



Above, the first successful atomic bomb detonation (code-named the Trinity test) lights up the early morning New Mexico sky.

Commander of the project General Leslie Groves (right) stands with lead scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer observing what is left of the tower that dropped the first test bomb.



The secret development of the first atomic bomb, code-named the Manhattan Project, was led by J. Robert Oppenheimer and a team of our best scientists (many of them former German Jews). This scientific all-star team had been secretly working on building the atom bomb since the middle of 1939 and was so secret that even Vice President Harry Truman wasn't told about it until after FDR's death. Finally on the 16th of July, 1945 a bomb nicknamed "the gadget" was successfully tested in an operation called the Trinity Test. The resulting mushroom cloud reached 7.5 miles into the air and the shockwaves from the blast rattled windows 200 miles away. The desert floor reached temperatures exceeding 1 million degrees turning the sand to glass. While watching the test, Dr. Oppenheimer said he was reminded of the bible passage about the end of the world, "I have become death, the destroyer of worlds."

1. What action has happened in the photo in the upper right?
2. What was the Manhattan Project?
3. How secret was the Manhattan Project?
4. What were 3 effects of the Trinity Test?
5. Judging from his quote, how do you think J. Robert Oppenheimer felt about the Trinity Test?
6. Why was it ironic that former German Jews were the leaders of the Manhattan Project?
7. Video: What did the development of the atomic bomb cost?
8. Video: Where did the atomic test take place?
9. Video: What concern did the scientists share about the test?