

**Author**

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David Seiter, M.Ed., Northridge High School  
Davis School District

**Name of Unit**

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Lessons from Topaz: Have We Really Learned Them?

**Suggested Grade Level(s)**

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11

**Suggested Subject Area(s)**

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United States History

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Hisako Hibi  
*Limitation*, 1944  
Gift of Ibuki Hibi Lee  
Japanese American National Museum (96.601.27)



# Unit Map

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## Suggested Grade Level(s)

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## Suggested Subject Area(s)

United States History

## Number of Class Periods Required

5 to 6 class periods (85 minutes per period)

## Enduring Understanding

- Diversity in the United States helps democracy to function.

## Essential Questions

- What is the Topaz “Relocation Camp”?
- Is it more important to have safety or liberty?
- How do communities endure?
- What is the process of social justice?

## Teacher Overview

This unit is designed to provide a better understanding of life in the U.S. concentration camp located at Topaz, Utah. Through discussions and analysis of artwork and literature, students will examine the complexities of the seemingly basic concepts of “community” and “heroes.” The students will compile their assignments into a Topaz scrapbook, which will be used as the final assessment.

## Key Words

- Topaz
- “Relocation camp”
- Community
- Lasting images

## Ties to Utah Core Curriculum

### United States History II Core

- Standard 7: Students will understand the causes, course, and consequences of the United States’ role in World War II.
- Standard 9: Students will understand the emergence and development of human rights and culture in the modern era.

### United States Government and Citizenship Core

- Standard 1: Students will understand the significance and impact of the Constitution on everyday life.
- Standard 2: Students will understand the protections and privileges of individuals and groups in the United States.
- Standard 4: Students will understand the responsibilities of citizens in the United States.

## Group Size

- Whole class
- Pairs
- Small group

## Life Skills

- Life Skills
- Responsible citizenship
- Complex thinking
- Collaboration
- Effective communication
- Lifelong learning

## Career Connections

- Social/Humanitarian