

Words

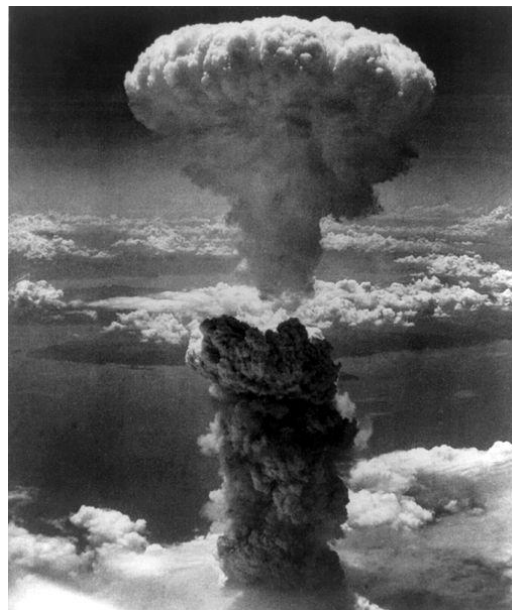
- **agree** = to say yes to something
- **amount** = how much of something
- **at once** = quickly, right now
- **attack** = to start fighting against an enemy with bombs, guns and other weapons
- **cause** = reason
- **commit suicide** = to kill yourself
- **defeat** = to win against somebody or another country
- **desert** = a large area of dry and hot land
- **destroy** = to damage completely
- **develop** = make
- **even though** = while
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **in spite of** = without being affected by ...
- **injury** = if you are hurt
- **invade** = to enter a place with soldiers and take control of it
- **possibility** = something may happen
- **radiation** = the energy that comes out of an atomic bomb ; in large amounts it is dangerous to people
- **release** = set free
- **scientist** = a person who is trained in science
- **secret** = something that is not known by a lot of people
- **soldier** = person who fights for a country in a war
- **split** = to break apart
- **square kilometre** = one kilometer long in all directions
- **surrender** = to say that you want to stop fighting because you see that you cannot win

In 1939 German born **scientist** Albert Einstein informed US president Roosevelt about the **possibility** of making a super bomb that would **cause** an explosion that nobody had ever seen before. Large **amounts** of energy could be **released** by **splitting** an atom. Einstein and other scientists were afraid that the Germans could **develop** such a bomb first. In 1942 the Americans set up the Manhattan Project, a **secret** program to make such a bomb. The first atomic bomb was tested in the New Mexican **desert** in July 1945.



Even though the United States was winning the war against Japan some generals thought that they would have to **invade** the island nation to **defeat** the Japanese. Experts thought that hundreds of thousands of American **soldiers** might die in such an **attack**.

After the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman became president. He learned about the successful test of the bomb. In July 1945 Truman warned the Japanese that the United States would **destroy** the country with a powerful bomb if they did not **surrender at once**. **In spite** of the warning Japan continued fighting.



On August 6, 1945 an American bomber called the Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The explosion killed about 70,000 to 100,000 people and **destroyed** about 13 **square kilometres** of land. Three days later a much larger bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. It killed about 40,000 people. Thousands of people died of **injuries** and **radiation** in the years that followed. On August 14, the Japanese **government agreed to surrender**. Many officers **committed suicide**. On September 2, 1945 World War II officially ended.