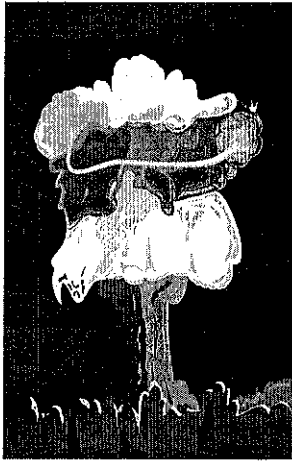


WHY DID THEY DROP THE BOMB?

When Harry Truman the American president heard of the bombing he said "This is the greatest thing in history". But even now people are still dying of the effects of the Atomic Bomb. These effects are so awful it is necessary to ask the question "Why did they drop the bomb when the war was so nearly over?"

The Americans had pushed Japan out of all the land they had occupied in the Pacific region. In Europe, Hitler had been defeated. So why did the Americans drop the bomb?



Below are 4 possible reasons:

The Americans believed Japan would never surrender. If the bomb had not been dropped thousands of American lives could have been lost in an invasion of Japan

The Bomb had cost a lot of money to develop and the Americans wanted to use it. The bomb cost \$200 million. It would have been difficult to justify not using after such as vast financial investment

The Japanese had been very cruel to prisoners of War. Some Americans thought they deserved to be taught a lesson.

The USA wanted to show how much stronger it was than the USSR (Russia) which it did not trust.

QUESTIONS

Look at the 4 reasons above. Imagine you are President Truman in the White House. You are listening to your advisers.

- Write out the reasons in the order you consider most important for America.
- Some of these reasons are short term and some are long term. Write S or L beside each one.

Now imagine you are against the dropping of the bomb.

- Look at each reason in turn and write down an argument against it, which you hope will stop the bombing.