

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Einstein's Message to FDR

**Directions:** The following is an excerpt from a letter that Albert Einstein wrote to President F.D. Roosevelt, notifying him of the potential of nuclear chain reactions being used in a new type of bomb. This letter led to the development of "the Manhattan Project," a scientific research program designed to beat Nazi Germany in the race to develop nuclear weapons.

Look up any unfamiliar words in the Vocabulary Bank below in the VT, and figure out how these words fit into the context of Einstein's letter. Then, complete the letter excerpt by writing each word in its appropriate place in the letter. Check your work by visiting the web site for the Manhattan Project Heritage Preservation Association:

[http://www.mphpa.org/classic/COLLECTIONS/MP-Einstein~Sachs/Pages/Ein-Sachs\\_Gallery\\_01.htm](http://www.mphpa.org/classic/COLLECTIONS/MP-Einstein~Sachs/Pages/Ein-Sachs_Gallery_01.htm).

#### Vocabulary Bank

certain	manuscript	reaction	energy
administration	element	bombs	duty
territory	destroy	uranium	future

August 2nd, 1939

F.D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been

communicated to me in \_\_\_\_\_, leads me to expect that the

\_\_\_\_\_ uranium may be turned into a new and important

source of \_\_\_\_\_ in the immediate future. Certain aspects of

the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if

necessary, quick action on the part of the \_\_\_\_\_. I believe therefore that it is my \_\_\_\_\_ to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable -- through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America -- that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain \_\_\_\_\_ in a large mass of \_\_\_\_\_, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost \_\_\_\_\_ that this could be achieved in the immediate \_\_\_\_\_.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of \_\_\_\_\_, and it is conceivable -- though much less certain -- that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well \_\_\_\_\_ the whole port together with some of the surrounding \_\_\_\_\_...

[paragraphs omitted]

Yours very truly,  
(Albert Einstein)