

Vocabulary

Word Wall

Handout 1-A (3)

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Note to the Teacher:

Not all words need be used on the Word Wall. Or, words may be changed to support the topic of a specific lesson.

- Alien land laws (1913, 1920, 1921) The states of California and Washington passed laws restricting Japanese from both owning or leasing land, and a 1923 amendment closed a loophole for Nisei owners, making agricultural success for Japanese in America very difficult.
- Assembly Centers There were 15 assembly centers (1 in Oregon, 1 in Arizona, 1 in Washington, the remainder in California), most of them state or county fairgrounds where persons of Japanese descent from the west coast were required to assemble before being assigned to a permanent camp.
- bonsai* Miniaturized trees are believed to have originated in the mountains of China, dwarfed naturally by altitude. The first mention of *bonsai* in Japan places their existence to about 1200 years ago in the Heian period. Today's *bonsai* are famous for being raised in ceramic pots and twisted into unusual shapes, sometimes living for hundreds of years.
- calligraphy A handwriting art which is used in written Japanese/Chinese characters or words. A person's handwriting is supposed to be an indication of his character.
- concentration camp A camp where prisoners (as prisoners of war, political prisoners, or refugees) are detained or confined. For more information, see "A Note on Terminology" at the beginning of this unit.
- contraband illegal or prohibited possession of goods.
- December 7, 1941 "A day that shall live in infamy!" (Franklin D. Roosevelt). The day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and WWII began for the U.S.
- espionage the practice of spying or the use of spies to obtain information.
- Executive Order 9066 (2/19/1942) President Roosevelt authorized the establishment of military areas from which any person might be excluded, paving the way for the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their home states as potential threats to American security.



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Handout 1-A (4)

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- Fifth Column Secret sympathizers or supporters of an enemy that engage in espionage or sabotage within defense lines or national borders.
- furo* A Japanese style bath that involves scrubbing and rinsing the body before soaking in a hot tub.
- Gila River Relocation Center The site was divided into two, Butte Camp and Canal Camp, and was located on the Gila River Indian Reservation about 20 miles south of Phoenix.
- Internment camp A location to confine or impound enemy aliens, especially during war. For more information, see “A Note on Terminology” at the beginning of this unit.
- Issei* The first generation of Japanese (born in Japan) who immigrated to the U.S.
- JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) ... Organized in 1930, the JACL was founded in the Pacific Coast states, and emphasized the loyalty to the U.S. of American-born persons of Japanese descent.
- koi* A type of carp, raised to large sizes often 5 pounds and up, and bred for beauty. Colors and patterns vary greatly. Koi are not generally eaten. They are raised to be placed in ponds to admire, and are relatives of the common goldfish.
- Leupp Citizen Isolation Camp Inmates were housed in railroad cars on the Navajo Reservation at Leupp, AZ, about 35 miles northeast of Flagstaff. Their responsibilities were connected with upkeep of railway lines.
- Nisei* The second generation of Japanese in America, and born in America as U.S. citizens.
- Pearl Harbor The location of the attack by Japan on the Pacific Naval fleet in Hawaii.



Vocabulary

Word Wall

Handout 1-A (5)

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picture bride.....	A loophole in the 1908 legislation limiting Japanese immigration, allowed wives and relatives of Japanese men in America to join them. Japanese men would exchange pictures with prospective brides in Japan. A wedding in Japan would be held and the wives allowed to join their husbands in the U.S.
Poston Relocation Center.....	Located on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, about 15 miles south of Parker, AZ.
prejudice.....	preconceived judgment or opinion
racism.....	A belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.
sabotage.....	Destructive or obstructive action carried out by a civilian or enemy agent to hinder a nation's war effort.
<i>Sansei</i>	The third generation of Japanese Americans, born in America as citizens.
<i>sumo</i>	A Japanese form of wrestling.
treason.....	The offense of attempting to overthrow the government to which one owes allegiance.
<i>wa</i>	A traditional Japanese social concept, usually translated as peace or harmony.
War Relocation Authority.....	A WWII agency organized in 1942 by the War Department to oversee and administer the removal and confinement of Japanese Americans.
<i>Yonsei</i>	The fourth generation of Japanese in America, born in America as citizens.
1924 Immigration Act.....	U.S. limited Japanese immigration to 100 persons per year.
442nd Regimental Combat Team.....	The all-Nisei Regimental Combat Team was the most highly decorated unit of its size and length of service in U.S. military history.

Where Could This Happen?

Handout 1-B (2)

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1. Where in the world do you think this story took place?
This real-life incident took place on a farm in Santa Maria, California, U.S.A.
2. Does the date help you decide where the location of the story might be? How?
The date is 5 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
3. Are there any details that make you think the family might be of a particular ethnicity? Write them down.
The family's breakfast includes pickled cabbage, rice, and tea, which are Japanese foods.
4. Why do you think the government agents will not tell why the father is being taken away or where he is being taken to?
The government agents are F.B.I. They do not know what the charge is. They do not know where the father will be going. They are just following instructions.
5. What does handcuffing the father imply?
Handcuffing a person indicates the person may try to get away or is dangerous. It implies the person is a criminal.

Japanese American World War II Experience

Pre-Test

Handout 1-C (2)

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Name _____

What do you know about the Japanese American World War II experience?

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

True-False Place a T or an F in the blank provided.

- False** 1. Individuals of Japanese descent in Arizona were treated like everyone else in America during WWII.
- False** 2. Many persons of Japanese descent in America were found guilty of treason during WWII.
- True** 3. Depending on where persons of Japanese descent lived in America, they were removed from their homes.
- False** 4. Persons of Japanese descent were allowed time to sell their possessions or store them before being removed from the area.
- True** 5. There were ten major War Relocation Authority camps located in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.
- False** 6. Most persons of Japanese descent were supporters of the Japanese empire.
- False** 7. Persons of Japanese descent in the camps were given meaningful work and acceptable living conditions.
- True** 8. Most persons slated for removal reported as instructed.
- False** 9. Most Americans questioned whether civil rights were being violated when persons of Japanese descent were separated and confined.
- True** 10. Persons in the camps were not allowed to have cameras or radios.
- True** 11. Persons in the camps were not allowed to keep their pets.
- True** 12. Japanese traditions, including patience and loyalty, helped inmates weather the things that happened to them.
- True** 13. In spite of Hawaii's population being almost one-third Japanese American, no large-scale confinement sites were established there.
- False** 14. Mass incarceration of persons of Japanese descent made sense, as America was at war with Japan.
- False** 15. This kind of government policy can never happen again.