

Author

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Name of Unit

Enduring Voices

Suggested Grade Level(s)

Secondary

Suggested Subject Area(s)

History, English Language Arts; especially recommended for National History Day projects

6

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Gift of Lois Kitagawa Padilla, Japanese American National Museum (94.171.10)



Unit Map

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Number of Class Periods Required

6 class periods

Essential Question(s)

- How does preparing for, conducting, and processing oral histories contribute to the interviewer's understanding of history, specifically the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans incarcerated at Amache, Colorado?

Guiding Question(s)

Lesson 1: Introduction to Doing Oral Histories

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of oral histories as primary sources?

Lesson 2: Constructing the Amache Experience Through Documents

- How does the historical record—consisting of primary and secondary sources—illuminate history and the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans incarcerated at Amache?

Lesson 3: Questioning: Open and Closed

- Why is the skill of good questioning important in doing oral history?

Lesson 4: Practice Makes Perfect

- How does the practice—the physical and intellectual aspects—of conducting an oral history help one become a more effective interviewer?

Lesson 5: Doing History: Processing the Interview

- Why is processing the interview an integral and important part of doing oral history?

Lesson 6: Putting It All Together

- (See Essential Question)

Teacher Overview

Students will learn a process for doing oral history from start to finish. In the course of their learning it is hoped that they will find excitement in its possibilities and the stories individuals have to tell. In addition to the process, students will analyze a collection of primary and secondary source documents and from this will begin learning about the World War II experiences of Japanese American citizens in Amache, Colorado. Combining the content and the skills allows students to begin *learning* history by *doing* oral history. Considering the advancing ages of those still living who were incarcerated at Amache, students involved in this project will have a unique opportunity to provide a valuable perspective to what is known about this experience and can upload their completed oral histories to the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei Web site: <http://www.discovernikkei.org/nikkeialbum/> (accessed August 4, 2009).

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.

