

EXPERIENCE



YOUR NATIONAL PARK

The Silent Guns

Created by Cassandra Reyes, M.U. Lujan Elementary School

Directions: Piti Guns is a historical site protected by the War in the Pacific National Historical Park. As you go along the trail, use the signs along the path to answer the questions. Use the word box to answer the following questions.

Word Box

patrol ships	not never	camouflaged landing	forced Chamorros	Asan mahogany
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Piti Guns Trail

1. The Piti Guns trail has three large Japanese coastal defense guns. The third gun overlooks the historic _____ landing beach.
2. The trail passes a _____ forest non-native trees planted in the 1920s.
3. The hike is like a jungle _____: the steep terrain and dense tropical vegetation are typical of the obstacles U.S. troops encountered.

Coastal Defense Gun

4. The Piti Guns were _____ operational in July 1944.
5. With a range of 17,000 meters (10.6 miles) the guns were mounted on high ground and used primarily against _____ and _____ craft.

Silent Guns

6. When the American assaults began, the guns were not ready. Therefore, the guns were _____ fired.
7. Using tree trunks for rollers, _____ were forced to haul the guns up the steep slope.
8. _____ labor was one of the many hardships native islanders experienced during the war.
9. When the guns were discovered, weeks after the battle, they were found _____ with palm leaves and brush.

Short Answer

10. The Japanese guns were to be used as defense against the U.S. troops during WWII. After experiencing the hike and learning about the forced labor, the position of the guns, and the fact that they were never fired, how does it make you feel? Why?

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The Silent Guns Answer Sheet

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Piti Guns Trail

1. The Piti Guns trail has three large Japanese coastal defense guns. The third gun over looks the historic Asan landing beach.
2. The trail passes a mahogany forest- non-native trees planted in the 1920s.
3. The hike is like a jungle patrol: the steep terrain and dense tropical vegetation are typical of the obstacles U.S. troops encountered.

Coastal Defense Gun

4. The Piti Guns were not operational in July 1944.
5. With a range of 17,000 meters (10.6 miles) the guns were mounted on high ground and used primarily against ships and landing craft.

Silent Guns

6. When the American assaults began, the guns were not ready. Therefore, the guns were never fired.
7. Using tree trunks for rollers, Chamorros were forced to haul the guns up the steep slope.
8. Forced labor was one of the many hardships native islanders experienced during the war.
9. When the guns were discovered, weeks after the battle, they were found camouflaged with palm leaves and brush.

Short Answer (To be completed after the hike)

10. The Japanese guns were to be used as defense against the U.S. troops during WWII. After experiencing the hike and learning about the forced labor, the position of the guns, and the fact that they were never fired, how does it make you feel? Why? (Student answers will vary)

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