

“WE THE PEOPLE”

PROGRAM #2 - JAPANESE INCARCERATION CAMPS

Length: 21:40

Notes:

If a teacher is not present to keep the discussion flowing and on track, the use of a facilitator is highly recommended.

Depending on the specific audience and the facilitator, some questions could also include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Suggestions for Discussion:

1. What was the central reason why the US government interned Japanese American citizens?
2. How would you and your family build a life for yourselves under similar circumstances?
3. What kind of food would they have to eat in camp?
4. What kind of food would they be used to, culturally?
5. In what ways did adults try to normalize their existence in confinement?
6. Why was “Gaman” so important?
7. What were the reasons #27 and #28 on the government questionnaire were so divisive?
8. The citizenship of the Japanese Americans during the time of the incarceration, was in limbo. Are there any similarities now between other groups of people in the United States?
9. How would/could social media have changed these events?
10. How would you know/find out what was true?

See page 2 for more discussion topics.

After discussions have ended ask volunteer viewers what they are thinking/feeling.

Photos you may want to discuss:

Japanese American Families in Trucks

Architectural Plans of Camp

Photos of Camp life

Scenes of Living Quarters

Soldier leaving for military service

Internment Camps to Research or Visit:

Tule Lake and Manzanar, CA

Minidoka, ID

Topaz, UT

Heart Mountain, WY

Granada, CO

Poston and Gila River, AZ

Rohwer and Jerome, AK