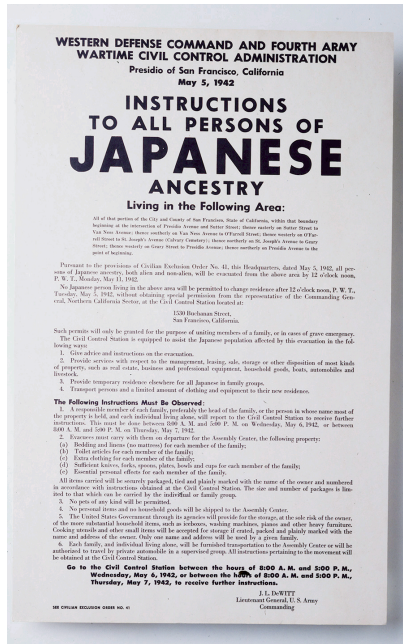


# Life in a Horse Stall

Handout 2-A (2)

29

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Read and analyze the following true account. Answer the questions after the story.

The government posted a notice in town on telephone poles and on store windows and doors. We didn't know until a friend came to tell us about the notice. It began: "Instructions to All Persons of JAPANESE Ancestry," and gave us seven days to dispose of all of our property and end our businesses. It told us to report to a place in town where a bus would pick us up. It told us we could only take one suitcase each and that we would have to carry anything we took. We sold off our stock at auction, and got about 10 cents on the dollar for it. When we got to town we waited for the bus, surrounded by military police and a large crowd of people we used to think of as neighbors. One man stepped forward and hugged our mother. He told her to come back to Santa Maria when she could. He told our family we were honest, loyal people and he would help us any way he could. He said this out loud and in front of everyone. My mother was very proud to know him, and it made her realize that not everyone agreed with the government.

When we got to the Tulare fair grounds we were assigned a place to sleep in the horse barns. Our first address in our new life as enemy aliens was Row F, Stall 12. We had to clean the muck out. Imagine a family of 10 living in a horse stall! We were there for 3 months.

- How many days did the government give the family to dispose of their possessions?  
**The government gave them seven days.**
- How would you dispose of your possessions in such a short time?  
**I would try and sell things to people I knew might want them. I guess I would see them for less than their value.**
- How would you react if your family was forced to live in a horse stall? What would you do?  
**I would be mad. I wouldn't go. I'd leave. They can't treat people like that! If I had to be there I would do my best, but I might try to escape.**
- Write five adjectives that describe the neighbor's behavior to the family. Be ready to discuss.  
**Brave. Foolhardy. Courageous. A true friend. Stupid. Warm-hearted.**
- List 10 things you would put in your suitcase, if this happened to you.  
**Toothbrush. Pajamas. Shoes. Sweater. Shirts. Pants or skirts. Hairbrush. Paper & Pen. Books. Pocket Knife. Glasses. Socks & Underwear.**

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# Life As An Inmate

Handout 2-D (2)

33

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read and analyze the following true story. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

They did not tell us where we were going. 500 of us were ordered onto a train with black-out curtains and could not even see what direction we traveled. There were rumors we were going to be shot. When we got off it was very hot. We were in a desert. Each family shared a 4 room barracks building with other families. We had 10 family members and had two rooms. The buildings were hastily constructed, the lumber used was green, and as it dried there were large spaces between floorboards and wallboards. There was always a layer of dust on everything. Bathrooms and showers were in separate buildings and all in one open room, with no closed cubicles. There was virtually no privacy anywhere. Food was cooked by inmates and we lined up three times a day to eat in a mess hall. Suddenly, there was nothing to do. In time clubs would be organized and schools provided, but at first boredom was the enemy. We were not allowed contraband items, such as radios, newspapers, or cameras. Adults, initially in a kind of shock, lost control of their families, and juvenile delinquency became a problem in most camps. We were forbidden to keep pets, but some people managed to sneak in pets, and some people kept desert animals. Guards were on duty at the camp 24 hours a day, and inmates could not leave without special permission.

1. What emotions did inmates feel about where they were going?  
**They felt fearful, worried, powerless, terrified, depressed, angry, and confused.**
2. Name one social problem encountered by the inmates.  
**There was a generation separation and some youth became undisciplined and a social problem. There was no privacy. There was nothing to do at first.**
3. How many people lived in a room in the author's family?  
**There were 10 people in 2 rooms, so five persons lived in each room.**
4. What do you think the biggest problem in camp life was? Why?  
**Isolation from society, social break-down of families, no purpose in life, anger at the way people were treated were all major problems.**
5. On the opposite side, write a paragraph of 5 or more sentences describing what you might have done with your time in camp.

