

Lesson Two

Hiroshima---the "Liveliest" City in Japan

(Excerpt)





Objectives of Learning

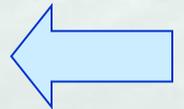
1. To learn and understand background
 2. To learn and master the vocabulary and expressions
 3. To learn to paraphrase the difficult sentences
 4. To understand the structure of the text
 5. To appreciate the language features and rhetorical devices
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- The background of the slide is a soft-focus photograph of a study desk. It shows a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages, a fountain pen with a wooden barrel, and a pair of green-rimmed glasses resting on the notebook.

一、 *Background Knowledge*

- ❖ General knowledge of Japan and its culture
- ❖ Chronicle of Events in World War II
- ❖ Atomic Bomb Explosion
 - ❧ *Why the A-bomb was dropped in Japan?*
 - ❧ *Why Hiroshima was selected as the target?*
 - ❧ *The hurried use of the first A-bomb*
 - ❧ *The effects after the bombardment*

Chronicle of Events in World War II

- ❖ Sep.1, 1939 Hitler invaded Poland. France and Britain declared war on Germany, officially beginning World War II.
- ❖ Jun.22, 1941 Germany invaded USSR.
- ❖ Dec. 7, 1941 Attack on Pearl Harbour
- ❖ Sep. 8, 1943 Italy surrendered
- ❖ May. 7, 1945 Germany surrendered
- ❖ **Aug. 6, 1945** *the first A-bomb exploded on Hiroshima*
- ❖ Aug. 8, 1945 USSR declared war on Japan and occupied Manchuria
- ❖ **Aug. 9, 1945** *the dropping of the second A-bomb on Nagasaki*
- ❖ Aug. 14, 1945 Japan announced its surrender



Why the A-bomb was dropped in Japan ?

In August 1942, the United States launched the **Manhattan Project** to produce an atomic bomb.

In September 1944, the decision was made by **U.S. President Harry S. Truman** to use the new weapon against Japan.

On July 16, 1945, the United States successfully carried out the world's first nuclear weapon test in the desert of New Mexico, a mere three weeks before the weapon was dropped on Hiroshima.

By May 1945, Germany had surrendered and the tide of the war had turned overwhelmingly in the favor of the Allied Forces.



Manhattan Project

for the official purpose of forcing the Japanese to surrender unconditionally, the United States military dropped atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and August 9, 1945 respectively, killing at least 120,000 people, about 95% of which were civilian, outright, and around twice as many over time. These were the first and only nuclear attacks in history. *Japan sent notice of its unconditional surrender to the Allies of World War II on August 15.*



Why Hiroshima was selected as the target?

- ❖ Hiroshima was a city of considerable industrial and military significance.

Some military camps were located nearby such as the headquarters of the Fifth Division and Field Marshal Hata's 2nd General Army Headquarters, which commanded the defense of all of southern Japan. Hiroshima was a major supply and logistics base for the Japanese military.

- ❖ The city was a communications center, a storage point, and an assembly area for troops.
- ❖ It was chosen as a target because it had not suffered great damage from previous bombing raids, allowing an ideal environment to measure the damage caused by the atomic bomb.

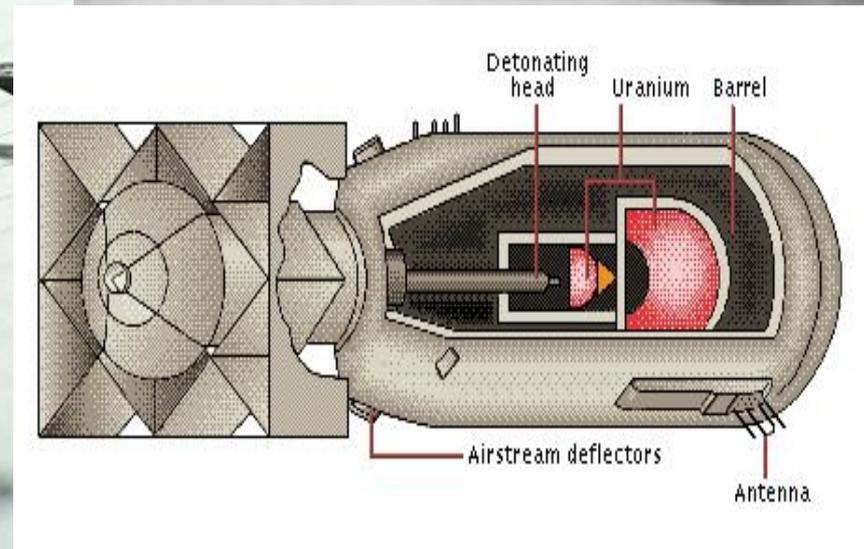


The hurried use of the first A-bomb

- ❖ Three factors probably led to the hurried dropping of the A-bombs:
- ❖ **1. The United States wanted to limit its own casualties by forcing Japan to surrender as quickly as possible.**
- ❖ **2. At the Yalta-Conference in February 1945 the Soviet Union secretly agreed to join the war against Japan within three months of Germany's surrender. The United States wanted to force Japan to surrender before the Soviet Union could enter the war to secure a stronger political position after the war.**
- ❖ **3. The U.S. wanted to use the weapon in war to measure its effectiveness.**

"Little Boy"

- ❖ "Little Boy" is the nick name given to the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on **August 6, 1945**.



"Little Boy" (left) and "Fat Man" (right)

- ❖ Just three days after the bomb was dropped to Hiroshima, the second atomic bomb called "Fat Man" was dropped to Nagasaki. Though the amount of energy generated by the bomb dropped to Nagasaki was significantly larger than that of the Little Boy, the damage given to the city was slighter than that given to Hiroshima due to the geographic structure of the city. It is estimated that approximately 70,000 people died by the end of the year because of the bombing.



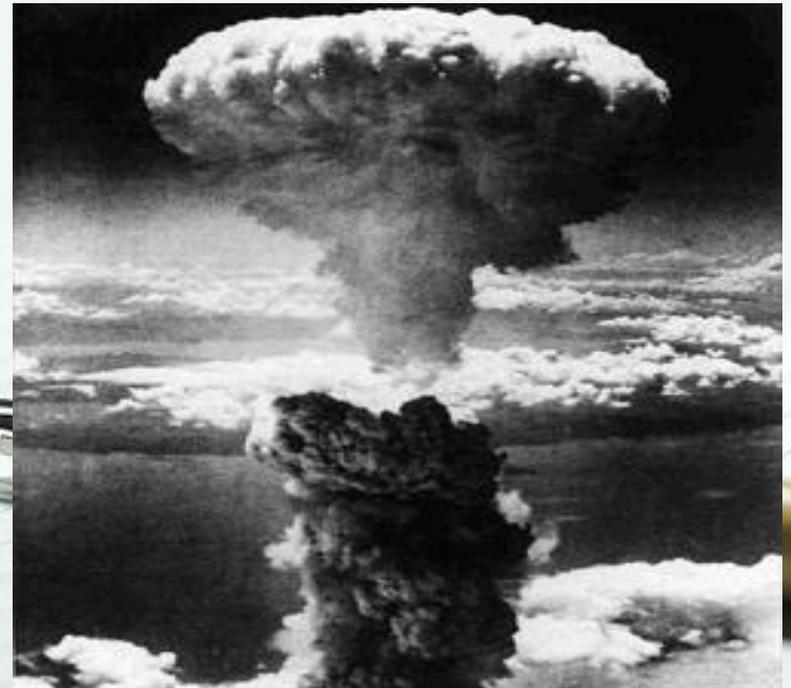
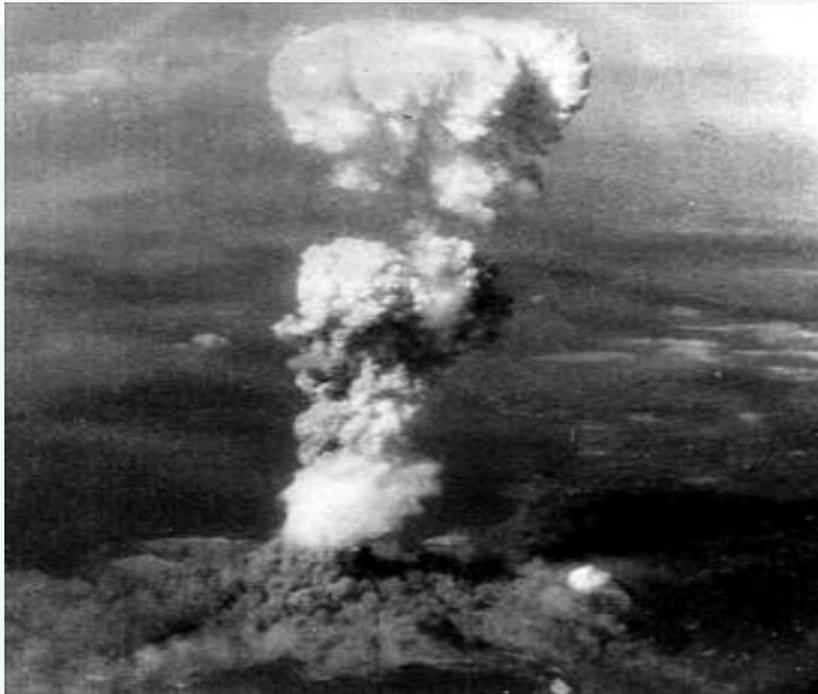
The hurried use of the first A-bomb

The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima generated a huge amount of energy when it exploded. The amount of energy generated by the bomb was equivalent to the amount of energy generated by a 15-kiloton TNT 一万五千吨炸药的威力 explosion.





Atomic Bomb Cloud over Hiroshima and Nagasaki





Panorama before and after the Bombing



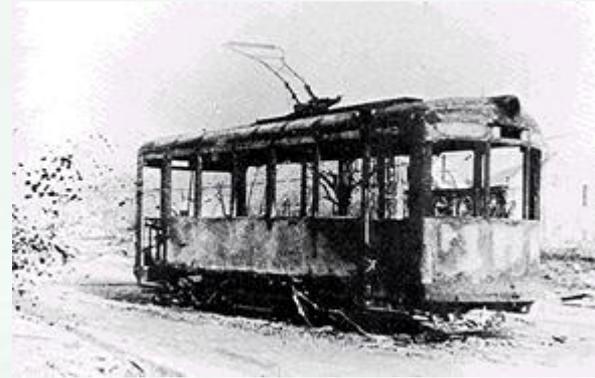


The effects after the bombing

- ❖ 1. The people who saw the Little Boy often say "We saw another sun in the sky when it exploded." **The heat and the light** generated by the Little Boy were far stronger than bombs which they had seen before. When the heat wave reached ground level it burnt all before it including people.
- ❖ 2. **The strong wind** generated by the bomb destroyed most of the houses and buildings within a 1.5 miles radius. When the wind reached the mountains, it was reflected and again hit the people in the city center. The wind generated by Little Boy caused the most serious damage to the city and people.
- ❖ 3. **The radiation** generated by the bomb caused long-term problems to those affected. Many people died within the first few months and many more in subsequent years because of radiation exposure. Some people had genetic problems which sometimes resulted in having malformed babies or being unable to have children.

A Completely Oxidized Streetcar

- ❖ This streetcar was exposed to the A-bomb and was completely burned.



A Japanese Orange

- ❖ This citrus fruit was burned by heat rays (about 2km from hypocenter).



Loss of Hair

- ❖ Japanese women are proud of their lovely, black hair. Many were reduced to a miserable state of baldness after exposure.





Melted Glass Bottles

- ❖ The heat generated by the bomb melted glass bottles.





Melted Face of the Stone Buddha

- ❖ Melted silicon particles of the stone broke a part of the Buddha's face.



Cremating Bodies

Cremating bodies.

The damage beyond this area was considerable, and over 71,000 people were killed instantly. By the end of the year approximately 140,000 were dead or missing, nearly half of the almost 350,000 residents. Tremendous numbers of unidentified corpses were piled up and cremated on the spot. The injured and irradiated continued to die. Day and night in every corner of the city, corpses are piled upon the corpses and burned.



- ❖ Survivors are still dying of leukemia (白血病), pernicious anemia (恶性贫血病), and other diseases induced by radiation.





二、Assignment

- ❖ 1. The separation of the anti-Japanese psychology of the Chinese students' with the author's repentance for the A-bomb cataclysm.
- ❖ 2. What is the type of literature?
- ❖ 3. The understanding and comprehension of the contradiction between the sorrowful mentality of the author and the humorous language of the text.

