

DUTCH IN BROOME

Use the information in the passage to answer the questions below.

During World War II, Dutch women and children were flown to Broome, Australia, due to the Japanese threat in the Dutch East Indies. The Dutch East Indies, present-day Indonesia, was a colony of the Netherlands at the time and possessed abundant oil reserves, rubber plantations, and other valuable natural resources.

As the Japanese advanced through Southeast Asia, the safety of European women and children became a concern. Broome, located on the northwest coast of Australia, was seen as a relatively secure destination away from immediate danger.

From February to March 1942, a combination of military and civilian aircraft, including the Royal Australian Air Force and Dutch airlines, evacuated Dutch individuals to Broome. Tragically, on March 3, 1942, Broome was attacked by Japanese aircraft, resulting in the destruction of planes and loss of 80 lives.

1 Why were Dutch women and children flown to Broome?

2 Why do you think the Japanese attacked Broome?

Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge.

