

Authors

Jade Crown, Orchard Elementary School
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Name of Unit

Topaz

Suggested Grade Level(s)

4, 5, 6

Suggested Subject Area(s)

Social Studies

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Hisako Hibi
In March, 1943
Gift of Ibuki Hibi Lee
Japanese American National Museum (96.601.14)



Unit Map

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Number of Class Periods Required

8 class periods (45 minutes per period)

Enduring Understanding

- Diversity in the United States helps democracy to function.

Essential Questions

- Who is the “We” in “We, the People”?
- How does racism affect the American experience?
- Is it more important to have safety or liberty?
- What is the Topaz “Relocation Camp”?

Teacher Overview

This unit takes students on a journey following the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. The journey begins with Pearl Harbor, continues with Japanese Americans being bused to Tanforan and then removed to Topaz, Utah, and concluding with them starting their lives over again. This unit underscores the understanding that Constitutional rights are for all Americans. Prior to this unit, fifth- and sixth-grade students should have

already studied the three branches of the government and the Bill of Rights.

Key Words

- Constitutional rights
- Japanese Americans
- World War II
- Executive Order 9066
- Topaz
- Racism
- Mass incarceration

Ties to Utah Core Curriculum

Fourth Grade Social Studies: Utah Studies

- Standard I, Objective 2: Analyze how physical geography affects human life in Utah.
- Standard II, Objective 1: Describe the historical and current impact of various cultural groups on Utah.
- Standard II, Objective 2: Describe ways that Utah has changed over time.
- Standard III, Objective 1: Describe the responsibilities and rights of individuals in a representative government as well as in the school and community.

Fifth Grade Social Studies Core: United States Studies

- Standard V, Objective 1: Describe the role of the United States during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II.
- Standard V, Objective 2: Assess the impact of social and political movements in recent United States history.
- Standard V, Objective 3: Evaluate the role of the United States as a world power.

Sixth Grade Social Studies Core: World Studies

- Standard IV, Objective 1: Analyze how major world events of the twentieth century affect the world today.
- Standard IV, Objective 2: Determine human rights and responsibilities in the world.



Group Size

- Whole class

Life Skills

- Collaboration
- Complex thinking
- Responsible citizenship
- Effective communication (written and oral)

Career Connections

- Artistic
- Social/Humanitarian
- Scientific