

*War & Peace Cluster, Summit Program*  
*Physics Assignment 3*

This assignment is related to the program “Making of the Bomb”. You might also supplement that material with sources from the library or online. Note: if you do use extra material be careful not to include sources about the hydrogen bomb (also known as the H bomb or a thermonuclear bomb). This assignment is strictly about the atomic bomb (A bomb).

In the development of the atomic bomb and its deployment over Japan

1. What is the main goal of an atomic or nuclear bomb, particularly in regard to how it differs from a conventional (chemical) bomb? To what extent does radiation play a role?
2. What were the main problems that the scientists and engineers faced, and how did they solve those problems?
3. From where does the concept of critical mass come? How does this limit the size of an atomic bomb?