

Battleship *Yamato*

The *Yamato* was the largest battleship ever built. Its sinking marked the end of gunboat diplomacy and the emergence of the aircraft carrier as the primary weapon at sea. From national symbol to the vehicle for the largest kamikaze attack, the *Yamato* has held great meaning for Japanese ever since its sinking in 1945, even as its history has remained shrouded in mystery. Learn more about this mighty ship in this activity.

Questions

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1 Who took part in the search for the *Yamato*? What was the significance of locating the Imperial Crest?
- 2 When did the American fleet learn the location of the *Yamato*? How was it able to determine the *Yamato*'s exact location?
- 3 How did American forces coordinate an air assault on the *Yamato*?
- 4 Why did thousands of men drown on the *Yamato*?
- 5 Why were battleships important components of any fleet?
- 6 What steps did the Japanese take to ensure secrecy when building the *Yamato*?
- 7 What was unique about the *Yamato* compared to other battleships?
- 8 Why were U.S. battleships limited in width?
- 9 Why were hydrodynamics an issue for the *Yamato*?
- 10 What is a bulbous bow? What benefits does this shape provide?
- 11 How did Japanese victories in 1941 lead to the demise of the *Yamato*?
- 12 Why was the *Yamato* not committed to the Battle of Midway?
- 13 What were kamikaze attacks?
- 14 Why was the kamikaze strategy used during the final stages of the war?
- 15 What indicated that the *Yamato*'s final mission was a kamikaze operation?
- 16 Why did the *Yamato* finally go into battle?
- 17 Why did American bombers attack only on one side of the *Yamato*?
- 18 How do naval historians believe the *Yamato* sank?
- 19 How many crew members survived? How were they rescued?
- 20 Why did the Japanese navy refuse to announce the sinking of the *Yamato*?

