

CHAPTER  
**16**

Section 4

**SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE** *Following Chronological Order*

*Putting events in time order—from the first event to the last one—can help you understand the relationships between events. As you read this account of the war in the Pacific, pay special attention to dates and clue words about time. Use the information to fill in the time line below to show the order of events that led to the surrender of Japan during World War II. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)*

The Americans' first land offensive began in August 1942, when 19,000 marines stormed Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. By the time the Japanese finally abandoned Guadalcanal six months later, they called it the Island of Death.

The Americans continued leapfrogging across the Pacific toward Japan. In October 1944, some 178,000 Allied troops and 738 ships converged on Leyte Island in the Philippines. Despite the damage done by the kamikazes—bomb-loaded Japanese suicide planes that tried to crash into Allied ships—the Battle of Leyte Gulf was a disaster for Japan. In 3 days of battle, it lost 3 battleships, 4 aircraft carriers, 13 cruisers, and almost 400 planes.

After retaking the Philippines, the Allies turned to Iwo Jima. More than 6,000 Marines died in intense fighting that began February 19 and ended March

17, 1945. Three months later, the Allies captured the island of Okinawa, Japan's last defensive outpost. Japan's home islands would be the next target.

On July 25, 1945, President Harry Truman ordered the military to make final plans for dropping the only two atomic bombs then in existence on Japanese targets. A day later, the U.S. warned Japan that it faced "prompt and utter destruction" unless it surrendered at once. Japan refused.

On August 6, a B-29 bomber released an atomic bomb over Hiroshima. Still Japanese leaders hesitated to surrender. Three days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. A horrified Emperor Hirohito ordered Japan's leaders to draw up papers "to end the war." The official surrender came on September 2 aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

