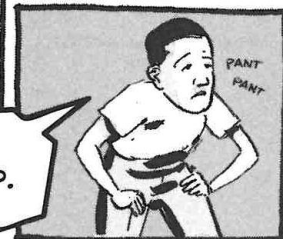
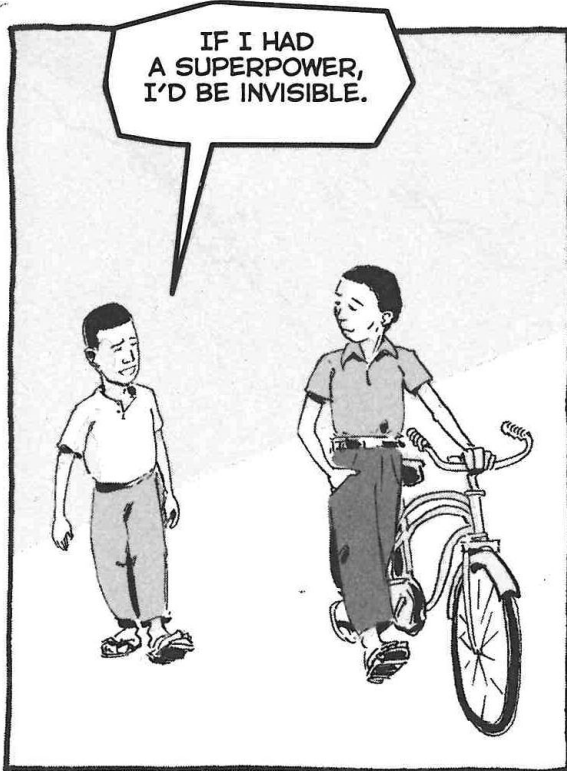


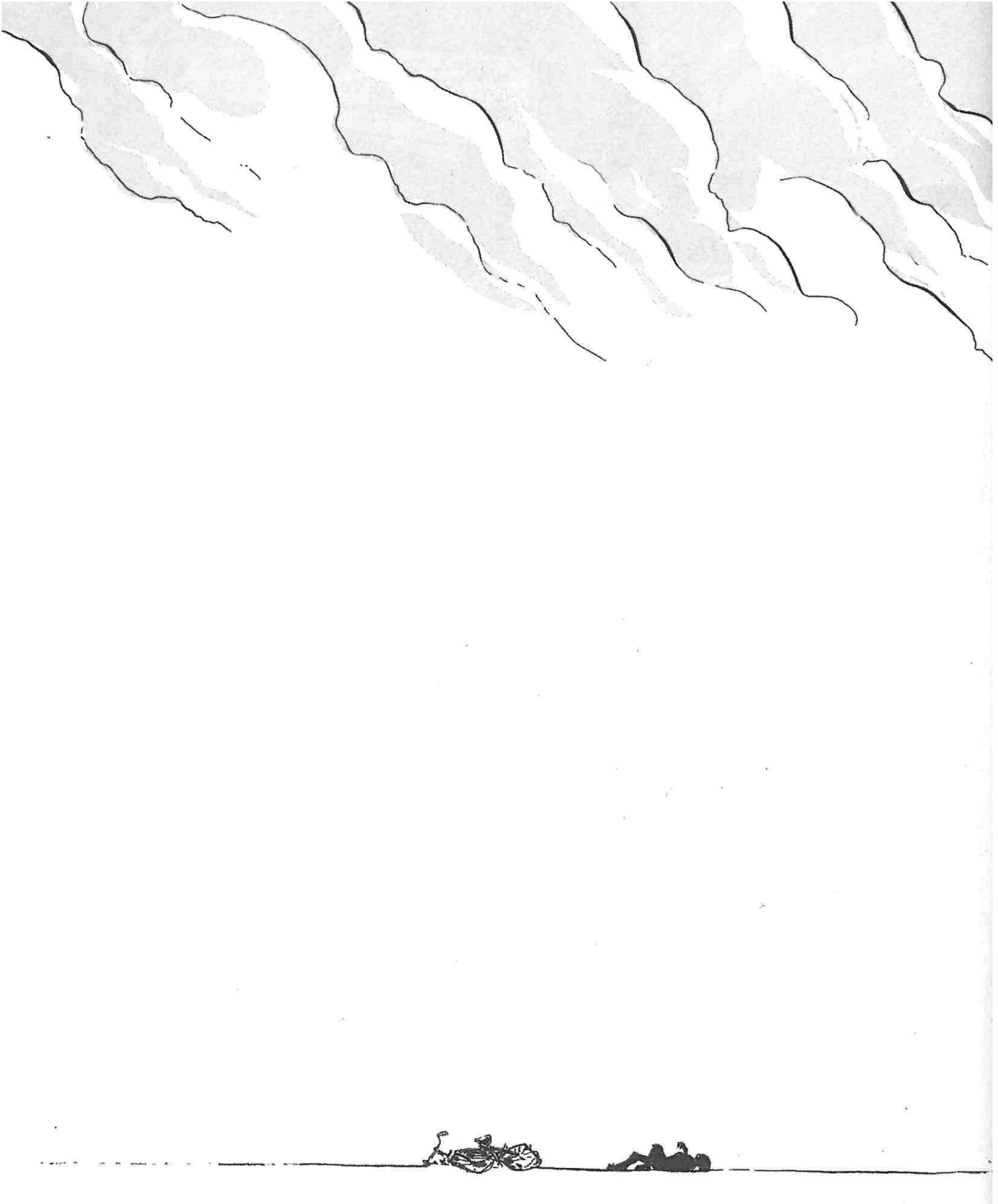
Nagasaki before and after the nuclear bomb was dropped
Credit: Wikimedia Commons

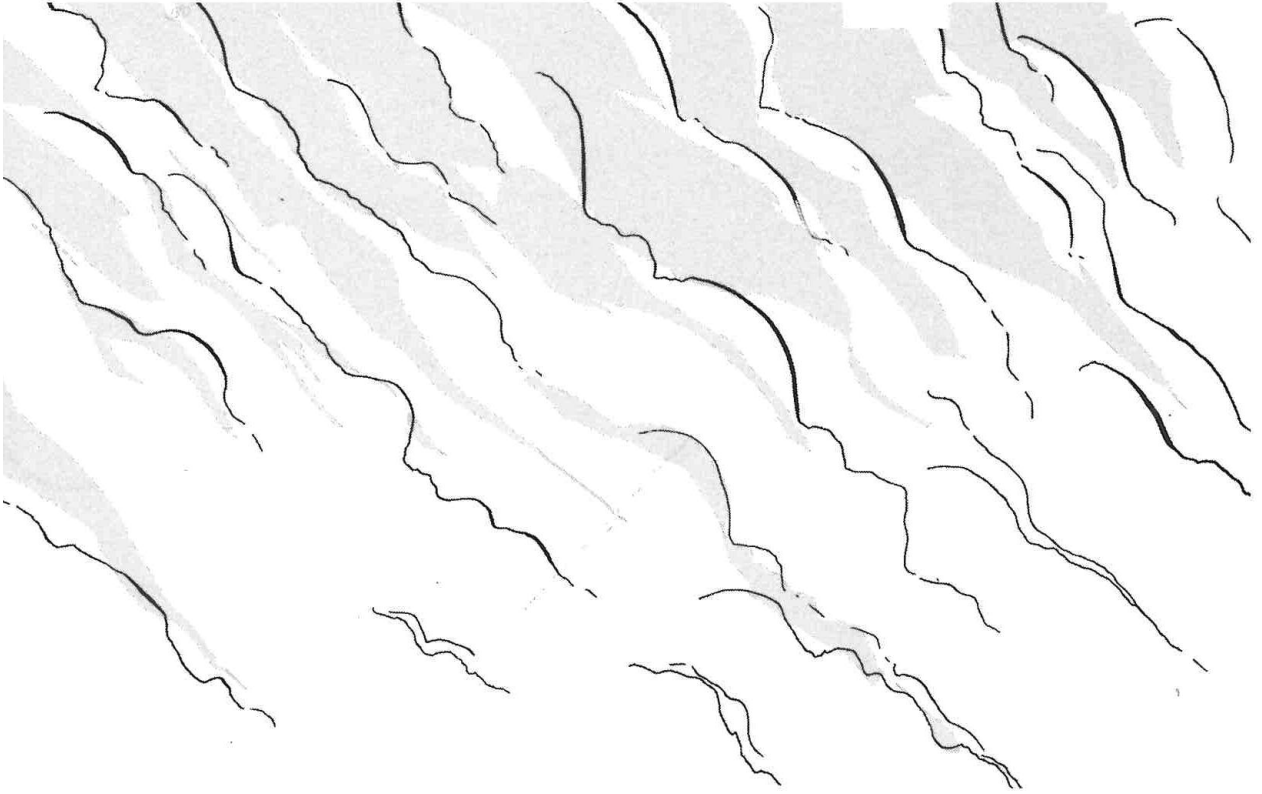
Nagasaki temple ruins

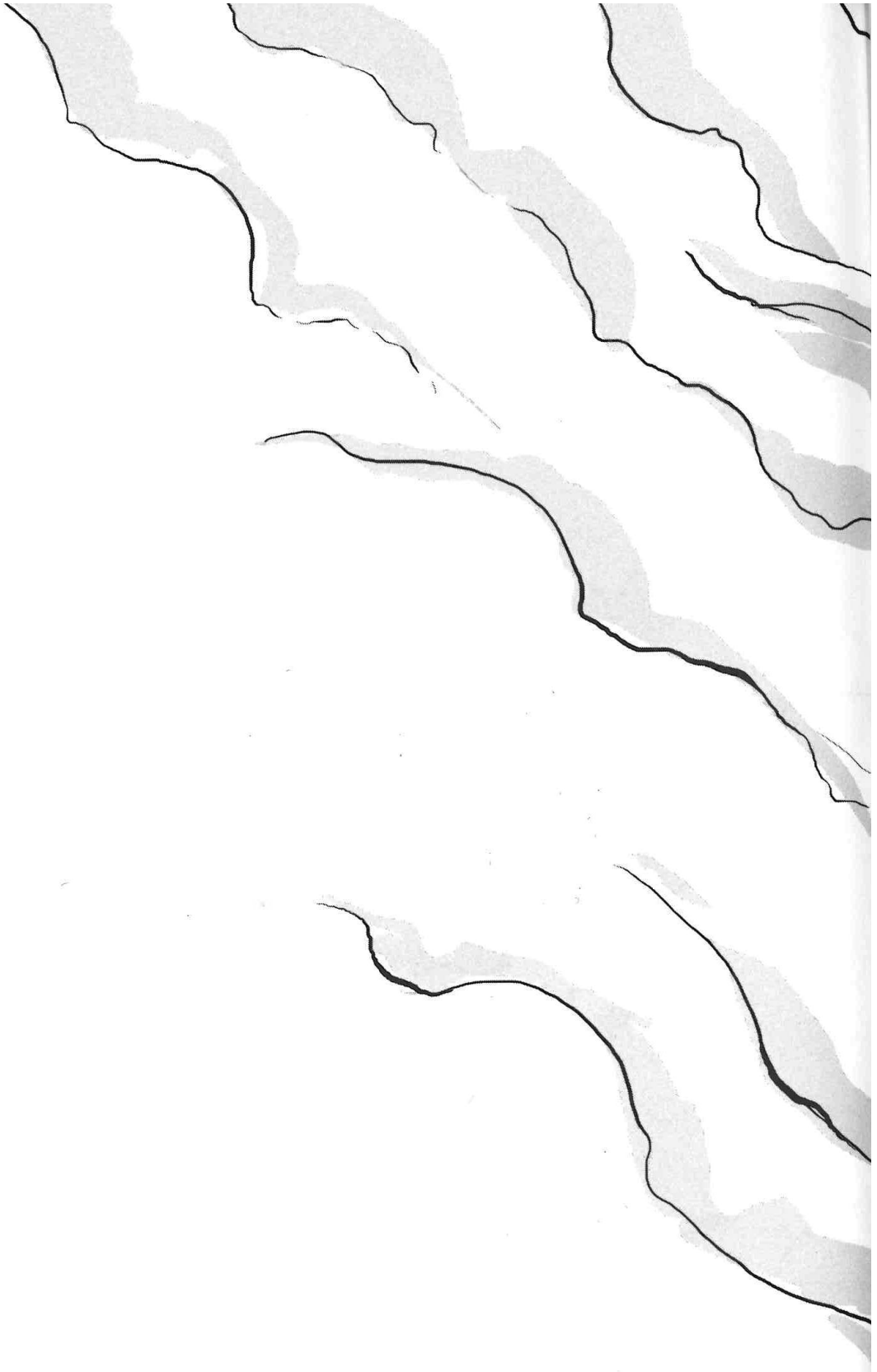


Nagasaki temple ruins
Credit: Wikimedia Commons

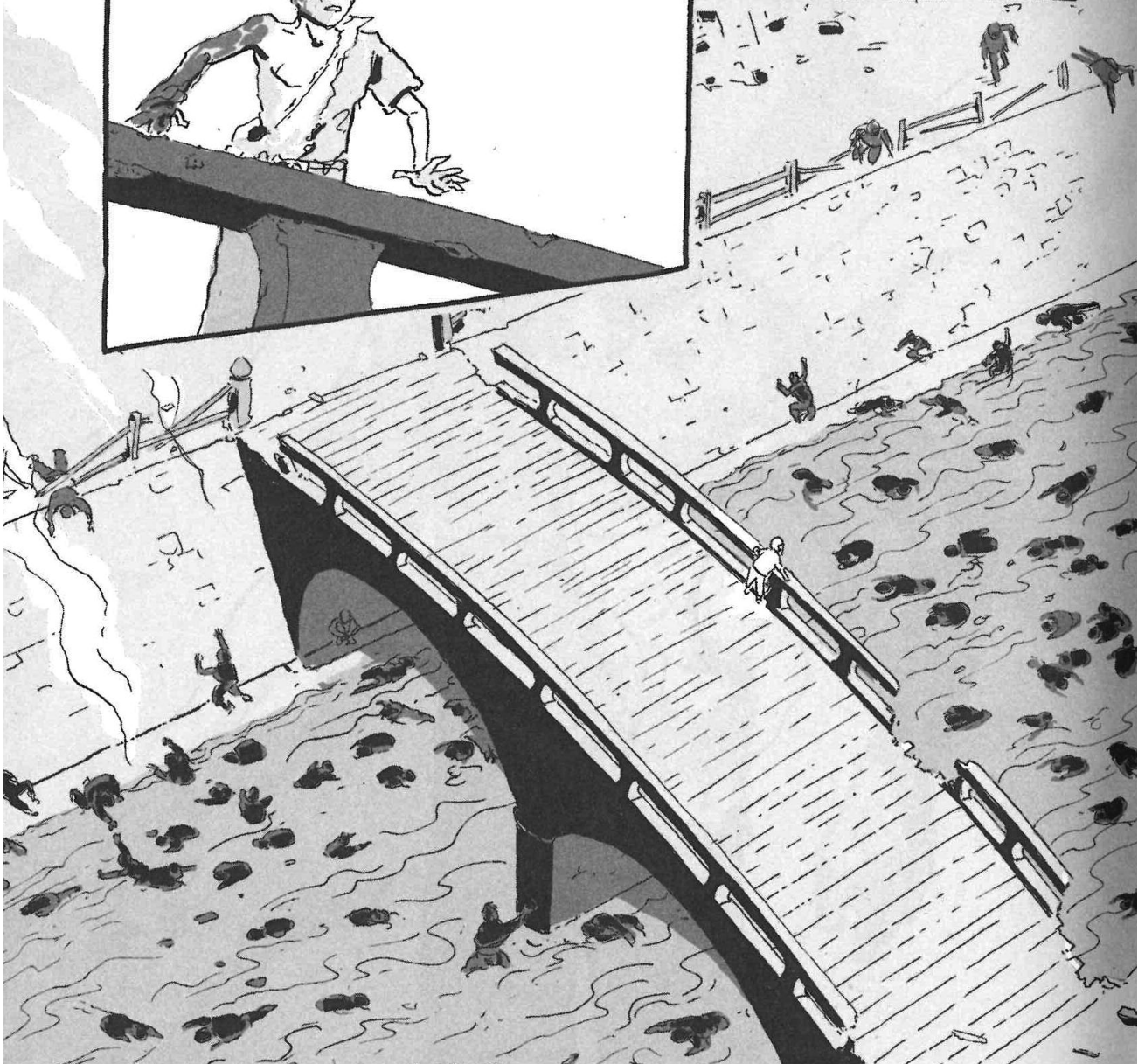
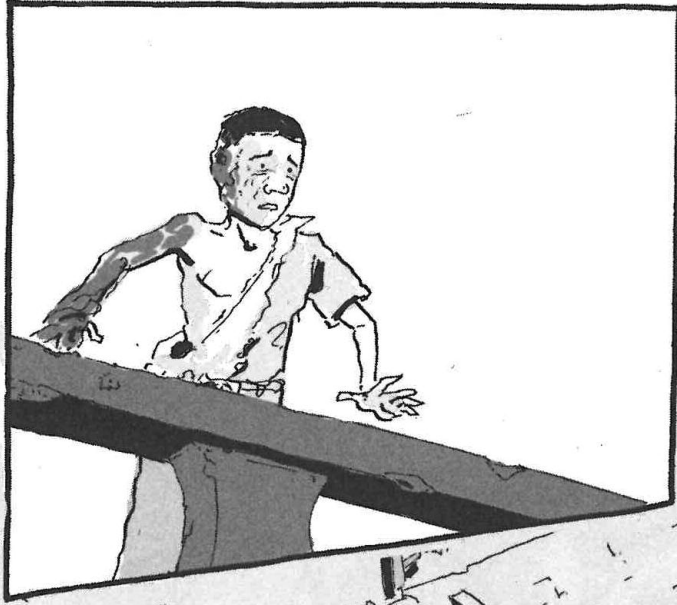


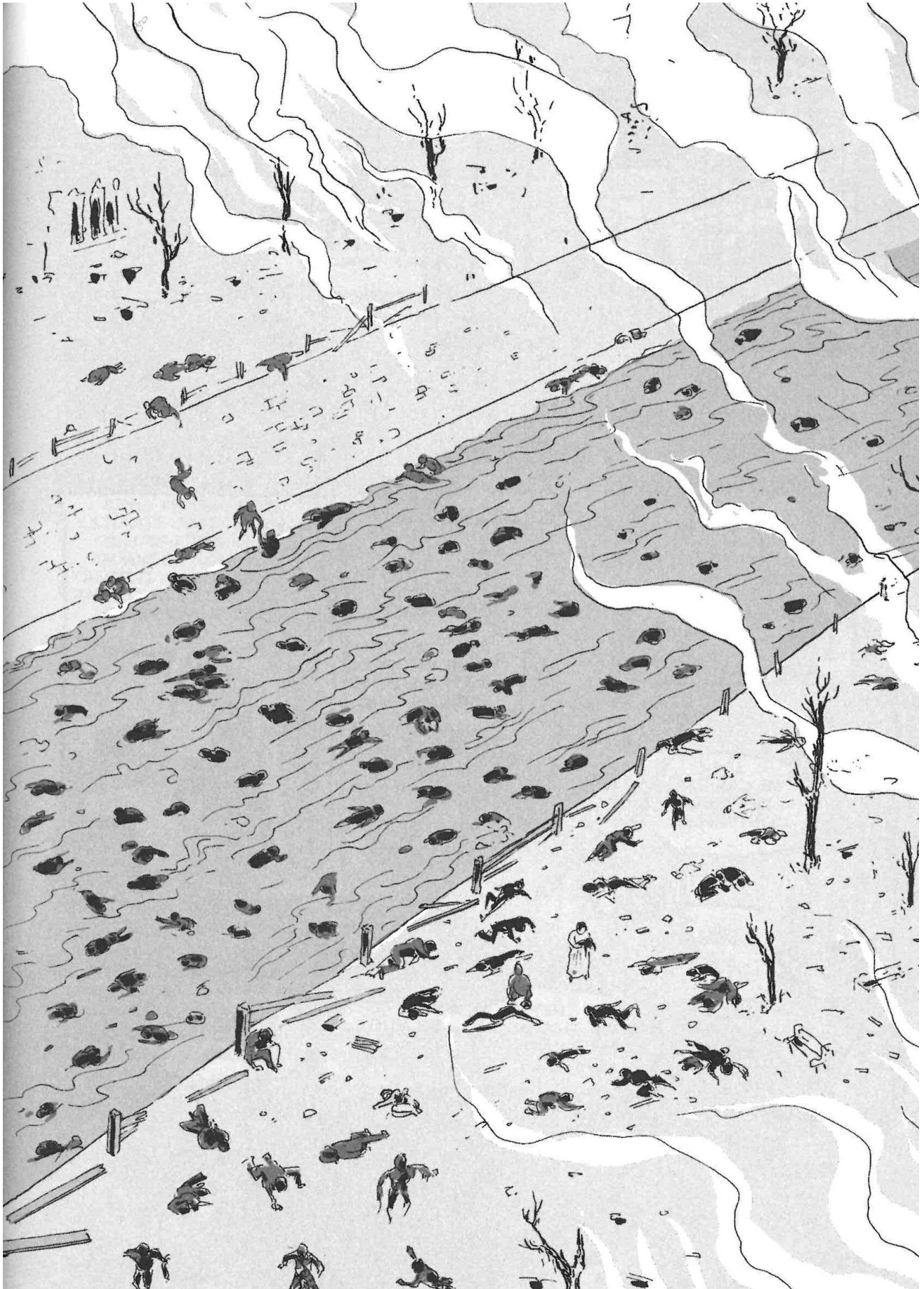




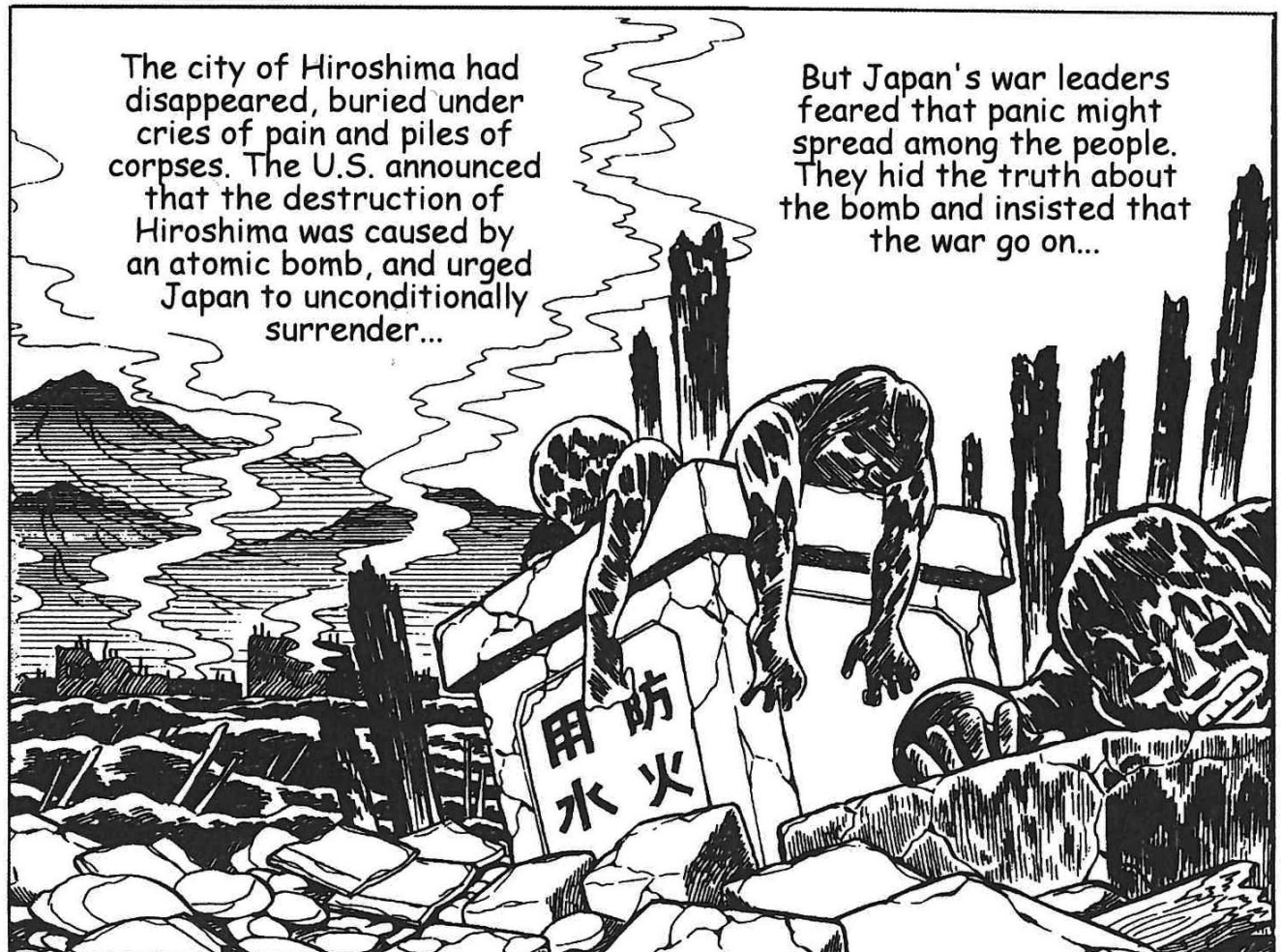
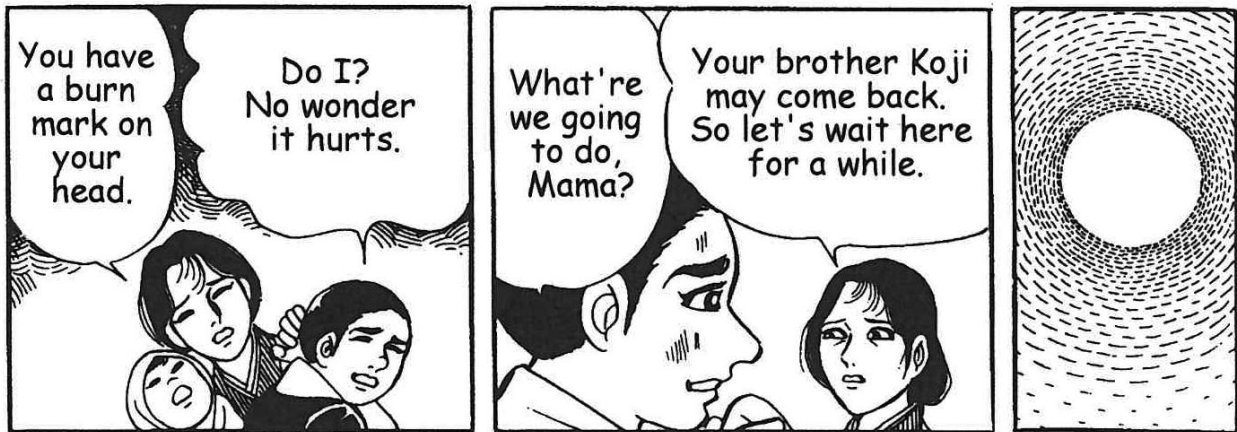
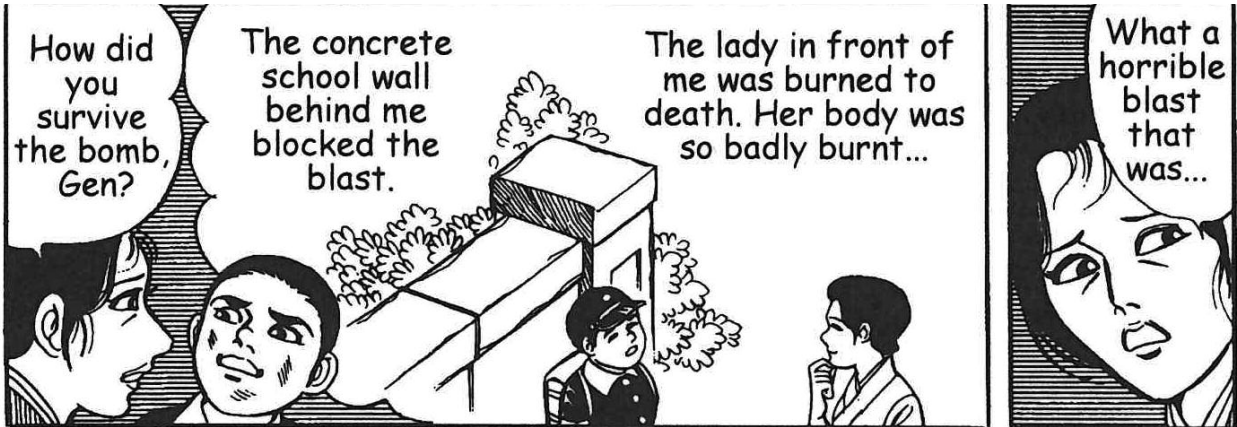


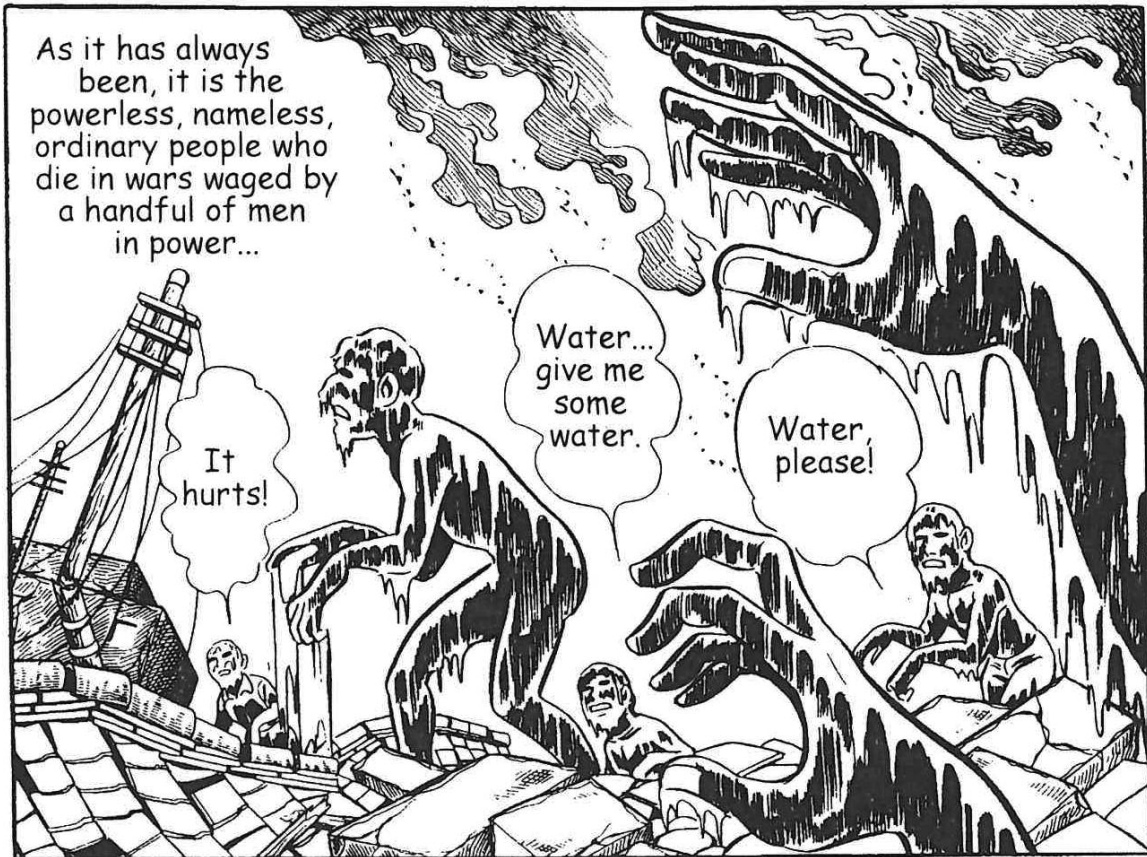
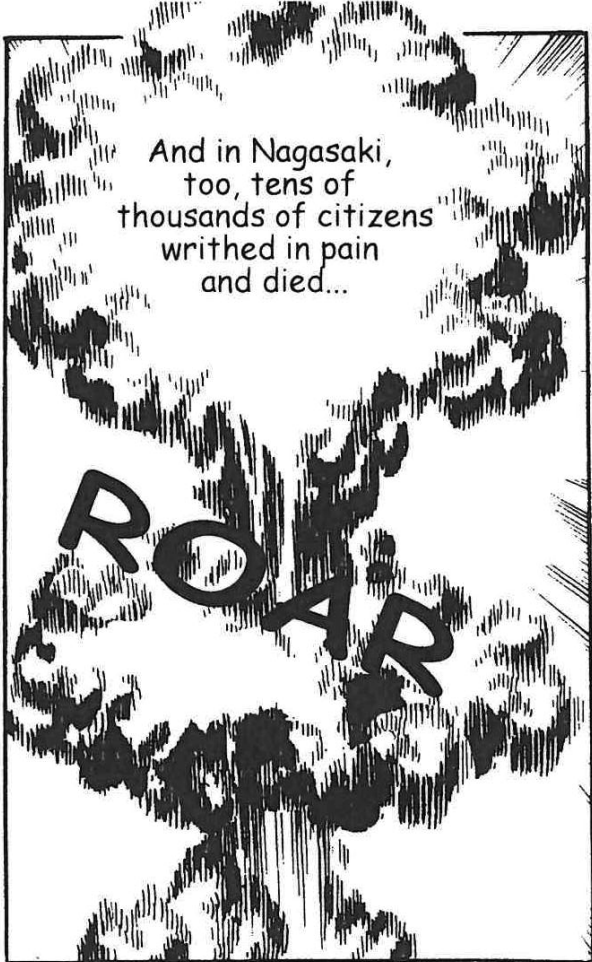
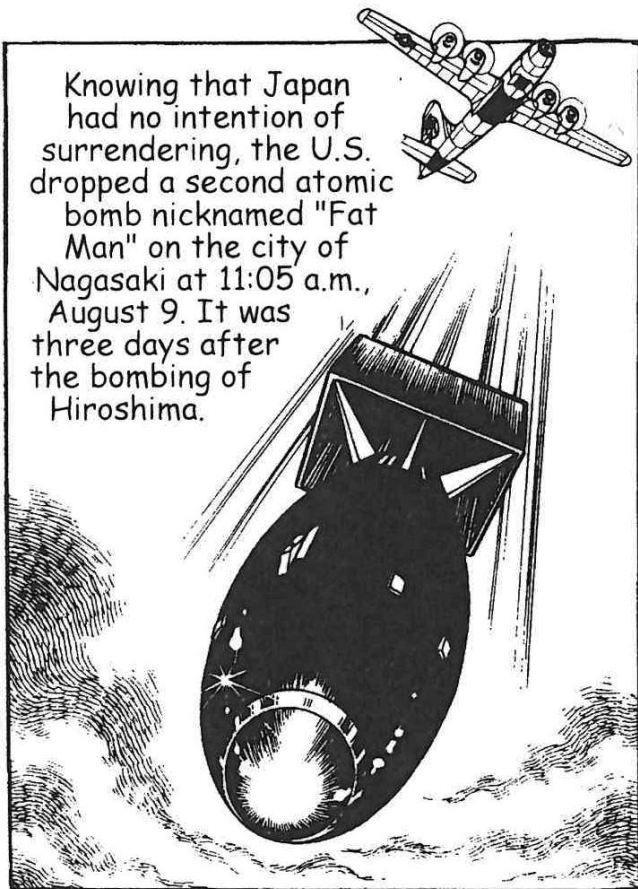






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Yoshiro Yamawaki survived the bombing of Nagasaki.

He was at home 2.2km away from the hypocentre when the bomb hit.

In 2010, he visited Manchester and spoke to young people about his experiences. This is an edited version of his story. (Permission granted by M.E.N)

“The morning that the bomb was dropped it was only me, my two brothers and our father at home. My mother and our four younger brothers and sisters were in the countryside.

My father and eldest brother went to work as usual. Me and my twin brother stayed at home, because it was the school holidays.

At 11:01 we were sat at the table, when a bright light shot across the room. Then there was a roar that seemed to shake the whole house. We got down on the floor, just like we had been taught to do.

Plaster and other debris fell on top of us, and I thought we were going to be buried alive. I could hear our neighbours screaming and crying.

When I looked up the walls had fallen down, and the floor was covered in rubble. The roof had been blown off and we could see the sky. There was broken glass everywhere.

Me and my brother went to the bomb shelter. It was filled with mothers and their children. Some of the children had suffered bad burns, and others were crying because broken glass was stuck in their skin.

My father never came, so we set off to find him. We walked towards the city centre. There were dead bodies everywhere along the road. Their faces, arms and legs had swollen up. They looked like black plastic dolls. When our shoes touched them, their skin came off.

There were dead bodies floating in the river as well. We saw one woman in the water; her intestines had fallen out of her body and were floating next to her.

Our father’s factory was destroyed. We saw three men walking with shovels, and asked them “Our name is Yamawaki. Where is our father?” They said “Your father is over there”. We saw our father’s dead body, swollen and scorched like all the others. The men asked us “What are you going to do?”

We found wood so we could cremate our father there. When we lit the fire we put our hands together and said prayers for him. Then the men sent us home.

I never told my mother what happened the day we went to find my father’s remains. I hope that no one else will have to experience the tragedy I witnessed when I was 11 years old”.

U.S. Announces Atom Bomb: Hope for Earlier End to War

The Albuquerque Journal (US), 7 August 1945

Credit: The Albuquerque Journal. Read the full article at www.newspapers.com/newspage/156894795/

'Scientific Gamble Won'

The Manchester Guardian (UK), 7 August 1945

Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd. Read the full article at www.theguardian.com/world/from-the-archive-blog/2015/aug/06/hiroshima-atomic-bomb-guardian-1945-archive

New-Type Bombs Used in Raid on Hiroshima... Considerable Damage Caused

Nippon Times, 8th August 1945

More information: www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/08/05/national/history/japan-times-reported-atomic-bombings-hiroshima-nagasaki/#.WQCurfnyvcs

"We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbour, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war."

Harry Truman,
U.S. President 1945-1953
9 August 1945

Please turn over for a longer extract of this quote plus a further announcement from Truman

"The use of the bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul."

Herbert Hoover,
U.S. President 1929-1933
8 August 1945

"If the Germans had dropped atomic bombs on cities instead of us, we would have defined the dropping of the atomic bombs on cities as a war crime."

Leo Szilard,
Nuclear Scientist
1960

"I knew we did the right thing because when I knew we'd be doing that I thought, yes, we're going to kill a lot of people, but by God we're going to save a lot of lives."

Paul Tibbets,
Pilot of the Enola Gay
Guardian interview, 2002
Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd

Reactions to the bombings

'The Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl Harbor. They have been repaid many fold. And the end is not yet... We are now prepared to obliterate more rapidly and completely every productive enterprise the Japanese have above ground in any city. We shall destroy their docks, their factories, and their communications. Let there be no mistake; we shall completely destroy Japan's power to make war. It was to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction that the ultimatum of July 26 was issued at Potsdam. Their leaders promptly rejected that ultimatum. If they do not now accept our terms they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth...'

(source: Truman statement, 6th August 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library. NB: Watch a three-and-a-half minute video of Truman reading the statement at www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3lb4wTq0jY)

'The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians. But that attack is only a warning of things to come. If Japan does not surrender, bombs will have to be dropped on her war industries and, unfortunately, thousands of civilian lives will be lost. I urge Japanese civilians to leave industrial cities immediately, and save themselves from destruction.

'I realise the tragic significance of the atomic bomb. Its production and its use were not lightly undertaken by this government. But we knew that our enemies [Germany] were on the search for it. We know now how close they were to finding it. And we knew the disaster which would come to this nation and to all peace-loving nations, to all civilisation, if they had found it first...

Having found the bomb we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned all pretense of obeying international laws of warfare. We have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans. We shall continue to use it until we completely destroy Japan's power to make war. Only a Japanese surrender will stop us.'

(source: Truman radio address to the US, 9th August 1945, transcript in Truman Papers, Truman library. NB: Listen to the announcement at <https://research.archives.gov/id/1783706> - 22.00-24.21 mins. Given that Nagasaki is thirteen hours ahead of Washington, the announcement actually took place after the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.)

"We are in possession of the most destructive explosive ever devised by man. A single one of our newly developed atomic bombs is actually the equivalent in explosive power to what 2000 of our giant B-29s can carry on a single mission... We have just begun to use this weapon against your homeland. If you still have any doubt, make inquiry as to what happened to Hiroshima when just one atomic bomb fell on that city... Before using this bomb to destroy every resource of the military by which they are prolonging this useless war, we ask that you now petition the Emperor to end the war. Our president has outlined for you the thirteen consequences of an honorable surrender [the Potsdam Declaration]. We urge that you accept these consequences and begin the work of building a new, better and peace-loving Japan... Otherwise, we shall resolutely employ this bomb and all our other superior weapons to promptly and forcefully end the war. EVACUATE YOUR CITIES."

(source: translation of US leaflet text, Truman Papers, Truman Library. NB: Copies of the leaflet, with a photo of the Hiroshima explosion on them, were dropped by US planes on various Japanese cities soon after the Hiroshima bomb – the exact date is unclear. In the weeks before, other leaflets had been dropped, urging people to evacuate before their city was destroyed by bombing.)

Reactions to the bombings

'I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner.'

For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the 'pigheadedness' of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it until it is absolutely necessary...

My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan.'

(source: Truman letter to Senator Richard Russell, 9th August 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library. Russell had written to Truman on 7th August claiming, 'Our people... believe that we should continue to strike the Japanese until they are brought grovelling to their knees'.)

'Ate lunch at my desk and discussed the Jap offer to surrender which came in a couple of hours earlier. They wanted to make a condition precedent to the surrender. Our terms are 'unconditional'. They wanted to keep the Emperor. We told 'em we'd tell 'em how to keep him, but we'd make the terms.'

(source: Truman's diary, 10th August 1945, Truman Papers, Truman Library)

'Nobody is more disturbed over the use of Atomic bombs than I am but I was greatly disturbed over the unwarranted attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor and their murder of our prisoners of war. The only language they seem to understand is the one we have been using to bombard them.'

When you have to deal with a beast you have to treat him as a beast. It is most regrettable but nevertheless true.'

(source: Truman letter to Samuel Calvert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, 11th August, Truman Papers, Truman Library. Calvert had written to Truman on 9th August stating, 'Many Christians deeply disturbed over use of atomic bombs against Japanese cities because of their necessarily indiscriminate destructive efforts... Respectfully urge that ample opportunity to be given Japan to reconsider ultimatum before any further devastation by atomic bomb is visited upon her people'.)

'The dropping of those bombs ended the war quickly and that was the objective... it was a means to end the war and save 250,000 men from being killed on our side and that many on the Japanese side, plus twice that many being injured for life. You will find this information in my Memoirs and in any other documents.'

I have never worried about the dropping of the bomb. It was just a means to end the war and that is what was accomplished.'

(source: Truman letter to Mrs Haydon Klein, 4th August 1964, Truman Papers, Truman Library. NB: The figure of 250,000 is widely disputed by historians)

"You have got to understand that this [the atomic bomb] isn't a military weapon... It is used to wipe out women and children and unarmed people, and not for military uses."

(source: Truman, conversation with David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, 21st July 1948, The Journals of David E. Lilienthal, cited at doug-long.com)

Winston Churchill's involvement in the decision to use the bombs



Stalin, Truman and Churchill at the Potsdam Conference, July 1945. Credit: Harry Kidd / <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

"British consent in principle to the use of the weapon had been given on July 4, before the test had taken place. The final decision now lay in the main with President Truman, who had the weapon; but I never doubted what it would be, nor have I ever doubted since that he was right. The historic fact remains, and must be judged in the after-time, that the decision whether or not to use the atomic bomb to compel the surrender of Japan was never even an issue. There was unanimous, automatic, unquestioned agreement around our table; nor did I ever hear the slightest suggestion that we should do otherwise... To quell the Japanese resistance man by man and conquer the country yard by yard might well require the loss of a million American lives and half that of British – or more if we could get them there: for we were resolved to share the agony."

(source: Churchill, *Triumph and Tragedy*, Vol. 6 Ch. 19, 1953, cited at richardlangworth.com)

"The decision to release the atom bomb was perhaps the only thing that history will have serious questions to ask about... I may even be asked by my Maker why I used it, but I shall defend myself vigorously and shall say, 'Why release this knowledge to us when mankind was raging in a furious battle?'"

(source: 'Churchill conversation with Lord Mountbatten – Supreme Allied Commander during the War, July 1946, recorded by Mountbatten's aide Alan Campbell-Johnson, cited in 'Were they war criminals?', Philip Nobile, *The Independent*, 14th February 1999)

"During our last weeks in the White House [1953], Prime Minister Churchill arrived for a visit. My father gave him a small stag dinner to which he invited Defense Secretary Robert Lovett, [politician] Averell Harriman, [Army] General Omar Bradley, and Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Everyone was in an ebullient mood, especially Dad. Without warning, Mr Churchill turned to him and said, "Mr President, I hope you have your answer ready for that hour when you and I stand before St Peter and he says, "I understand you two are responsible for putting off those atomic bombs. What have you got to say for yourselves?"

This could have been a rather unpleasant subject. But Bob Lovett came to the rescue. "Are you sure, Prime Minister, that you are going to be in the same place as the President for that interrogation?"

Mr Churchill sipped his champagne and then intoned, "Lovett, my vast respect for the Creator of this universe and countless others gives me assurance that He would not condemn a man without a hearing."

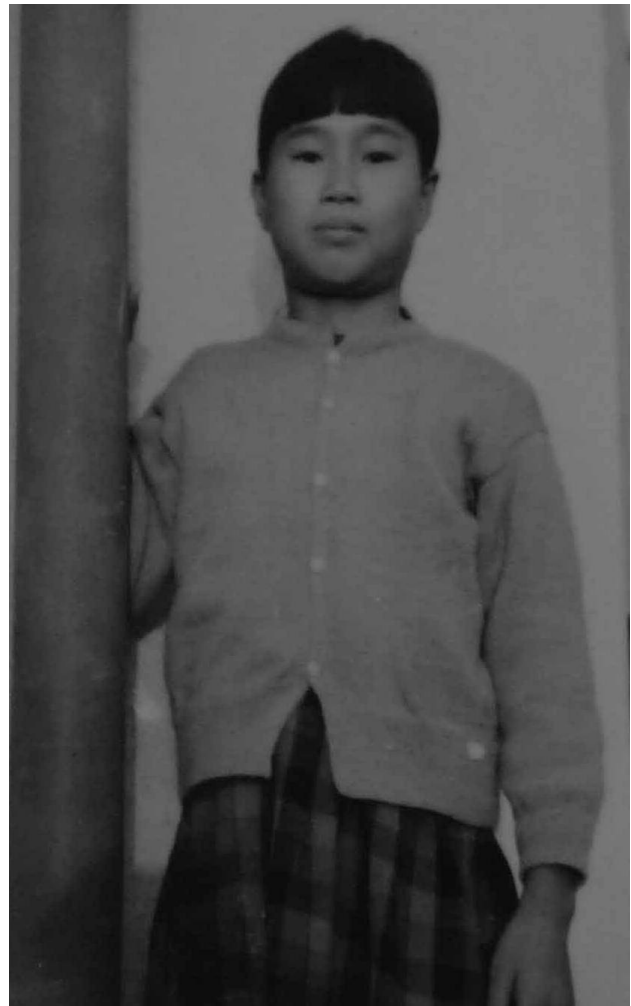
... Now the conversation was really soaring. "Oyez! Oyez!" cried our Secretary of State. "In the matter of the immigration of Winston Spencer Churchill, Mr. Bailiff, will you empanel a jury?"

Everyone eagerly accepted historic roles. General Bradley decided he was Alexander the Great. Others played Julius Caesar, Socrates and Aristotle... Dad was appointed judge. The case was tried and the Prime Minister was acquitted."

(source: Margaret Truman's biography, 'Harry S. Truman', 1972, cited in *Life* magazine, 1st December 1972, pp. 69-70)

Sadako Sasaki and the Paper Cranes for Peace

- Sadako Sasaki was two-years-old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Ten years later she developed leukaemia (cancer of the blood and bone marrow), almost definitely caused by the radiation from the bomb.
- Whilst in hospital she tried to fold 1000 paper cranes. In Japan, cranes are said to be good luck, and folding 1000 can give you a wish.
- They were fiddly, but her friends helped her and soon she had over 600.
- Sadako died, aged 12, when she had made 644 cranes. Her friends folded a further 356 so she could be buried with 1000. NB: Sadako's brother's version of events is different. He states that Sadako folded 1000 cranes, and carried on folding more until she died.
- They then campaigned and fundraised to have a statue put up to remember all the children killed in the Hiroshima bombing. Sadako is the model, holding a crane above her head.
- Every day, more than 50 years after she died, thousands of cranes are sent to Hiroshima from across the world as a sign of peace.



Credit: jj-walsh <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/legalcode>

Children's Peace Monument and paper cranes



Photo of Children's Peace Monument, Hiroshima
Credit: Leonemoff, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>



Photo of origami peace cranes
Credit: Dominic Alves, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

Lunchbox and radiation sickness



Shigeru Orimen was a first-year student at Second Hiroshima Prefectural Junior High School. He was killed by the bomb. His mother found his body on August 9th, still clutching this lunchbox.

The contents of the lunchbox were charred black by the bomb.

Provider: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Please do not copy this image without permission from the Museum



Fifteen days after the bombing, the mother of 18-year-old Hiroko Yamashita started to comb Hiroko's hair, but in three strokes it all came out, except for her fringe.

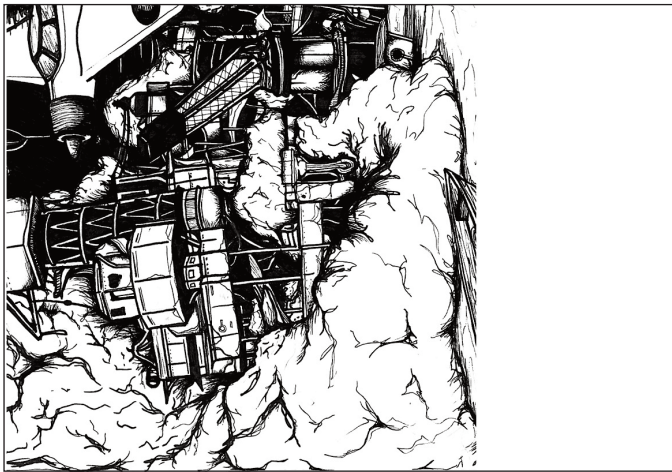
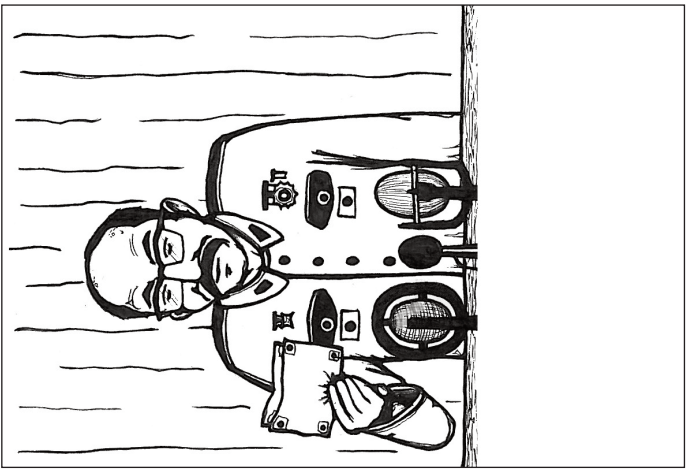
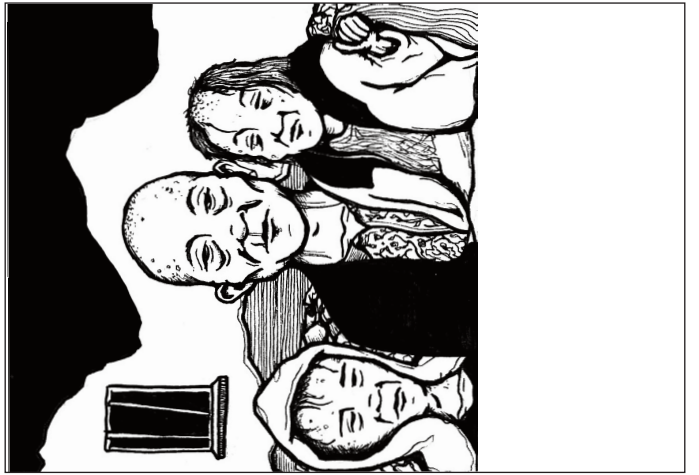
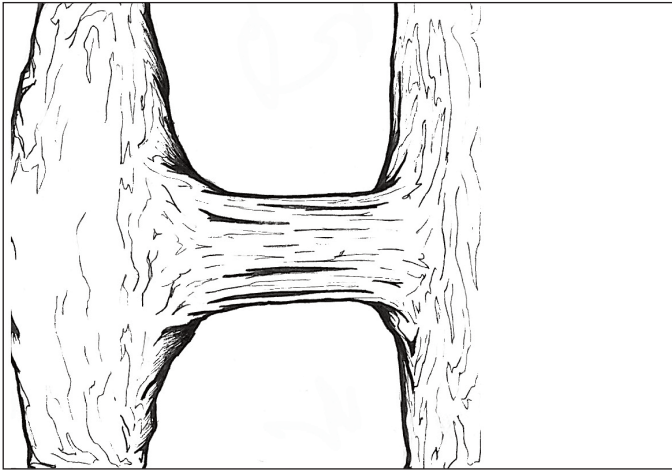
Credit: Donor: Horoko Yamashita; Provider: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

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Historical context	English Resources	Religious Education Resources	History Resources	Citizenship Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potsdam Declaration • US propaganda image • Truman letter to Samuel Calvert • Truman letter to Senator Russell <p>Standard question What does this language tell you about the USA's feelings towards Japan?</p> <p>Simplified question What do you think the USA thought about Japan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppenheimer quote and photograph • Trinity test photo <p>Standard question Why do you think the pilot said that the bomb 'has a life of its own'? Do you agree?</p> <p>Simplified question What do you think Oppenheimer felt when he saw the bomb being tested?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potsdam Declaration • US propaganda image • Pearl Harbour images • Truman statement of 6th August <p>Standard question What do the sources tell you about the USA's reaction to the Pearl Harbour attack?</p> <p>Simplified question What do you think the USA thought about Japan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearl Harbour images • US and Japanese propaganda images • Truman diary entries, 17th and 18th July • Extracts from Truman and Leahy memoirs <p>Standard question What do the sources tell you about the relationship between the USA and Japan? And between the US and the USSR?</p> <p>Simplified question What do you think the USA thought about Japan?</p>
Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Enola Gay' song lyrics • Photo of Enola Gay crew • Stopped watch photo <p>Standard question What do you think 'the kiss you gave' refers to in the song?</p> <p>Simplified question Who do you think the 'little boy' is in the song?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract One from the Trinity book • Photo of Enola Gay crew • Churchill conversation with Lord Mountbatten • Truman's claim that 'having found the bomb we have used it' <p>Standard question Why do you think the pilot said that the bomb 'has a life of its own'? Do you agree?</p> <p>Simplified question Do you think the bomb had a life of its own?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract One from the Trinity book • Photo of Enola Gay crew <p>Standard question How do you think the pilots are portrayed in the comic? How is it different from the photo?</p> <p>Simplified question What do these sources tell you about the pilots?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract One from the Trinity book • Photo of Enola Gay crew <p>Standard question Why do you think Captain Parsons said 'this has nothing to do with us' about the bomb? Do you agree?</p> <p>Simplified question How do you think Captain Parsons felt preparing the bomb?</p>
Hiroshima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 August 1945 poem, (including glossary if needed) • Survivor Art image 1 • Photo of 'Little Boy' bomb <p>Standard question What do you think the poem is saying? Write down two or three words that you think are key to the poem, and why.</p> <p>Simplified question Do you think the poet was for or against the bombs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor Art image 1 • Survivor Art image 2 • Stopped watch photo • Barefoot Gen Vol. 1 extract <p>Standard question What comes to mind when you see the picture of the horse on fire?</p> <p>Simplified question Why do you think the watch is stopped at 8.15am? How does it make you feel?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor Art image 1 • Survivor Art image 2 • Photo of 'Little Boy' bomb • Stopped watch photo • Extract from Truman's radio announcement of 9th August <p>Standard question Which source tells us more about the bombing of Hiroshima? Why?</p> <p>Simplified question Why do you think the watch is stopped at 8.15am? How does it make you feel?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor Art image 1 • Survivor Art image 2 • Photo of 'Little Boy' bomb • Stopped watch photo • Lunchbox photo <p>Standard question What do you think the people under the blanket in the picture are thinking?</p> <p>Simplified question Why do you think the watch is stopped at 8.15am? How does it make you feel?</p>

Questions by subject to go with the sources

Nagasaki	English	Religious Education	History	Citizenship
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagasaki temple photo • Extract Two from the Trinity book • Before and after Nagasaki photo <p>Standard Question Do you think the comic helps tell the story, or would it be better as an interview? Why?</p> <p>Simplified Question Which has more effect, the cartoon or the photos? Why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagasaki temple photo • Photograph of 'Fat Man' • Before and after Nagasaki photo • Barefoot Gen Vol. 2 extract • Truman letter to Samuel Calvert <p>Standard Question Do you agree with the statement 'it has always been the powerless, ordinary people who die in wars waged by a handful of men in power?'</p> <p>Simplified Question In war, do you think it is worse to destroy places of worship (eg churches) or peoples' houses? Why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagasaki temple photo • Extract Two from the Trinity book • Before and after Nagasaki photo • Truman letter to Samuel Calvert • Truman letter to Senator Russell <p>Standard Question What do the sources tell us about the reaction in the US to the bombings?</p> <p>Simplified Question What did people in the US think about the bombings?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagasaki temple photo • Extract Two from the Trinity book • Before and after Nagasaki photo • Yoshiro Yamawaki eye-witness account <p>Standard Question Which helps us to understand the conflict better: the cartoon or the photos? Why?</p> <p>Simplified Question Which tells us more about the war: the cartoon or the photos? Why?</p>
<p>Reactions</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper headlines <p>Standard Question Do you think these headlines make the bombing seem good or bad? Why?</p> <p>Simplified Question Pretend you work for a Japanese, US or or British newspaper. Write your own news headline for the day after the bombings</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truman diary, 25th July • Truman letter to Mrs Haydon Klein • Truman conversation with David Lilienthal • Extract from Margaret Truman's biography <p>Standard Question What is the difference between what Truman and Churchill said about the bombings?</p> <p>Simplified Question What do you think about the pretend trial that Churchill and Truman took part in during the dinner of 1953?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper headlines • Truman conversation with David Lilienthal • Truman letter to Mrs Klein <p>Standard Question What do you think the readers of these papers thought about the bombings? What do the other two sources tell us about Truman's feelings years later?</p> <p>Simplified Question What do you think people thought when they read the newspaper headlines?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoover, Szilard and Tibbets quotes • Extracts from Margaret Truman's biography <p>Standard Question Which source stands out the most? Why?</p> <p>Simplified Question Who do you agree with more, Szilard or Tibbets? Why?</p>
<p>Ongoing effects</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadako Sasaki story and 2 photos • Photo of hairloss <p>Standard Question How do you think that Sadako's friends made a difference by getting the statue built?</p> <p>Simplified Question What do you think Sadako wished for whilst folding the cranes?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo of hairloss <p>Standard Question Are you surprised the bombs had ongoing effects? Why/ why not?</p> <p>Simplified Question Why do you think the woman's skin was burnt in this way?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadako Sasaki story and 2 photos • Photo of hairloss <p>Standard Question What does the story of Sadako tell us about Japanese attitudes to nuclear bombs?</p> <p>Simplified Question Why was a statue of Sadako built?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadako Sasaki story and 2 photos • Photo of hairloss <p>Standard Question How do you think that Sadako's friends made a difference by getting the statue built?</p> <p>Simplified Question What do you think Sadako wished for whilst folding the cranes?</p>



Captions A (higher ability)

7 December 1941

Japanese air forces attack the United States naval base at Pearl Harbour, USA

8 May 1945

The Allies accept the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany. This is known as VE Day. In Europe at least, World War Two is over.

16 July 1945

The United States tests the first ever atomic bomb. It had been developed in secret, deep in the desert. The test was code-named 'Trinity' and declared a success.

6 August 1945

At 8.15am a nuclear bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. It is code-named 'Little Boy'.

9 August 1945

At 11.02am a nuclear bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. The second bomb is code-named 'Fat Man'.

2 September 1945

Japan formally surrenders. The official surrender is signed on the deck of the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay. This is the end of World War Two.

Shortly after the bombings

Radiation sickness makes people very unwell. Symptoms include hair loss, vomiting and fever. There is no effective treatment and you can die within days.

Years after the bombings

Survivors develop cancers for decades afterwards. Leukaemia is most common in children and others develop cancers of the breast, salivary gland and lung.

Captions B (lower ability)

7 December 1941

Japanese air forces attack the United States naval base at Pearl Harbour, USA

8 May 1945

The Allies accept the surrender of Germany. This is known as VE Day. World War Two is over in Europe.

16 July 1945

The United States tests the first ever atomic bomb. It had been developed in secret.

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2 September 1945

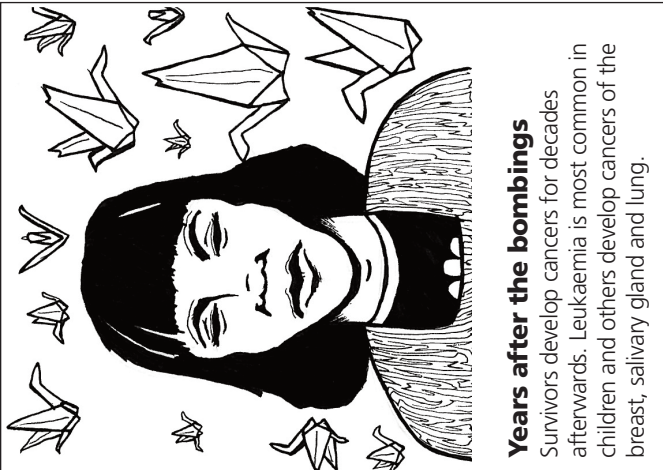
Japan formally surrenders. This is the end of World War Two.

Shortly after the bombings

Radiation sickness makes people vomit. Their hair falls out, their mouths bleed and it can kill in days.

Years after the bombings

Survivors get ill with many different types of cancers for decades afterwards.



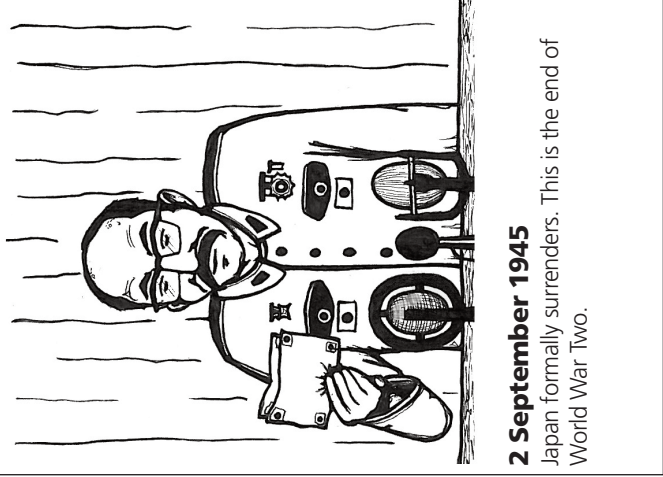
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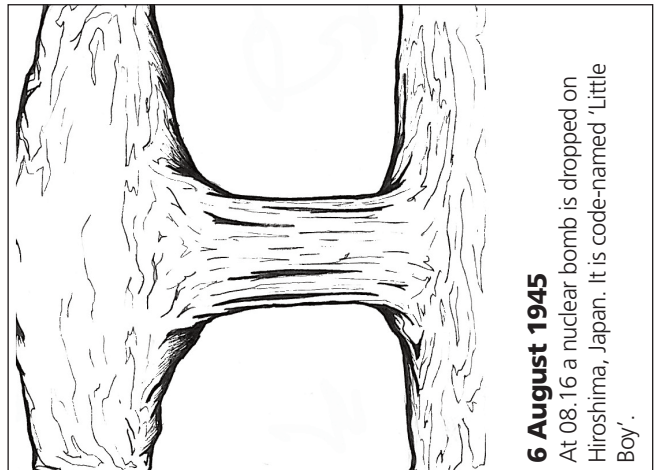
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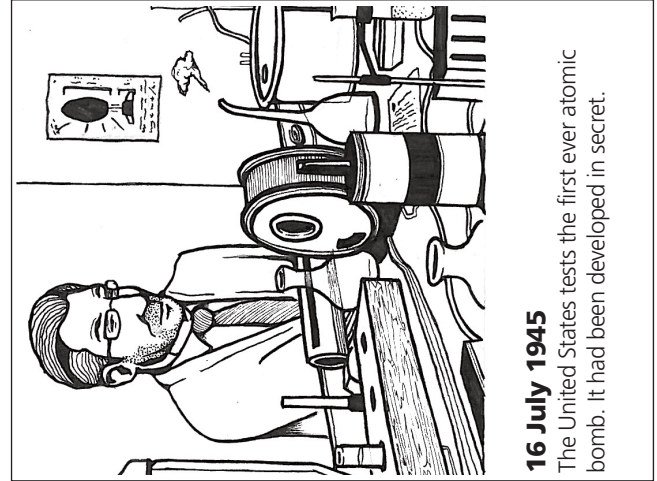
9 August 1945

At 11.02am a nuclear bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. The second bomb is code-named 'Fat Man'.



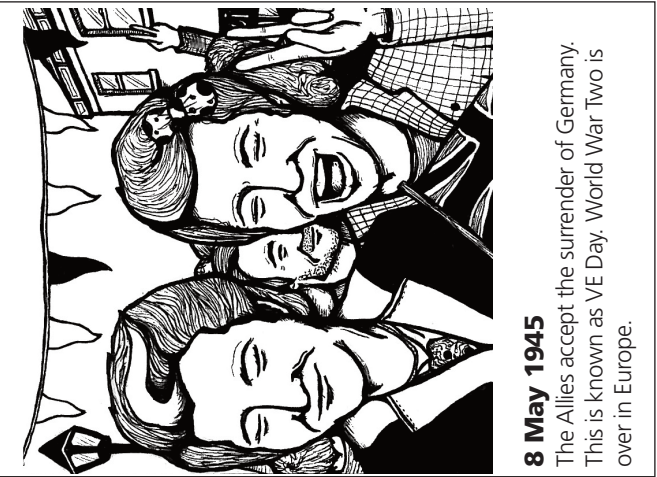
6 August 1945

At 08.16 a nuclear bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. It is code-named 'Little Boy'.



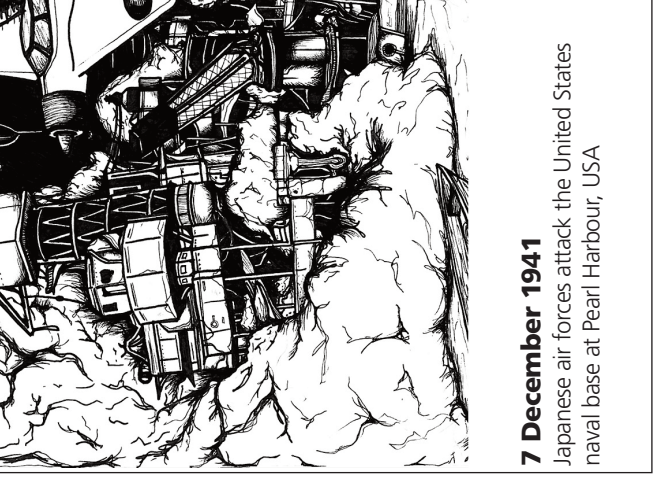
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