

Pope calls for global nuclear disarmament

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Pope Francis has called on nations to end their nuclear arms race while on a tour to Japan. The Pontiff is on the first Papal visit to Japan in 38 years. He visited the only two cities ever to have been subjected to a

nuclear attack - Nagasaki and Hiroshima. While speaking in Nagasaki, the Pope condemned the "unspeakable horror" of nuclear weapons. Nagasaki was the second city to suffer widespread death and destruction as it was destroyed towards the end of World War II. Francis laid a wreath and prayed at the foot of a memorial. Over 140,000 people perished in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, while 74,000 people lost their lives in the Nagasaki bombing three days later.

Pope Francis directed his words towards world leaders, who seem to be intent on building instead of reducing their nuclear arsenals. He said: "Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot protect us from current threats to national and international security." He condemned the amount of money spent on nuclear weapons. He said: "In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven."

Sources: theguardian.com / itv.com / japantoday.com

Writing

Nuclear weapons are a deterrent and therefore a good defence. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

nation / nuclear arms / tour / nuclear attack / horror / destruction / wreath / memorial words / building / nuclear arsenal / political leaders / inhumane / fortune / heaven

True / False

- a) Pope Francis visited Japan for the second time in 38 years. T / F
- b) Pope Francis spoke in Hiroshima about the horror of nuclear weapons. T / F
- c) Pope Francis laid a wreath at a memorial and said a prayer. T / F
- d) The Nagasaki bombing took place three days after Hiroshima. T / F
- e) World leaders are aiming to reduce their nuclear arsenals. T / F
- f) Pope Francis said a nuclear weapons free world is impossible. T / F
- g) Pope Francis said money was squandered on nuclear weapons. T / F
- h) Pope Francis said nuclear weapons belong in front of heaven. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. called on | a. extensive |
| 2. subjected | b. set on |
| 3. unspeakable | c. died |
| 4. widespread | d. cruel |
| 5. perished | e. insult |
| 6. intent | f. put through |
| 7. convinced | g. wasting |
| 8. inhumane | h. requested |
| 9. squandering | i. certain |
| 10. affront | j. horrific |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Are nuclear weapons a deterrent?
- c) Should all countries be able to arm themselves with nuclear weapons?
- d) What are the biggest threats to international security?
- e) What happens if terrorists get nuclear weapons?
- f) What happens if a nuclear weapons site is hacked?
- g) Should money spent on nuclear arms help the poor instead?
- h) What questions would you like to ask nuclear-armed countries?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. end their nuclear arms | a. spent on nuclear weapons |
| 2. on the first Papal | b. and destruction |
| 3. the "unspeakable horror" | c. of a memorial |
| 4. suffer widespread death | d. squandered |
| 5. prayed at the foot | e. of nuclear weapons |
| 6. protect us | f. inhumane conditions |
| 7. He condemned the amount of money | g. visit to Japan |
| 8. families live in | h. destructive weapons |
| 9. the money that is | i. from current threats |
| 10. ever more | j. race |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of nuclear weapons?
- What do you think of the Pope's message?
- What do you know about Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
- Why do countries have or want nuclear weapons?
- What do you think of the countries with nuclear weapons?
- Will nuclear weapons be used again?
- What countries should never have nuclear weapons?
- How can we best honour the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Spelling

- outsedcjb to a nuclear attack
- eddomnecn the unspeakable horror
- widespread death and tditscneour
- Francis laid a wehart
- at the foot of a mmariloe
- Over 140,000 people eirdheps
- reducing their nuclear lsanaser
- protect us from current atstehr
- families live in unieahnm conditions
- the money that is uneqdedars
- ever more svrteueicdt weapons
- an ftanorf crying out to heaven

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. b	7. i	8. d	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Fighting Diseases

You think fighting diseases is the best thing to spend government money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): education, space research or caring for the aged.

Role B – Education

You think education is the best thing to spend government money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): fighting diseases, space research or caring for the aged.

Role C – Space Research

You think space research is the best thing to spend government money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): education, fighting diseases or caring for the aged.

Role D – Care For The Aged

You think caring for the aged is the best thing to spend government money on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): education, space research or fighting diseases.

Speaking – Money

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to use money instead of on nuclear weapons at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Space research | • Fighting disease |
| • Hospitals | • Reforestation |
| • Clean water | • Child poverty |
| • Care for the aged | • Education |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	a
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.