

How to
use this
guide



Explore the
exhibit



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MU
SEA
UM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM



SECRET STRIKE

WAR ON OUR SHORES

Secondary school self-guided answers





ACTIVITY 1: Chronology of events

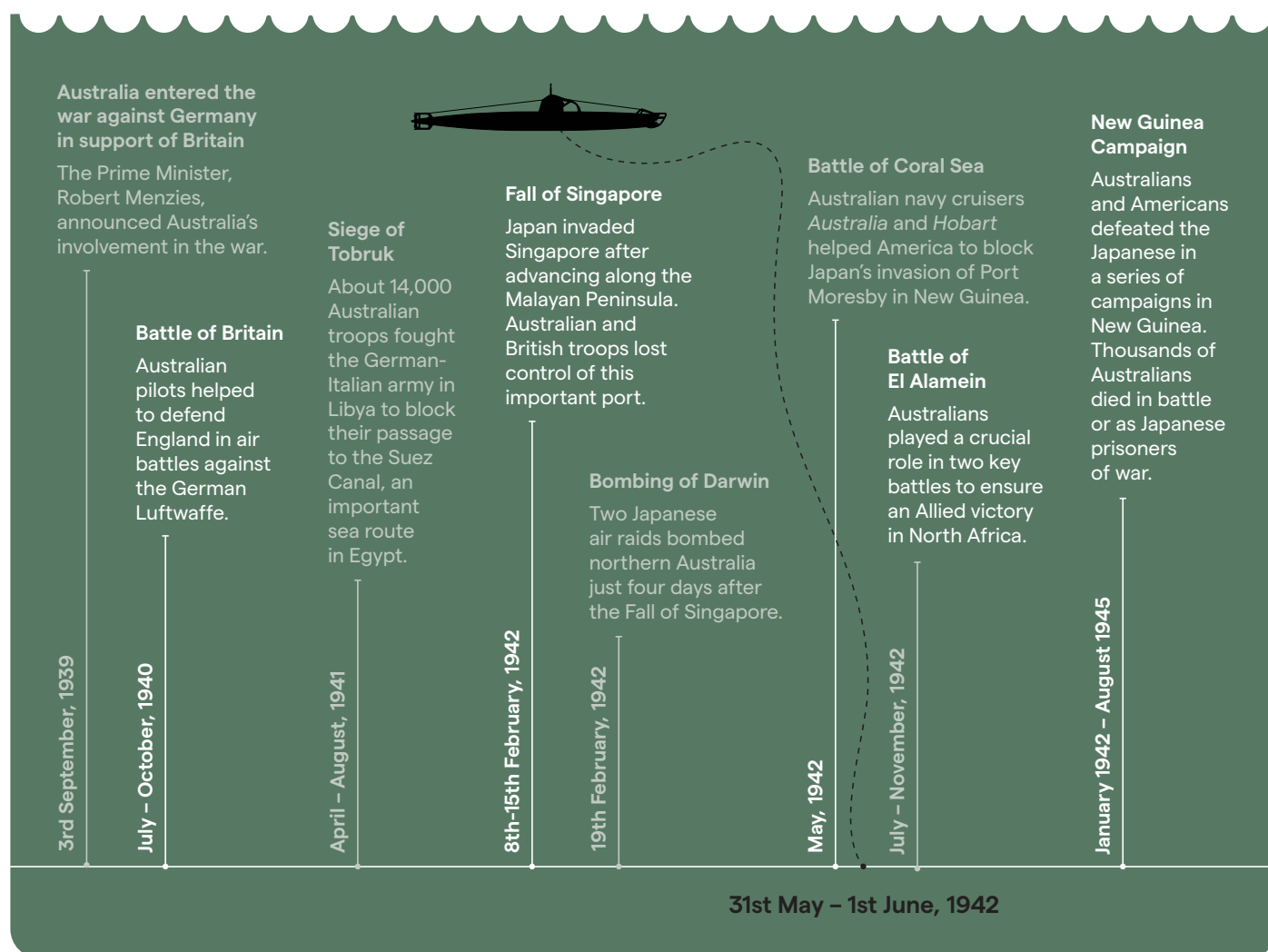
Australia's involvement in the Second World War (1939 -1945) began in support of its ally, Britain. Allied campaigns were fought against Germany and Italy in Europe and North Africa. Australia's efforts then shifted to the Pacific against an advancing Japan. The timeline below shows some of the campaigns Australians were involved in during the war.

1. Read the 'Getting Closer' and 'Prelude' panels. **When was the Japanese attack on Sydney?**

Answer: 31st May – 1st June, 1942

2. Draw an arrow from the midget submarine to the timeline to show when the attack happened.

Answer:



3. Why do you think Japan attacked Sydney Harbour?

Answer: The attack aimed to demoralise Australian civilians and some residents thought it could have been the start of a Japanese invasion of Sydney. However, the main intention of the attack was to weaken the strength of the Allies in the central Pacific by diverting American warships to the south Pacific in support of Australia.

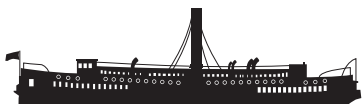


ACTIVITY 2: The attack on Sydney Harbour

While Australians fought alongside Britain and Allied forces in distant countries, threats were developing closer to home. The Japanese Navy had a diverse fleet of submarines in the Second World War. **Watch and listen to the exhibition video to learn how some of these submarines were used to attack Sydney.**

1. Label the names of these vessels that were involved in the attack.

Answers:



HMAS Kuttabul



HMAS Seamist



USS Chicago



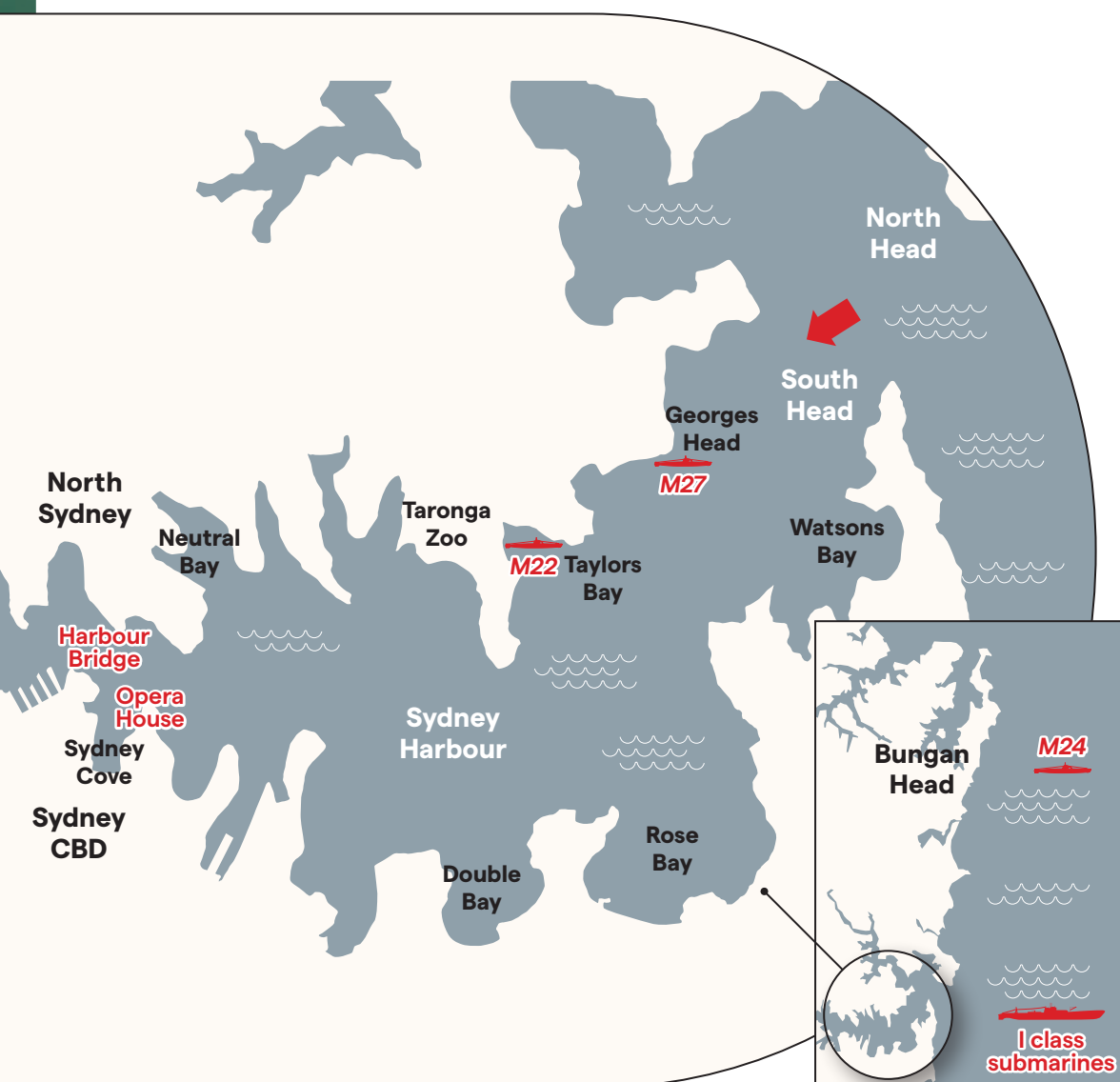
HMAS Canberra



Japanese mother submarines (I class)
(I22, I24, I27 and I21, I29)



Japanese midget submarines
(M22, M24, M27)



2. Label the maps with the following features:

- Sydney landmarks: Harbour Bridge and Opera House
- An arrow showing where the midget submarines entered the harbour.
- The location of the Japanese mother submarines (I class) at the start of the attack.
- The final location of the three Japanese midget submarines.



ACTIVITY 3: Consequences of the attack

The night before the midget submarine attack, a small Japanese aeroplane did a reconnaissance flight over Sydney Harbour to identify potential targets. The crew spotted battleships and other navy patrol boats that they would need to evade for a successful mission.

1. Use the video and other displays in the exhibit to help you complete the table.

Answers:

Name of vessel	Role in the attack	Fate of the crew
HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i>	HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i> was a depot ship that had been converted from a ferry. It was moored at the Garden Island wharf in Sydney Harbour on the night of the attack.	Nineteen Australian and two British ratings were killed when the ship was torpedoed by <i>M24</i> .
HMAS <i>Canberra</i>	It is assumed that <i>M22</i> attempted to fire its two torpedoes at HMAS <i>Canberra</i> , but they both failed to launch.	HMAS <i>Canberra</i> was not damaged and no lives were lost.
USS <i>Chicago</i>	USS <i>Chicago</i> fired at <i>M24</i> and then left the harbour for the safety of open waters.	USS <i>Chicago</i> was not damaged and no lives were lost.
Midget submarine <i>M22</i>	<i>M22</i> was the third submarine to enter Sydney Harbour during the early hours of 1 June. It is assumed that <i>M22</i> attempted to fire its two torpedoes at HMAS <i>Canberra</i> , but they both failed to launch.	<i>M22</i> was seen and attacked by HMAS <i>Yandra</i> . It sheltered in Taylors Bay, where it was discovered and depth charged by HMAS <i>Seamist</i> . Rather than face the humiliation of surrender, Lieutenant Matsuo shot Petty Officer Tsuzuku and then himself with his pistol.
Midget submarine <i>M24</i>	<i>M24</i> was the second submarine to arrive. It worked its way into the harbour and fired two torpedoes at the American heavy cruiser USS <i>Chicago</i> . Both missed; one hit the sea wall of Garden Island and exploded, damaging the Dutch submarine <i>K IX</i> and destroying HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i> , killing 21 men.	<i>M24</i> escaped and disappeared. In 2006 it was found virtually intact in 56 metres of water off Bungan Head, on Sydney's Northern Beaches. The remains of the two crew are still entombed in the wreck.
Midget submarine <i>M27</i>	<i>M27</i> was the first submarine to enter the harbour at about 8pm on the 31st May. It became tangled in anti-submarine netting.	The crew detonated scuttling charges, blowing up themselves and their submarine.

2. What do you think were the consequences of the attack on the Australian home front?

Hint: consider ally relationships.

Answer: By this point in the Second World War, Australia had begun to look for support from America, rather than its traditional ally, Britain. This was because America had entered the Pacific war about 5 months earlier and were more strategically located to co-operate with Australia. In addition, the priority of Winston Churchill was to win the war in Europe. Under the request of Prime Minister John Curtin, Australian troops were also returning home from the Middle East to help defend the home front against Japan.



ACTIVITY 4: Historical sources

Different types of sources help us to understand the past. A primary source is made during the period being investigated, such as letter, artefact or original poster. A secondary source is made after the time being studied, such as a website, textbook or an academic journal.



1. Identify one secondary source in the exhibition. What is it?

Answer: Examples include the text in the exhibition written by the Museum curators, the animated videos, and the Ken Done painting.

2. Find and describe one primary source in the exhibition.

Answer: Examples include photographs and newspapers from the time period, the reproduction of the painting of USS *Chicago*, the stern section from one of the Japanese midget submarine, and the voice pipe from HMAS *Kuttabul*.

3. Explain why you think this primary source is valuable in helping us to understand the reasons for Japanese attack and the consequences for Australia.

Answer: Students' answers will depend on the source they select. Primary sources are original pieces of evidence that provide a tangible connection to the past, deeper insights into historical events, multiple perspectives from people living at the time and researching them can lead to interpretations that support or challenge existing beliefs.



ACTIVITY 5: Perspective, empathy and understanding

People have different perspectives on war. This might be influenced by factors such as nationality, lived experience or the passage of time.

Look at the photographs to see how Australia responded after the attack.



1. Describe what happened to the recovered submarines? Why do you think this was done?

Answer: The wreckage of M22 and M27 was taken on a 4,000-kilometre tour around southeastern Australia to raise money for the war effort.

2. Why do you think Australian authorities honoured the Japanese sailors with full naval honours?

Answer: The recovered Japanese sailors received full military honours by Australia. Their remains were cremated and returned to Japan where they were accorded hero status. It was hoped that this act of goodwill would mean Australian prisoners of war in Japanese captivity would receive better treatment.

3. Imagine you were living in Sydney at the time of the attack. **Write a letter to a friend about the event and how you might have felt.** Were you scared? Did you feel grief from the loss of Australian lives? Did you feel resentful because of the actions of the Japanese enemy? Or did you feel empathy towards the Japanese sailors?

Answer: Multiple answers are possible that will depend on the perspective taken by each student.



ACTIVITY 6: Reflection

Ken Done is a famous Australian artist. His paintings mark the 70th anniversary of the attack on Sydney Harbour.

Use Done's painting to inspire your own drawing about the attack. This could be from an Australian or Japanese perspective.

Answer: Drawings will depend on the perspective taken by each student. Additional inspiration can be found on Ken Done's website at <https://kendone.com.au/news.php?s=attack-japanese-midget-submarines>.

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