

“World War II” Scavenger Hunt (Grades 3-5)



Name: _____

Welcome to the National Museum of the United States Air Force!

This scavenger hunt will lead you through the WWII Gallery. Your journey will take you from the beginning to the end of WWII. Follow the directions and look for the clues. Answer as many questions as you can. To begin, enter the museum and walk to the end of the “Entrance Hall” and turn left. Walk through the Holocaust Exhibit and forward into the World War II Gallery.

Look at the first two aircraft, the Curtiss P-36A and the Seversky P-35. These were the types of planes stationed in Hawaii and the Philippines at the beginning of World War II.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, completely surprised American forces.

1. The Museum exhibit depicts aircraft technology used during 1941. The aircraft used by Lt. Rasmussen during the attack on that fateful morning has how many propeller driven engines?
a. One b. Two c. Four
2. The P-35 became the U.S. Army Air Corps’ first production single-seat, all-metal _____ with retractable _____ and _____.
3. Though equipped with inadequate defensive armament and underpowered, this aircraft remained the Air Corps’ primary bomber into 1941 _____?

Turn around and you should see an airplane painted with a shark face.

4. The P-40E “Warhawk” earned a reputation for the best fighter and extreme ruggedness when WWII began. How many were built over time?
a. 25,000 + b. 20,000+ c. 14,000+
5. As technology improved, the Wright R-2600 “Cyclone 14” air-cooled radial engine reached a rating of approximately how much horsepower (hp) after improvements _____?
6. The B-25 was chosen for the Doolittle Raid because it was the only aircraft available that had the required multiple applications. It required long range, bomb capacity, and _____ to successfully meet the mission.

*Continue walking through the World War II Gallery, observing many different types of aircraft from the era, including trainers, targets, cargo, bombers, and fighters. Aircraft designations that begin with the letter **P** are primarily pursuit (fighter) aircraft; **C** are cargo aircraft; **B** are bombers; **PT**, **BT** and **AT** are trainers. You will also see aircraft from other nations, including Britain, Germany, Italy and Japan.*

7. More than _____ women applied for pilot training under the Women Air force Service Pilots (WASP) program? How many were accepted _____?

To the right and above the AT-11 is the BT-13B Valiant.

8. What was so significant in technology improvements about this aircraft compared to other primary trainers at this time _____? In addition, it also required the student pilot to use two-way radio communications with the ground, and to operate _____ and a two-position variable _____.

Straight ahead is the Bristol Beaufighter (effective night fighter).

9. Beaufighter crews accounted for _____ of the *Luftwaffe* _____ shot down during the Blitz.

*Continue through the World War II Gallery while observing the different kinds of aircraft. You will soon come to the most famous of all World War II bombers, the **Boeing B-17 “Memphis Belle”**.*

10. The B-17F was best known for its bombing raids on German targets. The B-17F’s technology and design emphasized high altitude flight, speed, and _____ in order to survive enemy defenses.

Past the Memphis Belle on your left is the P-38L.

11. With technology improvements the P-38L had the ability to carry two _____ -gallon drop tanks. This increased the distance this plane could fly.
12. The AN-M26 Parachute Flares burned for about three minutes with a yellowish light of _____ candlepower to provide illumination?

Continue walking to the left and look for the French railroad car. This car is a representative of the type that transported World War II Allied prisoners of war and other deportees from occupied countries to German POW camps.

13. This railroad car was called the “Forty and eight” because it:
- was 48 feet long
 - cost \$48 to make
 - could carry 40 people or eight horses (chevaux)

Continue on through the World War II Gallery. Look for two smaller planes on your right: the Messerschmitt 163 and the Messerschmitt 262. These two aircraft look very different from those you have seen previously. Look how technology is changing in so many ways.

14. What is missing from the Me163 and the Me 262 that you have seen on all previous planes in the Museum?
 - a. wings
 - b. cockpit
 - c. large propellers
15. The Me 163 was an even faster aircraft. This German plane was one of the most unusual aircraft of World War II. It was powered by a:
 - a. jet engine
 - b. piston engine
 - c. rocket engine
16. The engine on the Me 262 is very different from earlier aircraft. This German plane is the world's first operational:
 - a. turbojet aircraft
 - b. piston aircraft
 - c. rocket aircraft

Look for the airplane labeled “Little Joe.”

17. What armament did the A-20G Havoc carry?

The A-20G lived up to its name by creating havoc and destruction on low-level strafing missions.

Continue on through the World War II Gallery. Look for the blue and white aircraft that also looks like a boat! This is the Consolidated OA-10 “Catalina”.

18. This plane was designed primarily for:
 - a. carrying cargo
 - b. air-sea rescue work
 - c. escorting heavy bombers

Turn around and look at the large silver plane near the end of the World War II Gallery. This is the Boeing B-29.

19. The B-29 on exhibit here is known as “Bockscar”. It is referred to as the aircraft that ended World War II, as it is the B-29 that dropped the second atomic bomb on:
 - a. Hiroshima
 - b. Nagasaki
 - c. Tokyo
20. The B-29 is nicknamed:
 - a. Flying Fortress
 - b. Mega fortress
 - c. Superfortress

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS EDUCATIONAL SCAVENGER HUNT. WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT MANY OF THE FASCINATING AIRCRAFT ON EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE NMUSAF!



WWII ANSWER KEY

1. a
2. Pursuit plane, landing gear, enclosed cockpit
3. The Bolo
4. c
5. Between 1700 to 1800hp
6. Short takeoff distance
7. 25,000, 1,830
8. More powerful engine, faster and heavier, landing flaps, pitch propeller
9. Over half, bombers
10. Heavy defensive armament
11. 300
12. 800,000
13. c
14. c
15. c
16. a
17. Eight .50-caliber machine guns and bombs
18. b
19. b
20. c

For Parents and Teachers

The “WWII” Scavenger Hunt meets these Learning Objectives and Ohio’s Learning Standards (OLS):

- Describe the importance of Society and Technology, and how each responsible and ethical innovation can have multiple applications while affecting self and others

OLS: Society & Technology – grades 3 – 5

3-5, ST.1. a - c.

3-5, ST.3. a - c.

- Identify and describe some technology changes, machines, requirements, and series of actions to produce results during the WWII period

OLS: Design and Technology – grades 3 – 5

3-5, DT.1. a - d.