

# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE



A resource for Stages 5/6 in History  
By Kelly Campbell

## HANDOUT 1 – HISTORY

### Introduction

In January 2012, I was privileged to visit Japan as part of a delegation of NSW Department of Education and Communities teachers. The intention of our visit was to learn more about the country and as a result be able to teach our students from our experiences about engaging with Asian cultures.

It was my first visit to Japan, as it was for a couple of other teachers on the trip. I found Tokyo to be the vibrant city I had imagined, with hidden traditions of Japanese culture ingrained in the side alleys of the city. My impressions of Kyoto were of a more traditional Japan which I had imagined, combining both the spiritual and modern elements.

As a history teacher, I was most interested in visiting Hiroshima. I knew very little of the city itself other than the tragic events of 1945. The visit to the World Heritage Hiroshima A-Bomb dome or “Genbaku Dome”, as it is known in Hiroshima, was solemn and emotional.

In being able to visit the adjoining Hiroshima Peace Park and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, as well as hearing of the experiences from a survivor, I was astonished at the resilience of the Japanese people after having experienced such tragedy. The stoic survival of the city of Hiroshima has led me to understand, the resilience of Japan in the face of more recent natural and scientific disasters.

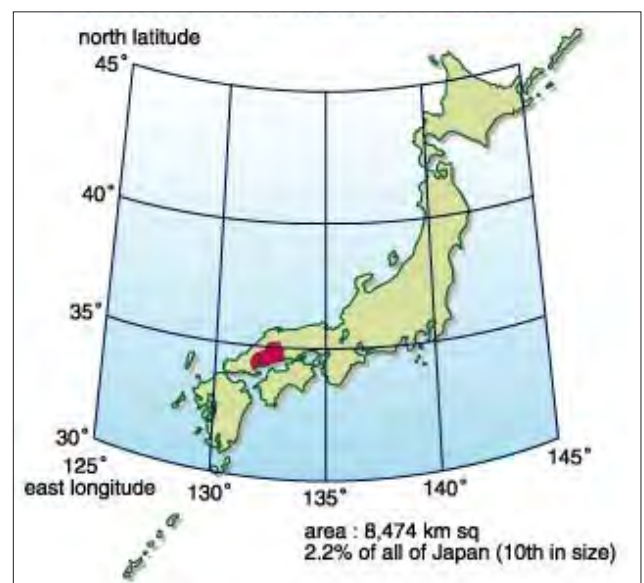
I have created this study guide to share my experiences and understanding of Hiroshima City, its people and their resilience.

### Geography of Hiroshima City

Hiroshima Prefecture faces the approximate centre of the Seto Inland Sea, in western Honshu, and stretches 130 kilometers east and west, and 120 kilometers north and south.

The total area is 8,474 km sq and covers 2.2% of the total area of Japan.

Below: Location of Hiroshima Prefecture



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<b>E</b>	Ujishima, Hashirijima-cho, Fukuyama City	133 28' east longitude	distance 129.79-
<b>W</b>	Yoshiwa-nishi, Aza, Yoshiwa-Mura, Saiki-gun	132 02' east longitude	
<b>S</b>	Yokoshima, Kurahashi-cho, Aki-gun	30 02' north latitude	distance 119.03-
<b>N</b>	Takano-cho, Hiba-gun Shinoharayama, Aza, Wanamihara, Oaza	35 06' north latitude	

Above: Location of Hiroshima Prefecture

Sources: [www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/](http://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/)  
[www.hiroshima-navi.or.jp/en/](http://www.hiroshima-navi.or.jp/en/)

## History of Hiroshima City

Hiroshima began as a castle town with building beginning in 1589, on the bay. The castle was ordered to be built by Terumoto Mori, who moved into the castle as it was close to completion in 1593. It is believed that the name of Hiroshima came from the fact that the castle was built on the largest of the islands in the bay. (Hiro – means large; Shima means island).

Hiroshima Castle is also called “Rijo” (the Castle of the Carp). This is because “Koi” in Koi-ura, the area the castle was located, is a homonym of carp in Japanese.

Below: Old Hiroshima Castle prior to the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The Mori family wasn't the only family of any power in the Hiroshima region. The Ouchi family and the Amako family were in control of the commercial traffic on Seto Island Sea and on the Sea of Japan north of Hiroshima.

After the completion of Hiroshima Castle, merchants and artisans moved into the new town. Bridges and roads were constructed and rivers running through the town were used for water transport, connecting the town with neighbouring islands. Medieval market traders also set up stalls, as well as regular markets for vegetables, fruit and other products such as straw mats, tatami mats and baskets made from bamboo. These changes transformed the Hiroshima castle region into a bustling town.

Terumoto was only lord of Hiroshima castle for ten years, until he was forced to withdraw after being defeated by the Tokugawa forces. Masanori Fukushima arrived as the new governor-general of the pre-sent Hiroshima prefecture. During his rule, Hiroshima rapidly advanced. Communities developed and a system of leadership evolved within society. This system lasted 260 years until the Meiji Restoration in 1868.

The rule of the Fukushimas lasted only 20 years. This was the result of not seeking permission to repair the castle after flood damage in 1619. Nagaakira Asano replaced the Fukushimas. The Asanos were close





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Left: Aerial view of Old Hiroshima Castle prior to the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

allies of the Tokugawa rulers. Under the rule of the Asanos, the city continued to develop and prosper. This lasted through to the Meiji Restoration in 1868, when the feudal clan was abolished and prefectures were established.

In 1872, Japan was no longer a system of old towns and villages under feudalism, as a result Hiroshima officially became a city on 1st April 1889.

Akira Miki was appointed as the first Mayor of a city of 83 387 people who resided in Hiroshima city. The Meiji Restoration allowed Hiroshima to develop as an economic and cultural hub. During this period the Meiji government also wanted to strengthen its military which led to Hiroshima becoming known as a military base.

Emperor Meiji moved the Imperial headquarters to Hiroshima castle in 1894. With many government decisions now being made from Hiroshima it almost seemed that this was the new national capital. The Sino-Japanese war and later the Russo-Japanese wars brought large-scale military operations to the city.

With the growth of Hiroshima as a military city, the Japanese army and navy launched an attack on the northern Peninsula and a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, on 7th December 1941.

In 1942, a marine headquarters was created in Ujina Bay and this included the units which were located

further along the coast of Hiroshima. Air defence force within the city was also strengthened. After the early stages of the war, the military situation gradually grew worse and mainland Japan was preparing for full scale war. Tokyo became the first headquarters and Hiroshima became the second headquarters for the military operations.

In 1944, United States forces took over the Japanese occupied Saipan. From here the U.S. established an air base in preparation for an attack on mainland Japan. By November, full scale air raids were happening and destroying Japanese cities.

With the imminent threat of attack, Hiroshima City began to evacuate many people and create easier evacuation and fire lanes by destroying non necessary buildings.

On 6th August, 1945, an atomic bomb devastated the city of Hiroshima.

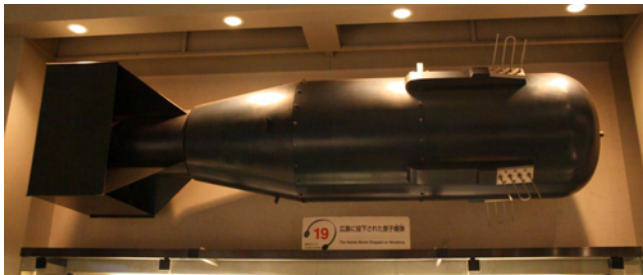
## References

- Kosakai, Y (2007) Hiroshima Peace Reader, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. pp. 5–17  
[www.hiroshima-spirit.jp/en/museum/morgue\\_e11.html](http://www.hiroshima-spirit.jp/en/museum/morgue_e11.html)  
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (January 2012)

## HANDOUT 2 – ABOUT THE ATOMIC BOMB

The United States had been investigating the atomic bomb at the beginning of World War II in 1939. It was first tested as part of the Manhattan Project on 16th July 1945. At 8:15am, 21 days later an atomic bomb was used as a weapon for the first time in history, taking around 150 000 lives, impacting upon generations of Japanese people and the world.

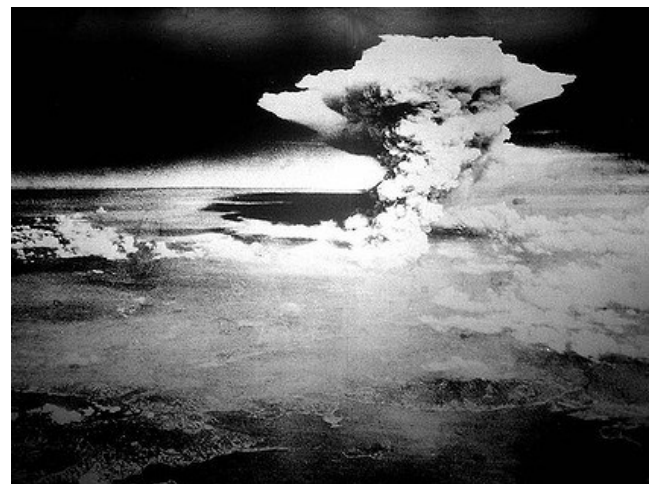
The atomic bomb uses energy released by the fission of uranium and plutonium to generate far more destructive power than any conventional explosive. The gamma rays, neutron rays and other radiation released by the explosion cause serious physical



*A model of the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima*



*Image of the U.S. plane "Enola Gay" that carried and dropped the nuclear bomb known as "Little Boy" on Hiroshima*



*The moment of impact*

damage over a period of decades.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima was approximately 3 metres long and weighed 4 tonnes. It carried about 50 kilograms of uranium, but the instantaneous fission of less than 1 kilogram released the energy equivalent of 16 000 tons of high performance explosive. About 50% of the energy was released in the form of a blast and survivors describe this as a blinding flash. 35% was in the form of heat rays and 15% in the form of radiation. The combination of these three caused horrific impact upon Hiroshima and its people. The intense heat and blast crushed and burned nearly all buildings within a 2 kilometre radius of the hypocenter.

During the morning of the impact thousands of Hiroshima's people were involved in the outdoor work which was part of the evacuation and preparation efforts to combat any potential attack. This contributed to the devastating outcomes for Hiroshima.

Reference: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (January 2012)

### Devastation of the Atomic Bomb

This source shows a 360 degree view of the city of Hiroshima a few months after the impact.

Source: [www.360cities.net/image/hiroshima-after-atomic-bomb-nuclear-1#722.82,10.47,32.2](http://www.360cities.net/image/hiroshima-after-atomic-bomb-nuclear-1#722.82,10.47,32.2)

A 360 degree image of Hiroshima in October 1945 by Shigeo Hiyashi

1. RA119-134 photo by Shigeo HAYASHI / Photographed from a watch-tower of the Hiroshima Prefectural Commerce Association / October 5, 1945 / Location: Moto-machi / Distance from hypocentre: approx. 260m

The photographer's comments:

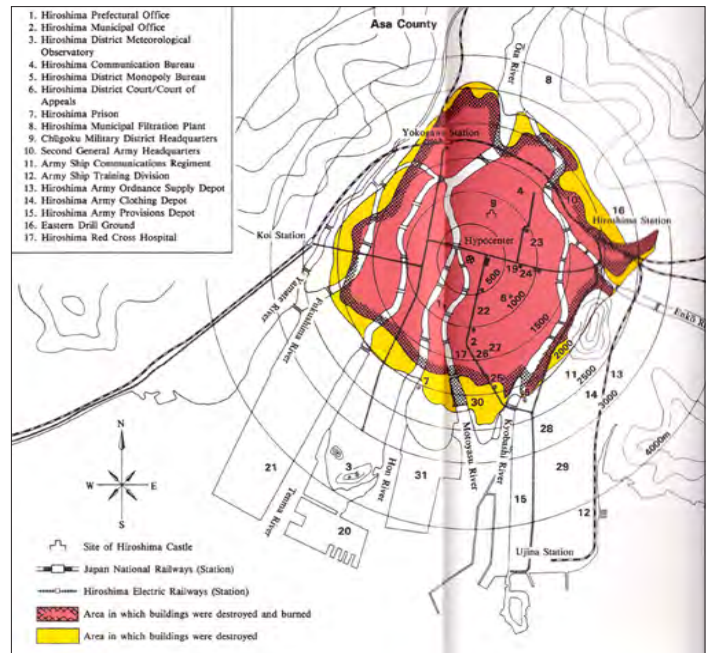


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*On October 1, 1945, I stood at the hypocentre of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and made a slow revolution. In that instant I had a difficulty grasping that this city had been felled by a single explosion. Nothing in my experience had prepared me to conceive of that magnitude of destructive force.*

*Working as an army engineer for three years, I had dealt with explosive materials on a daily basis, and I thought I knew their power. Standing there, I simply could not accept at an emotional level that a single bomb had done all this.*

(taken from Shigeo Hayashi's "Approaching Ground Zero" in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the Atomic Bombings as Seen through Photographs and Artwork, Nihontoshō Center.)

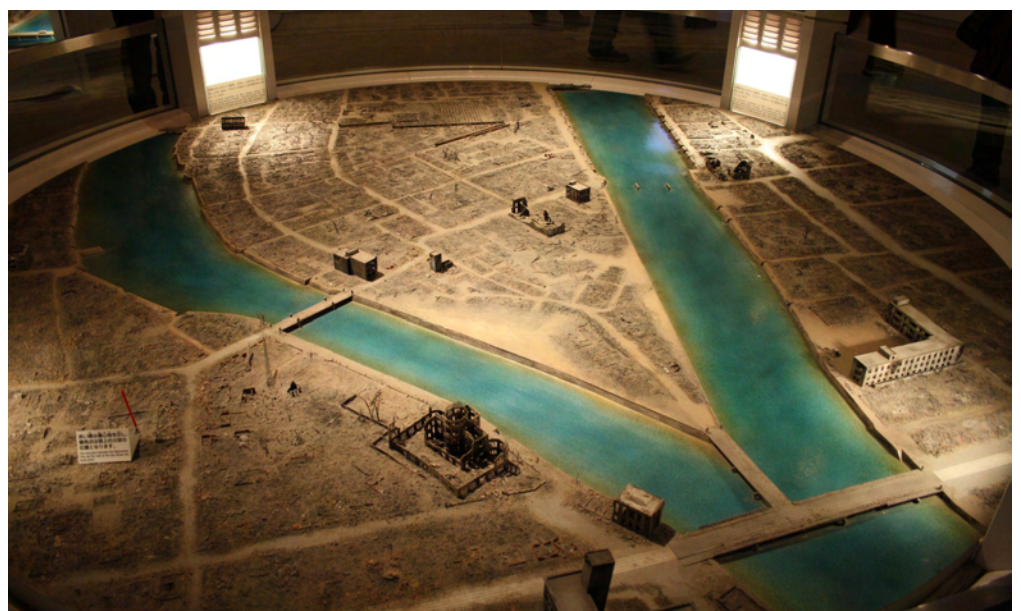


Above: map of the degree of damage from the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima



Left: A model in the Hiroshima Peace Museum showing the city prior to the devastation of the Atomic bomb.

Right: A model in the Hiroshima Peace Museum showing the city after the devastation of the Atomic bomb.





## HANDOUT 3 – STORIES OF SURVIVORS

### Miyako Shinohara – prenatal atomic-radiation victim



*Miyako Shinohara's speech to NSW Department of Education and Communities Teachers during Japan 2012 Teacher Education Visitation.*

Miyako Shinohara was not yet born when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Her mother was one and a half kilometres from the explosion centre pregnant with Miyako. Her mother and grandmother had fled from Hiroshima to Tokyo fearing further attacks on the city. On 2nd October, 1945, she was born in Tokyo.

As a child she was told stories of the bombing by both her grandmother and mother who were in good health. Two years later her family moved back to Hiroshima. She started to show symptoms of purpura (one of a number of afflictions survivors of the atomic bomb suffered). At school, other students noticed her gums bleeding and the red spots which had formed on her arms and legs. When diagnosed with this disease, she blamed her mother for her condition over the grief of dealing with its symptoms.

Living with this condition became manageable for Miyako, until she reached adulthood. She dreamed of marrying and having children, however was worried about whether her disease would be passed onto her future children. She also was a victim of discrimination which impacted upon many victims of the atomic bombing.

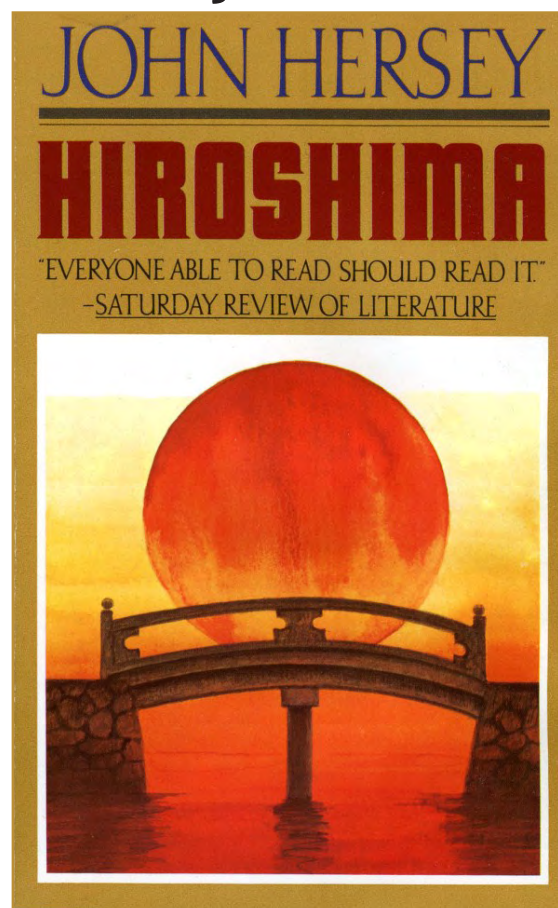
In 1974, after much opposition she was able to marry a man who was willing to support and love her regardless of her purpura. Two years later, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Years later she gave birth to two more healthy children.

*In my youth, I had been unwilling to see or hear anything about the atomic bombing. As a mother, however, I realized that we must not turn away from the facts. One day, though it required courage, I took my children to the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima. Seeing the displays there strengthened my conviction that we must never allow war to happen again. To this end, mothers must take the firmest possible stand in the name of peace and the protection of their children.*

Miyako Shinohara

Shinohara, M. (1986) *In the Name of Peace* cited in Wiesner, M. et al. *Discovering the Global Past: A look at the evidence*. Second Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston.

### Further reading of survivor stories



*Hiroshima* Hersey, J (1946, original print).  
Vintage Books. New York

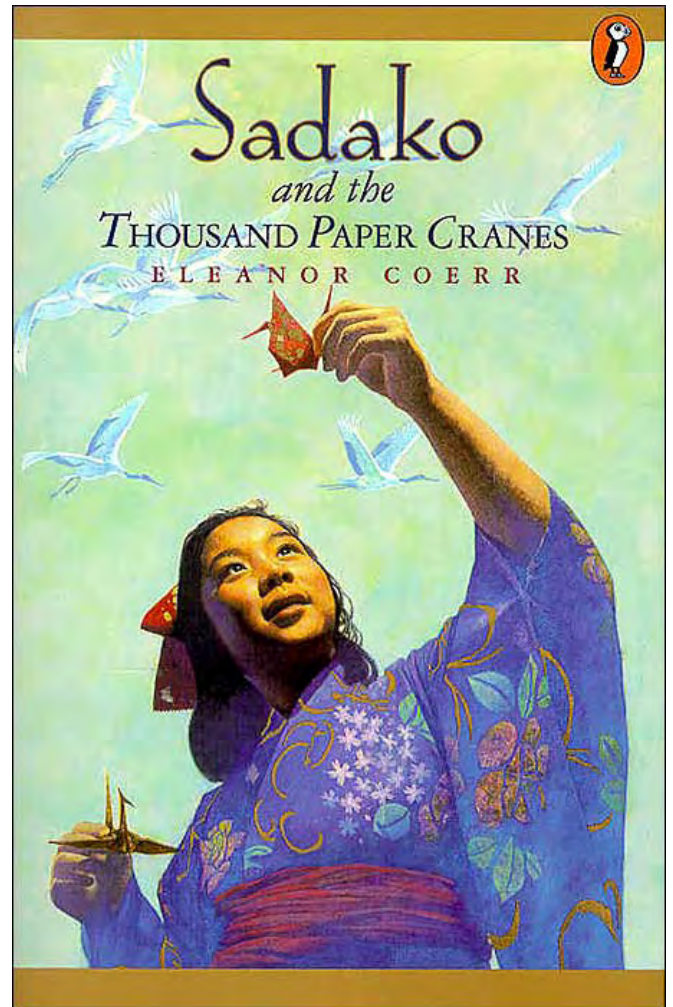
This book tells the story of six survivors of the horrific events after the atomic bomb hit Hiroshima. The 1985 edition revisits these survivors 40 years later and the impacts being a survivor has had on their lives.



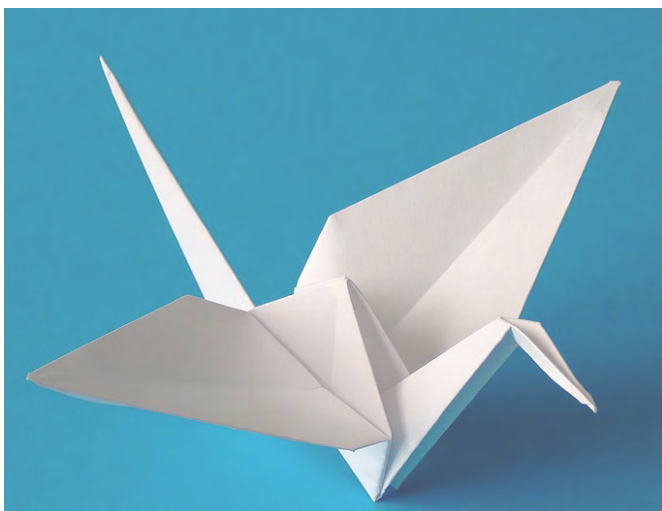
# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE

*Sadako and the thousand paper cranes*  
by Eleanor Coerr.

The true story of Sadako is a tragic reminder of the impacts the atomic bomb had on survivors. Sadako fell ill with leukemia 10 years after the bomb. In ancient Japanese culture it is believed if you fold 1000 paper cranes your wish will be granted, Sadako aimed to achieve this wish. Sadako is now a symbolic reminder of the need for peace, with a statue of the young girl in Hiroshima Peace Park holding a giant golden crane.



Above: Paper cranes Hiroshima



Top left: Sadako's memorial, Hiroshima

Left: A folded paper crane

## HANDOUT 4 – CENTRE FOR PEACE: HIROSHIMA PEACE MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL PARK

The Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park has become a symbolic re-minder of the events of August 6, 1945. Since 1947, the people of Hiroshima have convened to hold a Peace Festival to emphasize their commitment to Peace. Every year a declaration of Peace has been read by the Mayor of Hiroshima.

“The first Peace Declaration read by Mayor Shinzo Hamai included the following:

‘This horrible weapon brought about a ‘Revolution of Thought,’ which has convinced us of the necessity and the value of lasting peace. That is to say, because of the atomic bomb, the people of the world have become more aware that a global war in which atomic energy would be used would lead to the end of our civilization and extinction of mankind. This revolution in thinking ought to be the basis for an absolute peace, and give rise to a new life and a new world.

What we have to do at this moment is to strive with all our might towards peace, becoming forerunners of a new civilization.

Let us join together to sweep from this earth the horror of war, and to build a true peace.

Let us join in renouncing war eternally, and build a plan for world peace on this earth.

Under this tower of peace, we hereby make a declaration of peace.’

All the cries against war and all the genuine searching for peace welling up from deep in the hearts of the people of Hiroshima took form in this document, the Peace Declaration.

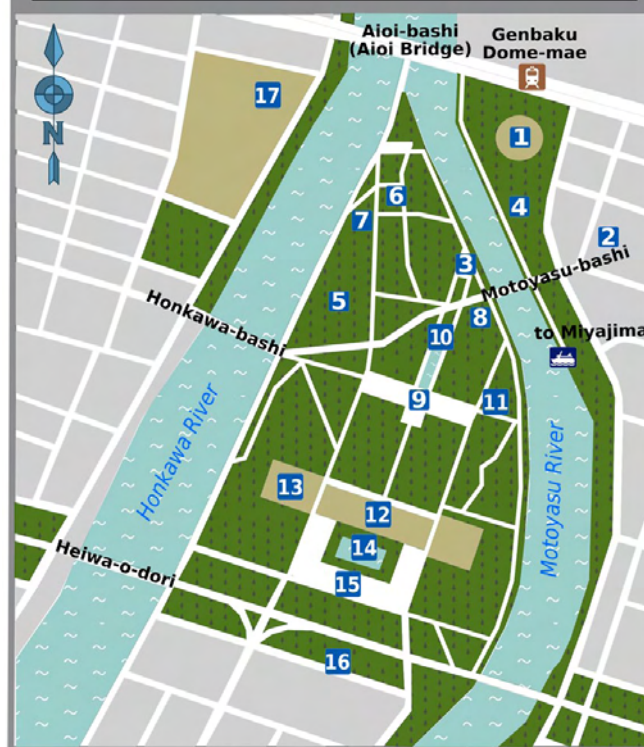
The Peace Declaration has since been delivered by the mayor of Hiroshima every year at the Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, but its content has changed with the times”.

Source: [www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/declaration/English/about.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/declaration/English/about.html)

The Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park is located between the Motoyasu River and the Hon River. The area was the business centre of the city from the early days as a Castle town until the 1920s. After

### Peace Memorial Park

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A-Bomb Dome  | 9. Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims                  |
| 2. Hypocenter   | 10. Flame of Peace                                  |
| 3. Children's Peace Monument                              | 11. Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims |
| 4. Memorial Tower to the Mobilized Students               | 12. Peace Memorial Museum                           |
| 5. Monument in Memory of the Korean Victims of the A-Bomb | 13. International Conference Center                 |
| 6. Peace Bell   | 14. Fountain of Prayer                              |
| 7. Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound                             | 15. Statue of Mother and Child in the Storm         |
| 8. Rest House (formerly Taishoya Kimono Shop)             | 16. Gates of Peace                                  |
|   | 17. Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum          |



Source: Wikimedia Commons. – [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Hiroshima\\_Peace\\_Memorial\\_Park.png](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Hiroshima_Peace_Memorial_Park.png)

the main business area of the city was relocated to the eastern part of the city, there were still many reminders of the vibrant city it was in the early days. After the bombing, a survey found there had been 710 shops and 1000 houses in the precinct. Many had evacuated the region after early warnings and those that were victim were assisting in further evacuation orders such as demolishing buildings.

The region began to house survivors as early as October, 1945, however conditions were so bad that



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they were on the verge of starvation. By November, the same year a committee had been formed to plan for the city's reconstruction.

Mayor Shinzo Hamai, in 1949 declared the reconstruction of the "Hiroshima Peace Memorial City". The Peace Memorial Park and other facilities were constructed under this law. An area of 122,100 sq metres, was allocated including the area where the Atomic Dome stands. Design submissions were taken for the park to include an area that evoked a peaceful environment. A number of monuments have been built around the park over the years to promote and remember the victims of the bombing.

Source: [www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index\\_e2.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index_e2.html)  
This website is a valuable resource in learning more about both the Peace Park and Museum. It also has a virtual gallery, which is useful in being able to share the experiences of the Museum around the world.



Right: This plaque is located at the left of the cenotaph and appears to be floating in the pond surrounding the cenotaph.

## The Hiroshima Peace Bell

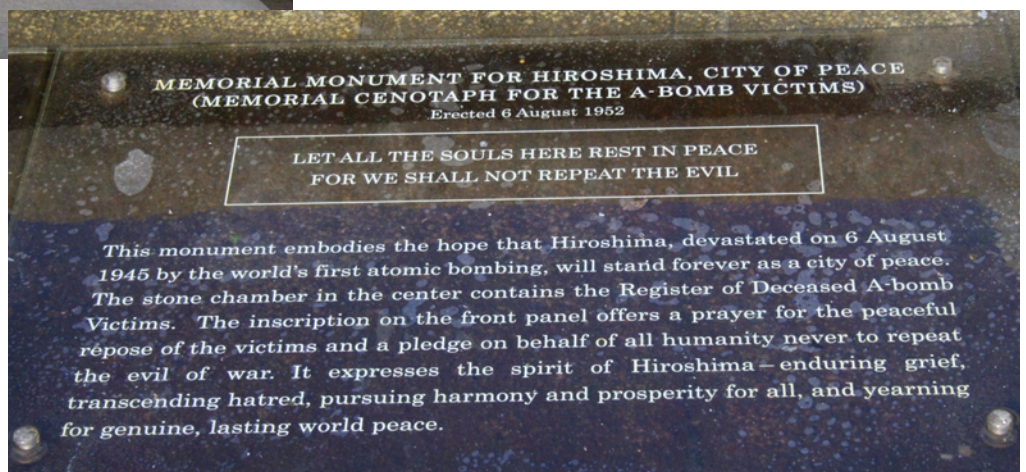
The ceremony for the first striking of the Peace bell took place in September, 1964. A world map with no international boundaries symbolising "One World" is engraved on the surface of the bell.

Visitors to the park are able to toll the bell freely.



## Cenotaph for the A-bomb victims

This was officially unveiled in 1952. It contains a stone chest housing a register of the those known to have died of exposure to the bombing. As of 6 August, 2006, it contained 89 volumes of names —247,787 victims were registered and one volume listing "many unknown".





# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE



## Flame of Peace

The Flame of Peace is located behind the cenotaph and at the northern end of the pond of peace. This symbolises the universal desire for a world free from nuclear weapons, the flame will burn until the day when all such weapons have disappeared from the earth. The flame lies in a direct line between the cenotaph and the A-bomb dome.

## Children's Peace Monument

The Children's Peace Monument is also called the "Tower of a Thousand Cranes" – Many thousands of folded paper cranes are offered there all year. This monument was created after 1955, when Sadako Sasaki died of A-bomb disease. It brought more understanding about the horrors of A-bomb disease. Her classmates decided to erect a monument to comfort Sadako's soul and express their desire for peace. It was unveiled on Children's Day, May 5th 1958.



Left: Children's Peace Monument



Above: Paper crane offering garlands at the monument

Left: The bell with a golden crane



# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE



## Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound

At 8:15 on the morning of August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb in human history was dropped on Hiroshima. Here are laid the ashes of tens of thousands of its victims.

Being close to the hypocenter, numerous corpses were collected at this spot and cremated.

The Hiroshima Memorial Service Association was established in January, 1946. With donations collected from citizens, a temporary monument was built in May, and a temporary cinerarium and chapel were built in July of the same year. In July 1955, as a part of the tenth anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb, the present memorial mound was constructed with an underground cinerarium through the leadership of the City of Hiroshima. The ashes of victims excavated around the city were placed here.

Each year around August 6, memorial services are conducted by the Hiroshima Memorial Service Association, in addition to the Hiroshima Inter-Faith League and other religious groups.

Hiroshima Memorial Service Association

## Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound

This mound is modelled after the imperial mausoleum of the Momoyama Era. Inside the mound are the ashes of approximately 70,000 victims of the Atomic bombing. Most of these are unidentified. When identified they are handed over to their relatives. The area where the mound is located was where countless dead bodies were carried and was near the centre of the bombing. The bodies were cremated by rescue squads and the ashes were gathered together on this site.





# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE

## The Monument in Memory of the Korean Victims of A-bomb

It was originally erected outside the Memorial Peace Park. The monument was moved to near the Aioi Bridge where Prince Lee-Woo died. He was the nephew of the last Korean Crown Prince. It is believed that between 30 000 – 40 000 Korean people were in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing and were exposed to the blast.



Above: The Monument in Memory of the Korean Victims of A-bomb

Left: Memorial Tower to the Mobilised Students



## Memorial Tower to the Mobilised Students

It is located in the park south of the A-bomb dome. Over 10 000 students, including A-bomb victims died in bombings during the Pacific War after being mobilised to increase factory production and demolish buildings. The tower was built to console the souls of these victims. On each side of the tower there are plaques showing images of: workers to increase food production, girl students sewing, factory work and lanterns floating in the river. In 1944, the Government mobilised 8 387 students in elementary, middle, girls high schools, and vocational schools. Of these students, 6 907 died in the bombing.

## The A-bomb Dome

This site famously signifies the impact of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. It is the ruins of the former Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. It is to be preserved as an appeal for world peace and as a witness to the horror of nuclear weapons. It is believed 30 people died in the building. The building was right under the hypocentre, was demolished and burned, and what remains is the central framework. In 1966, a resolution was passed by Hiroshima City to preserve the ruins. In December, 1996, the decision to register the Atomic Bomb Dome on the World Heritage List was made. It's registered name "Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)" and took place two days later. The same day Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island near Hiroshima was also registered on the World Heritage List.



# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE

(被爆前の広島県産業奨励館)

## The Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall

(Approx. 160 meters from the hypocenter)

This building was completed in April of 1915 under the design and supervision of Czech architect Jan Letzel, capturing the fancy of the citizens of Hiroshima with its characteristic green dome. The atomic bomb exploded at an altitude of 580 meters approximately 160 meters southeast of the Industrial Promotion Hall, instantly killing everyone inside the building which was seriously damaged and completely burned out. In December 1996 this structure was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List as a reminder to the entire world of the horrors of the atomic bomb and a symbol of global peace.

(Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall before the atomic bombing)

Above: This plaque is located opposite the A-bomb Dome

## World Heritage Listed Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)





# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE

## Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The museum was reopened in 1994, with further additions on its current site. It's main theme is to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons and to bring about the realisation of lasting peace. It is a collection of remnants of the day including eyewitness accounts and physical items which had been subjected to the impacts of the intense rays and were able to share the intensity of the impacts of the a-bomb.



A watch showing the moment time stood still in Hiroshima





# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE



**Tricycle and metal helmet**  
 Donated by Nobuo Tetsutani  
 1,500 m from the hypocenter, Higashi-hakushima-cho

Shinichi Tetsutani (then 3 years and 11 months) loved to ride this tricycle. That morning, he was riding in front of his house when, in a sudden flash, he and his tricycle were badly burned. He died that night. His father felt he was too young to be buried in a lonely grave away from home, and thinking he could still play with the tricycle, he buried Shinichi with the tricycle in the backyard.

In the summer of 1985, forty years later, his father dug up Shinichi's remains and transferred them to the family grave.

This tricycle and helmet, after sleeping for 40 years in the backyard with Shinichi, were donated to the Peace Memorial Museum.

Above: Model of the world showing countries that are suspected or known of having nuclear weapons.

Above left: Remnants of a child's bicycle and metal helmet after the a-bomb

**HIROSHIMA PEACE SITE**  
 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum WebSite

Search by key words

Museum Hours  
 Transportation guide  
 Search by topic  
 OUTLINE  
 VIRTUAL MUSEUM  
 Museum Guide  
 Guide to Peace Memorial Park  
 Main Building  
 East Building  
 Special Exhibitions  
 PEACE STATION  
 Animation  
 Sadako Story 21

**TOPICS** 2012.4.1 **Information**

[The Peace Declaration](#)  
[The Peace Declaration in English](#)

[Let's search the Peace Database in English!](#)

[Please check your email address!](#)  
 We recently received emails from students requesting information for their projects. Unfortunately some of

Special Exhibition of Hiroshima 1945 - A-bomb Damaged

Further reading on the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum  
 Source: [www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index\\_e2.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index_e2.html)

This website is a valuable resource in learning more about both the Peace Park and Museum. It also has a virtual gallery, which is useful in being able to share the experiences of the Museum around the world.

Right: Flyers from the Pacific War





## HANDOUT 5 – SIGNIFICANT NEIGHBOURING SITES OF PEACE



### Itsukushima Shinto Shrine

The shrine on Miyajima Island was World Heritage Listed on the same day as the A-bomb Dome in 1996 by UNESCO. The area is 431.2 hectares and includes the building of Itsukushima Shrine, the sea to the front, and the Mt. Misen Primeval Forest (National Treasure) to the rear. This area covers approximately 14% of Miyajima Island. The shrine is dedicated to three Munakata Goddesses, Ichiki-shima-hime, Tagitsu-hime and Tagori-hime. These three goddesses are worshipped as gods of sea, traffic safety, fortune, and accomplishment. The shrine is known for its unique structure, which displays artistic beauty of the Shinden style of architecture. First built in 593, it was remodelled into the present grand structure by a powerful figure, Tairano-Kiyomori in 1168. About 200 metres in front of the main shrine and standing in the sea is the vermillion coloured O-Torii (Grand Gate) which is the most noted symbol of Miyajima.

Below: O-Torii (Grand Gate)









## HANDOUT 6 – JAPANESE CULTURE OF RESILIENCE

The Japanese people have had a long history of being capable of enduring tragedy and being able to display an enduring spirit. The rise from the horrors of Hiroshima saw the city rebuilding with a different agenda—with the aim of peace.

The bombing of Nagasaki saw the end of World War II, only three days after Hiroshima's bombing. The Japanese had surrendered and in doing so the civilian population had to re-build their way of life.

More recently the world has seen the Japanese resilient nature in light of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and subsequent Tsunami. The tragedy saw thousands dead, injured and displaced from their homes. The nuclear power plant issues have since plagued Japan and caused further damage to the economy, as well as, tourism and power shortages.

In spite of this the enduring spirit of the people can be seen in their preparedness for disaster. In a country that can be rocked by on average 1500 earthquakes per year, the early warning systems in place for both Tsunami (Japanese for harbour wave) and Earthquakes proved effective in warning many Japanese people in March, 2011.

The Japanese people also have a strong sense of spirituality and link this into their everyday living. The ancient way of the Samurai—Bushido, refers to the values of loyalty, justice, self-sacrifice, sincerity, compassion, courtesy and honour which many Japanese people still value in their everyday lives. This ordered way of living has assisted in the peoples' re-establishment of Japan after disasters.

The way in which Japan has been able to renew itself after such tragedies displayed a sense of order and structure uncommon elsewhere. "In the wake of the disaster, there has been no looting, no rioting. Even as people hoping for food, water, and fuel wait in kilometre-long lines in freezing weather, sometimes without success, tempers have not flared". (Beech/Akaushi; 2011).

### A History of Japanese Pain. Tragedies both natural and man-made



**19th century The Great Wave**  
*Hokusai's iconic woodblock print reflects the Japanese cultural awareness of menacing tsunamis*



**1923 Great Kanto Earthquake**  
*Striking at lunchtime, the 7.9-magnitude quake leveled much of Tokyo and killed more than 100,000*



**1942-45 Firebombing of Tokyo**  
*Less well known than attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, U.S. raids on Tokyo killed over 100,000 in 1945 alone*



**1995 Kobe earthquake**  
*This quake, which killed about 6,000, caused more than \$100 billion in damage during Japan's lost decade*



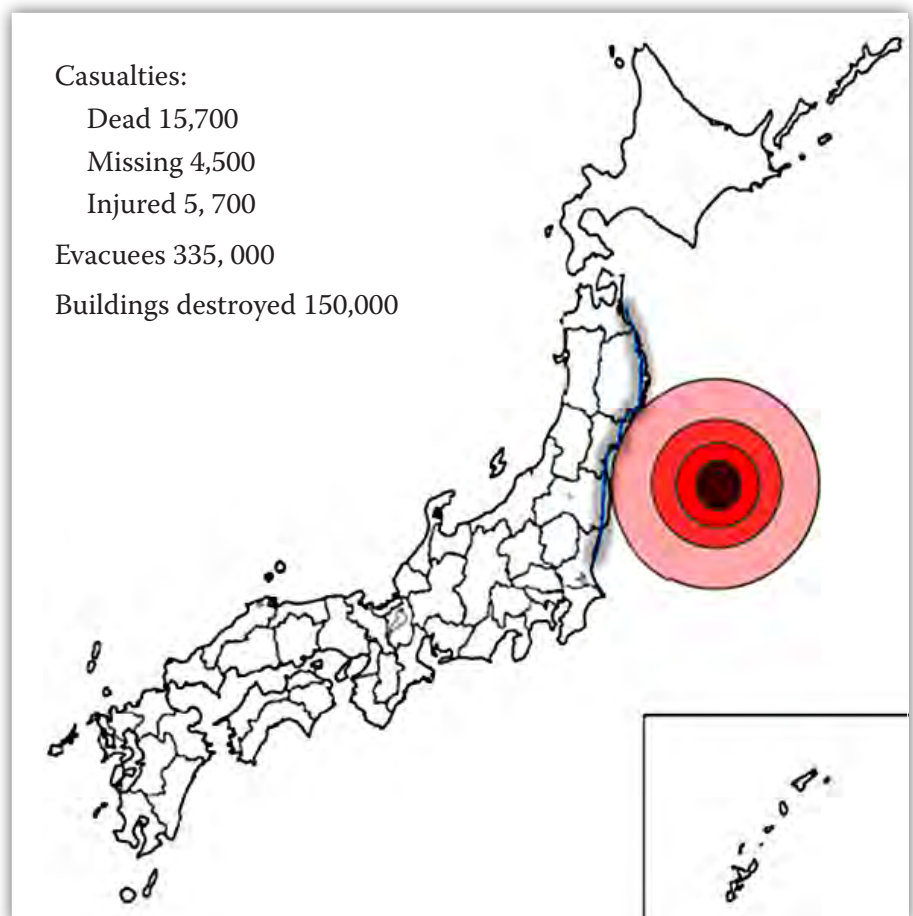
# HIROSHIMA CITY: A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE RESILIENCE



Above: Japanese Tsunami of 11 March 2011. Source: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)

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Above: Map showing the epicentre of japan earthquake of 11 march 2011