PROJECT: A SHATTERING END TO WAR

The use of nuclear weapons to end World War II has generated a tremendous amount of controversy over the years, as might be expected. Both sides of the argument have valid points to make. On one hand, the use of the weapons brought a much swifter end to the conflict and saved thousands of American lives. On the other hand, the use was horrible in light of the number of casualties inflicted in so short a time, and the aftereffects caused by radiation.

Instructions

Using the Internet and other research materials, read about the use of nuclear weapons in ending World War II. Here are some sites that might help you:

http://www.history.army.mil/books/70-7_23.htm
http://www.angelfire.com/ga/wkb/abombframe.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debate_over_the_atomic_bombings_of_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki

After reading, answer the following questions:

1. In your opinion, was the use of atomic weapons justified under the circumstances?

2. If nuclear weapons had not been used, approximately how much longer would the war have lasted?

3. What effects would a more protracted war have had on the U.S. and Japan?