

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Essential Questions

MISSION US: "Prisoner in my Homeland"

Mission US: "Prisoner in My Homeland" is designed to help students think about the following questions, among others. Keep them in mind as your students play the game.

1. What was the history of Japanese immigration to the United States and how did anti-Asian discrimination shape the experience of and opportunities available to Japanese immigrants and their descendants?
 - What were the limitations on Issei on obtaining citizenship?
 - What was the impact of state laws forbidding Issei to own property?
 - How did Japanese immigrants create strong ethnic communities as well assimilate into U.S. society?
2. With the start of World War II, who did the government force into prison camps and how did the government attempt to explain the constitutionality of this policy?
 - How many of the incarcerated Japanese were American citizens?
 - What was the government's justification for forcibly removing and imprisoning people of Japanese descent?
 - How did this policy reflect anti-Asian racism?
3. What were the living, working, and educational conditions in the prison camps and how did they impact the lives of those incarcerated?
 - How was family life impacted by life in crowded barracks and mess halls?
 - What could be some of the effects of the lack of privacy and limited space on individuals and families?
 - How were students impacted by the forced removal and incarceration?
 - How did the forced removal and multi-year incarceration impact Japanese Americans' businesses, livelihoods, careers?
4. How did different Japanese groups or individuals of Japanese descent resist or try to alleviate the conditions of their incarceration?
 - What legal objections were raised to the forced removal and incarceration?
 - What was the outcome of the court cases?
 - How did some families or individuals try to make life in the prison camps more bearable?

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5. Why did the U.S. government require Japanese and Japanese Americans in the prison camps to take a "loyalty oath" and what was the impact of that oath?
 - What tensions and issues did the loyalty oath raise within the prison camps?
 - What happened to those who refused to resist the "loyalty oath?"
 - How did some Japanese and Japanese Americans choose to prove their loyalty?
 - What role did Japanese Americans play in the army during WWII?

6. How was the Japanese American experience prior to and during World War II similar to other groups who faced racism and discrimination in the U.S.?
 - What civil rights were denied to Japanese immigrants?
 - How did social, economic, and legal discrimination limit opportunities for Japanese immigrants?
 - How did government propaganda and popular culture visual portrayals of Japanese reinforce stereotypes?