

TEACHER'S GUIDE
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MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

California Legislature Apologizes for Japanese Incarceration

While the Federal Government began issuing apologies for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II in the 1980s, the state of California (in which both the Manzanar and Tule Lake prison camps were located) did not officially acknowledge these wrongs until 2020, seventy-eight years after Executive Order 9066. In the following excerpt from the California legislature, the state outlines the damage caused by forced relocation and incarceration, and formally apologizes for the failure of the state to "defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans."

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 (EO9066), under which more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in 10 concentration camps scattered throughout western states and the State of Arkansas during World War II; and

WHEREAS, EO9066 inflicted upon more than 120,000 Americans and residents of Japanese ancestry a great human cost of abandoned homes, businesses, farms, careers, professional advancements, disruption to family life, and public humiliation...

WHEREAS, The year 2020 marks the 76th anniversary of the Supreme Court of the United States' decisions in the Japanese American incarceration cases. While the Supreme Court ordered Mitsuye Endo released from incarceration, it denied, in *Korematsu v. United States*, that EO9066 reflected racial prejudice and upheld EO9066 in light of the "strategic imperative" to keep the west coast secure from invasion; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly apologizes to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for its past actions in support of the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and for its failure to support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans during this period...

Source: California State Legislature, HR-77 "Relative to World War II Japanese American concentration camps" Revised February 20, 2020.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200HR77