

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Additional Resources: Films and Video

MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

The creators of MISSION US have assembled the following list of films and videos to enhance and extend teacher and student learning about the people, places, and historical events depicted in the game.

***And Then They Came for Us.* Directed by Abby Ginzberg. Berkeley, CA: Social Action Media, 2020.**

A 40-minute film that serves as an effective introduction for learners new to this history. Featuring George Takei and many others who were incarcerated, as well as newly rediscovered photographs of Dorothea Lange, the film brings history into the present, retelling this difficult story and following Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban.

***The Art of Gaman: The Story Behind the Objects.* Directed by Rick Quan. Oakland, CA: Rick Quan Productions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Fk8cHkCQV0>**

A short documentary film that accompanies the exhibition, *The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946*. The documentary and exhibit features arts and crafts created by Japanese Americans while incarcerated in World War II concentration camps.

***The Asian Americans.* Produced by Renee Tajima-Peña. Arlington, VA: WETA.**

In the second episode of this landmark PBS series, an American-born generation straddles their country of birth and their parents' homelands in Japan and Korea. Those loyalties are tested during World War II, when families are imprisoned in detention camps, and brothers find themselves on opposite sides of the battle lines.

***The Cats of Mirikitani.* Directed by Linda Hattendorf. San Francisco, CA: Center for Asian American Media, 2007.**

Documentary about Jimmy Mirikitani, a painter working and living on the street near the World Trade Center. After 9/11, film editor Linda Hattendorf convinces the elderly Jimmy to move in with her. Hattendorf investigates the California-born, Japan-raised artist's life, resulting in a compelling inquiry into his main subjects of cats and the World War II-era Japanese incarceration.

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***Children of the Camps.* Directed by Stephen Holsapple. San Francisco, CA: Center for Asian American Media, 1999.**

This powerful documentary shares the experiences, cultural and familial issues, and long internalized grief and shame felt by six Japanese Americans who were only children when they were incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II.

***Conscience and the Constitution.* Directed by Frank Abe. Seattle, WA: Independent Television Service (ITVS).**

Conscience and the Constitution reveals the lesser-known story of the organized draft resistance at the American concentration camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, and the suppression of that resistance by Japanese American leaders.

***A Flicker in Eternity.* Directed by Ann Kaneko and Sharon Yamato, 2012.**

A short tale of a gifted teenager is told through his endearing cartoons and witty observations. Based on the diary and letters of Stanley Hayami, the story is told from the perspective of a promising young man thrown into the turmoil of World War II.

***From a Silk Cocoon: A Japanese American Renunciation Story.* Directed by Emery Clay III, Stephen Holsapple, and Satsuki Ina. San Francisco, CA: Center for Asian American Media, 2007.**

Woven through letters, diary entries, and haiku poetry is the story of a young couple whose shattered dreams and forsaken loyalties lead them to renounce their American citizenship while held in separate prison camps during World War II. They struggle to prove their innocence and fight deportation during a time of wartime hysteria and racial profiling.

***The Orange Story.* Chicago, IL: Full Spectrum Features NFP, 2016. <https://theorangestory.org/>**

The Orange Story is a 17-minute movie based on these historical events. It follows Koji Oshima, the proud owner of a small grocery store, as he prepares to abandon everything and report to an assembly center. Made for educators, the movie is shown in four chapters. Between chapters, viewers are invited to examine archival documents and images, as well as oral histories.

***Rabbit in the Moon.* Directed by Emiko Omori. San Francisco, CA: Wabi-Sabi Productions, 1999.**

A groundbreaking film that provides a comprehensive overview of the Japanese American incarceration experience. This many-layered history is told through the co-producers' family story and through the testimonials of other former inmates.

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***Relocation: Arkansas: The Aftermath of Incarceration.* Directed by Vivienne Schiffer. Houston, TX: Rescue Film Production, 2016.**

This documentary chronicles the Japanese American incarceration experience in Arkansas during World War II, focusing on the unlikely tale of those Japanese Americans who remained behind and the small town Arkansas mayor who sought to preserve the history of the Arkansas-located camps.

***Resistance at Tule Lake.* Directed by Konrad Aderer. San Francisco, CA: Center for Asian American Media, 2017.**

Resistance at Tule Lake tells the long-suppressed story of incarcerated Japanese Americans who defied the government by refusing to swear unconditional loyalty to the U.S. Though this was an act of protest and family survival, they were branded as "disloyals" by the government and packed into the newly designated Tule Lake Segregation Center.

***Ugly History: Japanese American Incarceration Camps.* Directed by Lizete Upite. New York, NY: TED-Ed.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=43&v=hI4NoVWq87M&feature=emb_logo

A short, animated YouTube video that follows 16 year-old Aki Kurose as she shares in the horror of millions of Americans when Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. TED-Ed partners with Densho to explore the racism and paranoia that led to the unjust imprisonment of Japanese Americans.