

Author

Abbie Martin

Name of Unit

Civil Liberties: What Are They? Who Needs Them?

Suggested Grade Level(s)

8

Suggested Subject Area(s)

History and/or English Language Arts

San Francisco, California. Just about to step into the bus for the Assembly center. 04/06/1942

Photographer: Dorothea Lange
Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration
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Unit Map

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Number of Class Periods Required

4 class periods (49 minutes per period)

Essential Question(s)

- Civil Liberties: What Are They? Who Needs Them?

Guiding Question(s)

- What are civil liberties?
- What do civil liberties protect?
- What impact did the suspension of civil liberties have on the Japanese Americans during World War II?

Teacher Overview

This unit opens with selected readings from the novel *Weedflower*, written by Newbery Award–winning author Cynthia Kadohata. The selected passages are intended to give students insight into the emotions of individuals affected when the U.S. government incarcerated more than 110,000 people of Japanese descent during World War II. This suspension of civil liberties is an important episode to understand when studying the U.S. Constitution.

Students will then work in groups to examine a variety of primary source documents related to the Japanese American World War II experience to create a poster in response to the unit’s essential question.

Note about the Colorado Model Content Standards

This unit cites the 2008 Colorado Model Content Standards. Updated Standards will be available in Fall 2009 and were not available at the time of printing.