



# 1940-1945: UNCOMMON VALOR

## World War II Gallery Worksheet

This worksheet will help you understand the contributions of the Marine Corps to American victory in World War II.

**START** at the entrance to the World War II Gallery on the first floor of the museum. **The questions begin as you enter the exhibit and are arranged in order. Be sure to pay attention!**

1. During World War II, most Marines fought in the Pacific against Japan.
2. How many Marines suffered combat casualties during World War II?  
 49,877      66,499      86,940      102,345
3. The **Medal of Honor** is the highest award for valor (bravery) in action bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States military. How many Marines were awarded the **Medal of Honor** during World War II? 82. Of this total, 48 received the award posthumously.
4. America entered World War II when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941.
5. These are the wartime leaders of Japan. Find their pictures. Can you name them?



Emperor Hirohito



Hideki Tojo



6. What baseball hall of famer served as a Marine pilot during World War II?

Ted Williams

7. **Blitzkrieg** is a German word meaning “ lightning war .”



8. Find the two women sitting in their living room. Join them as they listen to President Franklin Roosevelt’s famous “*date that will live in infamy*” speech. Besides Hawaii, what other locations in the Pacific did Japan attack on or shortly after December 7, 1941?

Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, Philippines, Wake Island, Midway Island

9. **True or False.** Most African-Americans were forced to serve in racially segregated military units during World War II.

True



10. This aircraft was the primary fighter of the Marine Corps during the early stages of World War II. You can find it suspended from the ceiling above you. What is the name of this aircraft?

Grumman F4F Wildcat

11. What United States President’s son was a Marine Raider? James Roosevelt (FDR's son)



12. What rifle, developed in 1934, replaced the Springfield 1903 as the primary weapon of Marines during World War II?

M-1 Garand rifle

13. Why was the Battle of Midway such an important victory for the United States in the Pacific?

Midway was America's first clear cut victory in the Pacific and was characterized by great sacrifices by Marines.

14. Lewis “Chesty” Puller is probably the greatest fighting Marine that ever lived. He served in World War I, World War II, and Korea—earning more Navy Crosses than any Marine in History. How many Navy Crosses did Chesty Puller earn?

3    5    7    9    Five



Enter the MARINE Theater to answer question 15.



15. What did Bugs Bunny—and many real life Hollywood actors—encourage Americans to buy during World War II?

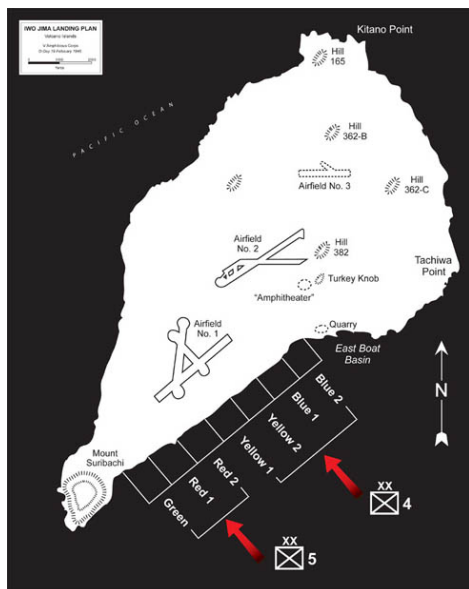
War bonds

16. Find the large wall map labeled “The Central Pacific.” Study this map, and then watch the “Tarawa” video. Using what you learned from the map and video, explain the American strategy of **Island Hopping** and how it was vital to victory in the Pacific.

Island hopping was the Navy-Marine Corps strategy of "leap frogging" across the Pacific Ocean, fighting Japanese naval and ground forces each step of the way. The goal of island hopping was to drive the enemy back to Japan.

17. Explain the Samurai code of **Bushido**. How was it practiced by Japanese soldiers during World War II?

Bushido means "the way of the warrior." It views surrender as a disgrace and suicide as a glorious sacrifice for the Emperor.



18. The island of Iwo Jima has been called “one of the strangest battlefields in history.” How did General Kuribayashi and the 20,000 Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima use the island’s unique geography to their advantage?

The Japanese defenders of Iwo Jima dug subterranean (underground) defenses in the island's volcanic rock, enabling General Kuribayashi to move forces through miles of tunnels beneath Iwo Jima's surface.

**Enter the Iwo Jima landing exhibit to answer questions 19 and 20.**

19. Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano, is the highest point on Iwo Jima.

20. 800 ships and 70,000 Marines were used in the assault on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945.

21. This photograph served as the inspiration for the *Marine Corps War Memorial* in Washington, DC. Name the photographer who took the famous photo of the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Joseph Rosenthal



22. Two different American flags flew over Iwo Jima. Is the first or second flag currently on display in the Museum? How can you tell?

Answers will vary. The second flag is the one depicted in the famous Rosenthal photo. It is larger and more tattered than the first flag.



23. This recruiting poster is from 1943. It shows that American women contributed to the war effort in non-combat roles. What clues does this poster reveal about the types of jobs Women Marines performed?

This recruiting poster suggests that Women Marines served in traditional female roles such as clerical workers, thereby "freeing a Marine to fight."

24. In what other ways do you think women contributed to the war effort?

Answers will vary but may include nurses, clerks, mechanics, parachute riggers, and factory workers.

25. How did the Navajo Indian "Code Talkers" contribute to the mission of the Marine Corps during World War II?

Navajo Indian "code talkers" transmitted classified (secret) radio messages that the enemy was unable to interpret.

