



Since the 1920's, tension had been growing between Japan and the United States. Both nations controlled large areas of land in the Pacific and were in constant competition for power in the region. Also, beginning with the Japanese attack on China in 1937 and then Vietnam in 1941, President Roosevelt began to seriously limit certain supplies being sold to the Japanese. Shipments of oil, coal and machine parts stopped flowing to the Japanese who needed them desperately. Military planners in Japan decided to strike the United States first and hopefully cripple our ability to fight with one huge sneak attack. While the planning for the attack had been in progress for over a year, the decision to hit the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor was not made by Emperor Hirohito until November 5, 1941. The U.S. Navy was unaware that an attack was being planned and we even believed the Japanese officials who constantly told us they were working toward peace. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 at 7:48 a.m. all of our visions of peace ended as Japanese planes commenced their assault.

1. What point is Dr. Seuss trying to make in the above cartoon?
2. What were two causes for tension between the U.S. and Japan before the attack?
3. Why would Japan use a sneak attack against America?
4. What is the date of the attack on Pearl Harbor?
5. What emotions do you think were being felt by the American people the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor?