

Skillbuilder Practice

Making Decisions

Making decisions means that you have to choose between two or more options, or courses of action. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government had to make a decision about whether to attempt a quick retaliation against Japan. Read the analysis of the risks and possible rewards of a bombing raid on Tokyo. Then complete the chart and answer the question that follows. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R13.)

Impact on Morale

A successful attack may boost morale in the United States and damage morale in Japan. It can demonstrate to Americans that their country is able to fight back. At the same time, it may cause Japanese civilians to fear attacks on their homeland and be embarrassing to the Japanese military. However, the Japanese may react to an attack by intensifying their support for their country. A failed attack will be a significant embarrassment for the United States.

Impact on Strategy

An attack may cause Japan to keep some of its forces closer to home for protection. While this may slow the pace of Japanese expansion, it can make future attacks against Japan more difficult. A successful attack can do some damage to Japanese factories and military facilities. For the United States, the military risk will be to its crew and planes. They will be flying low over enemy territory, will have no extra fuel for any emergency use, and will be landing far from the United States.

Country	Potential Rewards	Risks
United States		
Japan		

Explain whether you recommend carrying out the raids on Tokyo. Do the potential rewards outweigh the risks involved? Indicate which potential rewards and risks most influenced your decision.
