

“World War II” Scavenger Hunt (grades 6-8)



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 Lt. Rasmussen rushing to jump into his aircraft that fateful morning, still wearing his pajamas! Which one of these first six Army Air Force fighters did he climb into to get off the ground to meet the Japanese attack?
a. P-35 b. P-36A c. P-40
2. The P-35 became the U.S. Army Air Corps’ first production single-seat, all-metal _____ with retractable _____ and _____.
3. What aircraft was developed to replace the B-10 as the U.S. Army Air Corps’ standard bomber? _____.

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

4. This plane was America’s foremost fighter at the *start* of WW II:
a. P-39 b. P-40E c. P-47
5. What was one of America’s most famous airplanes during WWII? _____.
6. What name was given to this famous raid in January of 1942?
a. Billy Mitchell Raid on Japan
b. Doolittle Raid
c. Mitscher Raid on Japan

*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.*

Look for the silver airplane with the black and white engine cowlings (behind the propellers) and the glass “nose”.

7. This plane was the most used of all training bombers. About 90% of our bombardiers trained in a plane like this one. This exhibit shows the famous **Norden** bombsight in the nose being guided by a bombardier student during a bombing run.
- a. AT-9 b. AT-10 c. AT-11

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

8. What is so significant about this aircraft?
_____. 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.

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. Best known for its bombing raids on German targets, the B-17F was nicknamed:
- a. Super fortress b. Mega fortress c. Flying Fortress

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

11. What did the top hats on the left side of the aircraft represent? The _____ flown by _____, with the yellow hat signifying five and the white hats one each.

Continue walking through the gallery 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.

12. This railroad car was called the “Forty and eight” because it:
- a. was 48 feet long
 - b. cost \$48 to make
 - c. 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.

13. 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
14. 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
15. 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.”

16. 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”.

17. This plane was used 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.

18. 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
19. The B-29 is nicknamed:
- a. Flying Fortress
 - b. Mega fortress
 - c. Superfortress

20. The P-61C Black Widow was the first U.S. aircraft specifically designed as what?
_____.

Look at the Integration of the USAF exhibit.

21. Who was the first of the Tuskegee Airmen to become a General?
_____.

22. Who became the first of the Tuskegee Airmen to attain Four-Star grade?
_____.

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!



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™

WWII ANSWER KEY

1. b
2. Pursuit plane, landing gear, enclosed cockpit
3. B-18A
4. b
5. B-25B
6. b
7. c
8. More powerful engine, faster and heavier, landing flaps pitch propeller
9. Over half, bombers
10. c
11. Nine bomber escort missions, 2nd Lt Royal D. Frey
12. c
13. c
14. c
15. a
16. eight .50-caliber machine guns and bombs
17. b
18. b
19. c
20. A night-fighter.
21. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr,
22. General Daniel James, Jr.

For Parents and Teachers

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

- Learn about the operations and missions that each aircraft was used for.
OLS: Design & Technology – grades 6 – 8
6-8.ST.1.b, 6-8.ST.2.b, 6-8.ST.3.a, 6-8.ST.3.b, 6-8.ST.3.c.
- Understand how new innovations and technology advanced aircraft development.
OLS: Design & Technology – grades 6 – 8
6-8.DT.1.d, 6-8.DT.1.e, 6-8.DT.1.f.
- Identify the design and technology adapted for each aircraft and the purpose it served for each mission.
OLS: Design & Technology – grades 6 – 8
6-8.DT.1.d, 6-8.DT.1.e, 6-8.DT.1.f.
- Use scientific knowledge to make inferences on how aircraft were designed and utilized for a specific purpose.
OLS: Science – grades 6 – 8
6.PS.4, 8.PS.1, 8.PS.2