Day of Infamy Speech

Pop-Up Facts

1) December 7th, 1941 was a peaceful Sunday morning in Hawaii.

2) ...making conditions nearly perfect for a surprise aerial attack.

3) “Infamy” is a noun meaning the state of being well known for a bad quality, deed, or action.

4) Japan sent over 60 ships to attack Pearl Harbor.

5) Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in two massive waves with more than 350 planes.

6) The United States and Japan had been at peace for 87 years before WWII.

7) Emperor Hirohito had served since 1926, almost 15 years.

8) The U.S. had expected the Philippines to be attacked first in the Pacific.

9) The attack occurred at 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian Time, 2:18 p.m. in Washington.

10) The entire attack lasted 2 hours, ending at 9:55 a.m.

11) Just 29 of the more than 350 Japanese planes were shot down in defense.

12) Kichisaburō Nomura was the Japanese ambassador to the U.S.

13) Cordell Hull served as the American Secretary of State.

14) The U.S. had been part of tense Japanese/Chinese conflicts and negotiations prior.

15) Japan and the U.S. had been negotiating for peace in the Pacific for four months.

16) Japan is approximately 3,923 miles away from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
17) The Japanese Fleet left on November 26th to launch planes north of Oahu, Hawaii.

18) The Japanese Emperor approved plans for the attack on November 5th.

19) The “Hull Note” was the last peace proposal, but it arrived after Japanese forces had departed.

20) Hawaii became a state on August 21st, 1959.

21) The attack left all 8 battleships damaged, 4 of which sunk, and destroyed 188 planes.

22) The U.S. lost 2,403 soldiers and 68 civilians. 1,215 others were wounded.

23) Malaya was formerly a British territory and now has a population of 31 million.

24) It is located east of India and was a large exporter of tin and rubber.

25) Guam is a small U.S. territory in the Western Pacific, with about 161 thousand people.

26) It runs on tourism and is used by the U.S. Armed Forces.

27) The Philippines was formerly a U.S. territory south of Japan.

28) It now has a population over 100 million and its primary industry is electronics assembly.

29) The Pacific Ocean is the world’s largest ocean, covering over 63 million square miles.

30) The U.S. population was about 133 million in 1941—it is now over 324 million.

31) “Remember Pearl Harbor” was a rallying call in the U.S. throughout WWII.

32) Article 2, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution declares the President as the Commander-in-Chief.
33) The United States Air Force was established September 18th, 1947.

34) Pearl Harbor is remembered today through the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri Museum.


36) “Absolutely victory” in war terms called for the unconditional surrender of Japan.

37) The U.S. Congress consists of 535 members: 100 senators and 435 representatives.

38) Germany declared war on U.S. on December 11th, prompting military action in Europe as well.

39) Wake Island was overtaken by Japanese forces in the Pacific by December 23rd.

40) The U.S. Homefront war effort nearly doubled the country’s industrial production.

41) Although the President is Commander-in-Chief, Congress reserves the power to declare war.

42) The Congress delivered a declaration of war within an hour—with only one dissenting vote.