End of WWII and the Atomic Bomb
The Manhattan Project:

- Secret program to design the bomb
- Program led by Dr. Oppenheimer
- 600,000 Americans were involved with the program, few knew its purpose
- Truman didn’t know its purpose till he became president
- Tested July 1945 in New Mexico
  - Flash could be seen 180 miles away
United streaming video clip:

- Profiles of Courage, Controversy, and Sacrifice: World War II: The Atomic Bomb: The End or the ...
- Watch the first 10min 35 seconds
To bomb or not to bomb activity
The Potsdam Conference

- Meeting between Truman, Roosevelt and Stalin to discuss the affairs of post war Europe.
- When the Potsdam Conference opened, the news of the successful testing of an atomic bomb at Trinity Site, New Mexico, reached President Truman. The atomic bomb was now a reality. President Truman's first action was to call together his chief advisors for their opinion on whether the bomb should be used. The consensus was that it would help bring about an early end to the war with Japan, and would be dropped on the city of Hiroshima.
Enola Gay and Little Boy

- *Little Boy* was the first nuclear weapon used in warfare. It exploded approximately 1,800 feet over Hiroshima, Japan, on the morning of August 6, 1945, with a force equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. Immediate deaths were between 70,000 to 130,000.

- *Little Boy* was dropped from a B-29 bomber piloted by U.S. Army Air Force Col. Paul W. Tibbets. Tibbets had named the plane *Enola Gay* after his mother the night before the atomic attack.
Little Boy

After being released, it took about a minute for Little Boy to reach the point of explosion. Little Boy exploded at approximately 8:15 a.m. (Japan Standard Time) when it reached an altitude of 2,000 ft above the building that is today called the "A-Bomb Dome."
Results of Little Boy: Hiroshima

Although the bomb Little Boy was ready for use on August 2, 1945, bad weather delayed dropping it over Japan. At 8:15 on the morning of August 6, 1945, a large portion of the city of Hiroshima was destroyed when Little Boy was dropped. Of a population of 256,000, more than 80,000 people died immediately. Approximately half of the city had been levelled.
Hiroshima- A Survivor’s Story

Four years after arriving in Japan, only 15-year-old Mitsuo and his mother still live in Hiroshima. His eldest brother, Toshio, is in the Japanese merchant marines.

It's a bright, clear day. Mitsuo leaves his house around 7:30 a.m. and walks to work. He gets there about 8 a.m. He and his friends gather outside, waiting for their supervisor to give today's pep talk.

Mitsuo's mother leaves for work. Every day, she takes the same streetcar. But today she realizes she has forgotten some papers. She runs back into the house to get them. Mitsuo's mother misses her usual streetcar, and has to wait for the next one.

It's nearly 8:15 a.m. American B-29 bombers appear overhead. The sirens wail, but Mitsuo and his co-workers ignore them, as usual. The planes are headed in the direction of Tokyo. Then, for the first time ever, Mitsuo sees the planes reappear over Hiroshima. They're in position now. Looking in the sky, Mitsuo sees an object. In the instant it takes for the bomb to drop, he feels no fear, only curiosity about this thing that glistens in the sun.
Mitsuo watches the object fall behind a mountain, Mount Hiji. The exact spot where the bomb explodes is called "ground zero." Mitsuo is about two miles away, with the mountain in between. At the moment of explosion, he sees a blinding flash of light. Then the shock wave hits. Mitsuo is blown several feet into the air and knocked briefly unconscious. He awakens to see a giant mushroom cloud rising into the air. Mitsuo is a witness to the first atomic bombing in history. And Mount Hiji, which shields him from the radiation, will help him live to tell about it.

Mitsuo's mother is outside when the bomb explodes. She is about three miles from ground zero. She is not injured except for a burn on her neck. In another 20 years, cancer will develop in that spot, and she'll die from it in 1969. Still, Mitsuo's mother is luckier than the people on the street car that she missed. They all die in the blast.
Hiroshima

- There were estimated 260,000 civilians and 40,000 soldiers in the city.
- Around 80,000 people were believed to have been killed at 8:16 am.
- Tens of thousands more died over the next few weeks. They called it “bomb sickness.”
- Huge number of people were made homeless, destruction of 60,000 buildings.
Nagasaki: Another bomb

- The U.S. urged Japan to surrender
- August 9, “Fat Man”, a plutonium bomb, was dropped on Nagasaki
- Estimated that 40,000 people were killed right away and eventually 77,000 died.
Japan Surrenders

- Early 1945 the Political Leaders of Japan knew the war was lost, but they were unable to challenge the military leaders.
- Allies demanded unconditional surrender
- August 9, U.S. dropped the second bomb on Nagasaki and Soviet Union (Russia) declared war on Japan
- Hirohito (emperor of Japan) surrendered September 2, 1945 aboard the U.S. battleship Missouri
Occupied Japan

- September 1945, Japan was occupied by American Forces. General Douglas MacArthur became effectively the ruler of Japan
- Democracy was promoted and the country rebuilt
- America helped to build up their economy, eventually became a leading industrial country
Profiles of Courage, Controversy, and Sacrifice: World War II: The Atomic Bomb: The End or the ...

Finish video clip – 10 min 35 second – 24 min