

EXPERIENCE



YOUR NATIONAL PARK

Asan Beach Gun Emplacement Photo Analysis

Student Name: _____

Find out more about World War II on Guam by analyzing a historic photo of this defense structure at Asan Beach.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Step 1. Examine the photograph for 10 seconds. How would you describe the photograph?

Step 2. Divide the photograph into quadrants and study each section individually. What details (people, objects, activities) do you notice?

Step 3. What other information (time period, location, person in photo, reason photo was taken) can you gather from the photo?

Step 4. What questions do you have about the photograph?

Step 5. Visit the site.

Ask a Pacific Historic Parks Educator questions you formulated in Step 4.

How would you revise your first description of the photo using this new information?

How does this site today look different from the photo?

What accounts for the differences?

How has visiting the site and analyzing an old photo of it helped you understand history?

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Asan Beach Gun Emplacement Photo Analysis Teacher Guide

General information about the photograph: During World War II, hillsides and cliffs were used by the Japanese to build defensive structures. This photo was taken on October 5, 1944 (after the Battle for Guam ended) and revealed a Japanese 20 cm gun emplacement at Asan Beachhead, covering the beach south of Asan Point. For this fortification, the Japanese took advantage of a large, winding crevice in the limestone cliff.

Step 1. Teacher writes on the board all student descriptions of the photograph.

For example: War photo, Soldier with open shirt, A big gun, etc.

Step 2. Teacher writes on the board all the items students see in the photo.

For example: Soldier, gun, cave, trees, limestone walls, grass brush, box, metal debris, concrete walls surrounding gun, etc

Step 3. Students share what they gathered from the photos and teacher asks guided questions.

For example: What time period did this photo took place in? World War II; Location? Asan Beach, Guam; Who probably put the gun there and why? Japanese soldiers placed it there to defend the island against the American soldiers;

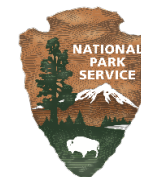
Who is the man in the photo? American soldier; Why is there grass and brush above the gun? It was placed there by Japanese soldiers to disguise the gun; Reason photo was taken? To document Japanese defensive structures; Show American victory of the Battle of Guam; etc

What is in the box? Probably supplies

Step 4. Students list down their questions about the photograph.

Step 5. Arrange for a visit to Asan Beach Park through Pacific Historic Parks Education Department. Students ask questions to PHP Educator, gain more information by reading waysides located in the park, and answer reflection questions. Answers will differ depending on student.

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