



# MISINFORMATION

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## Objectives:

- Explain the importance of leadership and the danger of misinformation.
- View the process of identifying sources

## Preparation:

- Prep three messages to be given

## Activity:

**Getting Started** - Players must sit in a circle or stand in a straight line. They need to be close enough that whispering is possible, but not so close that players can hear each other whisper.

**Begin the Game** -The first person in the line or circle whispers a word or phrase into the ear of the person sitting or standing to their right.

**The Game Continues** - Players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player in line.

**The Conclusion** - The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line

## Rules:

- The word or phrase can only be whispered once, so players must pay close attention.
- The word or phrase should never be too familiar; you want to make sure it changes as it is whispered.
- Only one player – the first – should know what the word or phrase is. The facilitator of the game may wish to have the original phrase or word written down.

## The Object of the Game

The main purpose of the Telephone Game is for the amusement of the players. However, there are some additional benefits for those playing the Telephone Game. It:

- Can help clearly show how small misconceptions can end up making a huge difference.
- is fun for the players, generates laughs, and helps a group relax.
- can help young children or those learning English develop their active listening skills.
- serves as a springboard for discussing the importance of active listening.
- is used for classroom counseling lessons to help children understand the impact of gossip and rumors.

The leader will give examples of misinformation and how it could affect more than just oneself. Oftentimes unless you get the information directly from the source, odds are the information has changed. This could happen as quickly as the first person not understanding the information being told. Now sometimes, in rare occasions, the need for misinformation is necessary. An example of this is the Battle of Midway. Read the .pdf and discuss.

Participants will give examples of how they think you can mitigate the loss of information. What tools are available to us that were not available 30 years ago? What would be the best way to pass the information on?



# BATTLE OF MIDWAY

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The Battle of Midway was an epic clash between the U.S. Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy that played out six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Navy's decisive victory in the air-sea battle (June 3-6, 1942) and its successful defense of the major base located at Midway Island dashed Japan's hopes of neutralizing the United States as a naval power and effectively turned the tide of World War II in the Pacific.

## Japan's Ambitions in the Pacific

Japan's efforts to establish clear naval and air superiority in the western Pacific first hit a snag in the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942, when the U.S. fleet turned back a Japanese invasion force headed for New Guinea. Despite the setback, Admiral Isaroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy, was convinced his forces enjoyed a numerical advantage over the Americans.

Hoping to replicate the success of the Pearl Harbor attack, Yamamoto decided to seek out and crush the rest of the U.S. Pacific fleet with a surprise attack aimed at the Allied base at Midway Island. Midway is located in the Pacific Ocean almost directly in between the United States and Japan.

After a diversionary attack by a smaller Japanese force on the Aleutian Islands, off the coast of Alaska, Yamamoto planned a three-pronged approach toward Midway. First, an air attack on the island launched from four first-line Japanese aircraft carriers, the *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryu* and *Soryu*, commanded by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo. Second, an invasion force of ships and soldiers led by Vice Admiral Nobutake Kondo. And finally, once expected U.S. reinforcements from Pearl Harbor arrived, a joint strike by Nagumo's forces and Yamamoto's own fleet, which would be waiting 600 miles to the west.

## Did you know?

Six months before the Battle of Midway, the islands were attacked on December 7, 1941, less than two hours after Pearl Harbor.

## U.S. Gains Advantage Thanks to Navy Codebreakers

U.S. Navy cryptanalysts had begun breaking Japanese communication codes early in 1942, and knew for weeks ahead of time that Japan was planning an attack in the Pacific at a location they called "AF." Suspecting it was Midway, the Navy decided to send out a false message from the base claiming it was short of fresh water. Japan's radio operators sent out a similar message about "AF" soon afterward, confirming the location of the planned attack.

With Japan's fleet so widely dispersed, Yamamoto had to transmit all strategy over the radio, enabling Navy cryptanalysts based in Hawaii to figure out when Japan planned to attack (June 4 or 5) and the planned order of battle of the Imperial Japanese Navy. With this information, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, could develop a plan to combat the invasion.

The Japanese assumed that the U.S. aircraft carrier *Yorktown*, which been damaged during the Battle of the Coral Sea, would be unavailable at Midway. In fact, the damaged carrier was repaired in only two days at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, and left on May 30 to regroup with other U.S. ships near Midway in preparation for Japan's attack.

*Other lessons and resources are located at [carrytheload.org/educate](http://carrytheload.org/educate).*



# BATTLE OF MIDWAY

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## The Battle of Midway Begins

After the diversionary Japanese attack on the Aleutian Islands on June 3, a group of U.S. B-17 Flying Fortress bombers flew from Midway to attack Kondo's invasion force, which they mistakenly assumed was the main Japanese fleet. This unsuccessful attack marked the first military engagement in the Battle of Midway.

Before dawn the next day, more B-17s left Midway for a second attack on the Japanese invasion force, also unsuccessful. Meanwhile, Nagumo launched the first phase of Japan's attack as planned, sending 108 Japanese warplanes from the four aircraft carriers to strike Midway. After inflicting severe damage to the U.S. base, the first Japanese attack ended by 7 a.m., leaving the airfield still useable and U.S. anti-aircraft defenses still functioning.

Shortly after that, just as his pilots informed Nagumo that another airstrike against the base would be necessary, U.S. aircraft launched from Midway began attacking the four Japanese carriers, without success. As Nagumo was rearming Japanese planes for a second air attack, a Japanese scout plane spotted portions of the U.S. fleet, including *USS Yorktown*, to the east of Midway. Nagumo switched tactics, ordering planes that were still armed to prepare to attack the U.S. ships once the rest of the Japanese planes returned from Midway. Meanwhile, a wave of U.S. Devastator torpedo bombers from the U.S. carriers *Hornet* and *Enterprise* arrived to attack the Japanese ships. Unescorted by fighter planes, nearly all of them were shot down by Japanese Zero fighters. But about an hour later, as the Japanese refueled and rearmed their planes, another wave of U.S. carrier-launched bombers struck, hitting three Japanese carriers—*Akagi*, *Kaga* and *Soryu*—and setting them ablaze.

In response, Japan's surviving carrier, *Hiryu*, launched two waves of attacks on the *Yorktown*, which had to be abandoned but remained afloat. U.S. dive-bombers from all three carriers returned to attack the *Hiryu* and set it ablaze as well, putting all four Japanese carriers out of commission.

## Significance of U.S. Victory in the Battle of Midway

Though major combat in the Battle of Midway was over by the evening of June 4, U.S. troops at sea and on Midway Island continued their attacks on the Japanese over the next two days.

The destroyer *USS Hammann* provided cover for the disabled carrier *Yorktown* during salvage operations, but a Japanese submarine arrived on June 6 and launched four torpedoes that struck both U.S. ships. The *Hammann* sank in minutes; the *Yorktown* eventually capsized and sank the following day.

On June 6, Yamamoto ordered his ships to retreat, ending the Battle of Midway. Japan had lost around 3,000 men (including more than 200 of their most experienced pilots), nearly 300 aircraft, one heavy cruiser and four aircraft carriers in the battle, while the Americans lost the *Yorktown* and *Hammann*, along with around 145 aircraft and approximately 360 servicemen.

As a result of the U.S. victory in the Battle of Midway, Japan abandoned its plan to expand its reach in the Pacific and would remain on the defensive for the remainder of World War II. The battle gave U.S. forces confidence and drained Japanese morale, turning the tide of war in the Pacific strongly in favor of the Allies.

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