

ACTIVITY 1 TOP SECRET

Inspired by The Manhattan Project, a secret program that produced the world's first atomic bomb, *Manhattan* is an original series on WGN America that reimagines history to look behind the scenes at the brilliant but flawed scientists who achieved this breakthrough while caught up in a world where deception and danger permeated every aspect of their lives. *Manhattan* begins its second season on WGN America Tuesday, October 13, at 9pm/8c.



DISCOVERY

Even after 70 years, secrecy still shrouds The Manhattan Project. Find out how much you already know about this turning-point in history by answering *True* or *False* to the following questions.

1. Robert Oppenheimer was the director of The Manhattan Project. _____
2. The Manhattan Project ultimately produced seven bombs. _____
3. Those involved with The Manhattan Project received mail at "Box 1776, Los Alamos, NM". _____
4. The Manhattan Project cost nearly \$2 billion. _____
5. The first test of an atomic bomb was in New Mexico. _____
6. The first atomic bomb was dropped by the U.S. on Hiroshima. _____
7. *Little Man* was the name for the first uranium bomb. _____
8. America began developing atomic bombs out of a fear that Germany would develop the same technology first. _____
9. The bomber *Enola Gay* crashed after dropping an atomic bomb on Nagasaki. _____
10. A test bomb named *Gadget* was detonated in Washington. _____

Now learn more about The Manhattan Project by coming up with your own questions, using these resources.

- Learn how The Manhattan Project ushered in the atomic age at *The Manhattan Project: An Interactive History*: www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/index.htm.
- Visit the sites, track the milestones, and explore a database of those who worked on The Manhattan Project at the *Atomic Heritage Foundation* website, www.atomicheritage.org.
- Listen to interviews with those involved in The Manhattan Project at *Voices of The Manhattan Project*, <http://manhattanprojectvoices.org>.
- Meet some of the women who worked on The Manhattan Project at *Women Scientists of The Manhattan Project*, http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/31784.html.
- Learn more about nuclear weaponry, view footage of nuclear blasts, and learn where nuclear weapons have been tested at *Race for the Superbomb*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/peoplevents/index.html.
- Compare characters and scenes from *Manhattan* with their historical models at www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/manhattan.

DISCUSSION

The Manhattan Project raised many political and ethical issues that remain controversial even today. Draw on your research into the history of The Manhattan Project and its portrayal in *Manhattan* to discuss these issues in class.

- Do you believe that the United States was justified in developing the atomic bomb in light of world events and the threat to national security during World War II? Why or why not?
- To what extent is the development of weapons of mass destruction justified, if at all?
- Analyze the ethics of national security today. Which group or nation do you believe poses the greatest threat to America's national security and why? How far should the U.S. go in order to protect itself?
- To what extent does the U.S. government owe its citizens an explanation in terms of its decisions regarding national security? In other words, how much secrecy is acceptable when it comes to defending the nation?

MANH(A)TTAN

HOW MUCH EVIL DOES IT TAKE TO DO GOOD?



SEASON 2 PREMIERES ON WGN AMERICA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 9PM/8C

