

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Primary Source Document Collection

MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

Ansel Adams Photo: Manzanar Street Scene, Clouds

In the 1940s, Ansel Adams, one of the most famous photographers in the United States, went to the Manzanar to document the imprisoned Japanese Americans. He later described the purpose of this photo project as an effort "to show how these people, suffering under a great injustice, and loss of property, businesses and professions, had overcome the sense of defeat and despair by building for themselves a vital community in an arid (but magnificent) environment." The following image depicts the barracks at Manzanar with the Sierra Nevada mountains in the background.



Caption: Manzanar street scene, clouds, Manzanar Relocation Center, California / photograph by Ansel Adams, 1943.

Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Adams, Ansel, photographer. Manzanar street scene, clouds, Manzanar Relocation Center, California / photograph by Ansel Adams. California Manzanar, 1943. <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppprs.00284/>