

The Lessons of Japanese Internment during World War II

Freedom and Dignity Project

Developed by: Carolyn Nichols and Emily Guthoff

Learning Objectives: Students will become familiar with gathering, categorizing, and analyzing numerous types of documents. Students will create a Document Based Essay Question with accompanying documentation. Students will create scaffolding questions for each document.

Activities: The class will be divided into three groups of six students. Using the Library, classroom materials and the documents provided, students will research background information for the topic assigned. Each group will be responsible for locating and assembling 20 documents relevant to Japanese internment. These should be selected from the following categories:

- photographs: AP Photonet Archives or another news service archive
- charts
- graphs
- sound clips: Newspaper, television or radio archives
- interviews
- political cartoons
- maps
- artifacts
- movies
- music
- speeches
- newspaper articles
- literature

Students should include materials from 8 out of the 13 categories.

12 of the 20 documents must be primary sources.

Scaffolding questions must be provided for each 'document'

Students will create a 'Regents' type question to create a frame for their documents.

(In what way did Japanese internment.....). If the technology is available, this DBQ could be given to the rest of the class in a 'power point' presentation.

Students will be expected to 'present' their DBQ to the class as a way to not only 'show' their creation but teach about the period as well.

A bibliography of all sources must be included.

This project works especially well when a cooperative English teacher's help is enlisted. The Literature of the period is an excellent way to really pull the project together.

Time Allotment: One Week

About Japanese American Relocation

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. This order led to the assembly and evacuation of over 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry on the U.S. mainland and in Hawaii. During World War II, the United States was fighting a war on two fronts: in the Pacific Theater, the U.S. was engaged in battle with Japan; and in Europe, the U.S. fought against Germany and Italy. However, only Japanese Americans were incarcerated en masse during the war.

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was the United States agency created to assume jurisdiction over the Japanese and Japanese Americans evacuated from California, Oregon, and Washington. During its existence from March 1942 to 1946, the WRA controlled the administration of the relocation centers, administered the extensive resettlement program, and over saw the details of the registration and segregation programs.

In December of 1944, President Roosevelt rescinded Executive Order 9066, and the WRA began a six-month process of releasing internees and shutting down the camps. In August 1945, the war was over.

Alternately labled "relocation camps," "concentration camps," or "evacuation centers," the WRA camps housed over 120,000 Japanese Americans for close to four years. There were eleven camps in California, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Texas and Arkansas. The majority (over 60%) of camp inhabitants were US citizens, children and young adults. The remainder had been U.S. residents for many years. Many had lived in this country between twenty and forty years. Persons born in Japan were not allowed to become naturalized citizens until 1952.

April 24, 1943

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of April thirteenth calling to my attention that the Japanese-Americans in relocation centers are becoming embittered. Everyone with whom I have talked is dissatisfied with the present situation of this group of people -- most of all the officials of the War Relocation Authority.

Like you I regret the burdens of evacuation and detention which military necessity has imposed upon these people. I am afraid some measure of bitterness is the inevitable consequence of a program involving direct loss of property and detention on grounds which the evacuees consider to be racial discrimination. I was therefore glad to endorse the recent announcement by the War Department which reopened to American citizens of Japanese ancestry the opportunity to become employed in essential war industries and to serve in the armed forces.

Since normal American life is hardly possible under any form of detention, I believe that the best hope for the future lies in encouraging the relocation of the Japanese-Americans throughout the country and in turning as many as possible of the relocation centers over to the War Department for use as prisoner-of-war camps. Your own recent action in employing a Japanese family on your farm seems to me to be the best way for thoughtful Americans to contribute to the solution of a very difficult and distressing problem.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH DONALD CRAVEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CITIZENS BUILDING
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

September 4, 1942

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

It has been called to my attention that grave injustice is being done many of our citizens of Japanese descent, by herding them into concentration camps, depriving them of the right to serve in the armed forces, and denying them practically all of the civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Although I recognize the absolute necessity of taking every precaution for the purpose of protecting our country against sabotage by Axis sympathizers, I am convinced that it is a serious mistake to incarcerate American citizens of unblemished character merely because they happen to be of Japanese descent. Such a procedure is not in accordance with the high purpose for which we are fighting, and undoubtedly will open to question the sincerity of protestations of fairness.

The same thing is true of the procedure being followed by the War Department and other government agencies of placing all enemy aliens in the same category. It is obviously absurd to treat refugees from Nazi oppression in the same class with their Nazi oppressors.

The Federal Government is to be commended for the efforts being made to prevent discrimination in employment, but many of our people are concerned about the transfer of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice to the War Manpower Commission. It is feared that this transfer was actuated by Southern hostility towards the work of the Committee. In order to assure continued effectiveness of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, the Committee's independence must be maintained and sufficient money appropriated by Congress to enable it to carry out the purpose of its creation. I hope you will use your good offices to this effect.

Yours very sincerely,

Joseph Donald Craven

4849
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 22, 1943

APR 24 8 26 AM '43

RECEIVED

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

It may be that you intended sending the enclosed letter to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, the Director of the War Relocation Authority, for the preparation of a reply. Although I have had no official connection with the Japanese relocation program since last June, I have prepared the attached reply for your signature to Secretary Ickes. I would like, however, to offer a few comments on the Secretary's letter.

My friends in the War Relocation Authority, like Secretary Ickes, are deeply distressed over the effects of the entire evacuation and relocation program upon the Japanese-Americans, particularly upon the young citizen group. Persons in this group find themselves living in an atmosphere for which their public school and democratic teachings have not prepared them. It is hard for them to escape a conviction that their plight is due more to racial discrimination, economic motivations, and wartime prejudices than to any real necessity from the military point of view for evacuation from the West Coast.

Life in a relocation center cannot possibly be pleasant. The evacuees are surrounded by barbed wire fences under the eyes of armed military police. They have suffered heavily in property losses; they have lost their businesses and their means of support. The State Legislatures, Members of the Congress, and local groups, by their actions and statements bring home to them almost constantly that as a people they are not really welcome anywhere. States in which they are now located have enacted restrictive legislation forbidding permanent settlement, for example. The American Legion, many local groups, and city councils have approved discriminatory resolutions, going so far in some instances as to advocate confiscation of their property. Bills have been introduced which would deprive them of citizenship. In this atmosphere, the Japanese-Americans cannot but know that when they are invited to a community



it is usually due to an extreme labor shortage and does not necessarily represent a permanent opportunity. They also know that some of the military leaders responsible for evacuation were motivated by a conviction that all persons of Japanese blood in this country cannot be trusted. Public statements to this effect have appeared in the press only recently.

Furthermore, in the opinion of the evacuees the Government may not be excused for not having attempted to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal in carrying out the evacuation.

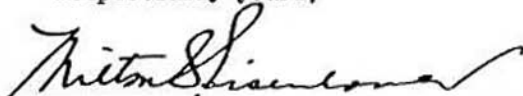
Under such circumstances it would be amazing if extreme bitterness did not develop.

The War Relocation Authority in developing its program must choose, as I see it, between emphasizing one of two plans. One is to build permanent relocation centers in which all evacuees may live and work for a small wage during the war. (The present wage is \$16.00 a month.) The second alternative is to strike out vigorously in helping the loyal become reabsorbed in normal American communities during the war period.

The War Relocation Authority has chosen to place major emphasis on the second alternative, in the hope that when the war is over only those people will be living in centers whose loyalty may be in doubt or who because of age or other reasons are unable to reestablish themselves. It is felt that, particularly for the citizen group, their place in America must be earned during this war period, that it will be unsafe to wait until the war is over to attempt to reestablish them because acceptance by the American public cannot be expected after the war if they are denied the privilege of serving their country now. The director of the Authority is striving to avoid, if possible, creation of a racial minority problem after the war which might result in something akin to Indian reservations. It is for these reasons primarily, I think, that he advocates the maximum individual relocation as against the maintenance of all ten relocation centers.

Dillon Myer has now been Director of the War Relocation Authority for nearly a year. He would benefit enormously from consultation with you. May I express the hope that you will have an opportunity to see him in the near future?

Respectfully yours,



M. S. Eisenhower
Associate Director

If signed pls. mail out &
return file to STE

197

February 1, 1943

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

xPF76677

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

x1413

No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution — whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.

x920
xPP7915

I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

x18
x4905
x10
x4849

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War, x25
Washington, D. C.

wdh-mw

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*Proposed letter for the President
to send to the Secretary of War who
will announce on Thurs. Jan 28, formation
of combat organizations of Japs & who are
American citizens, etc.
Letter asked by Elmer Davis* x5015

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 10, 1941

1044
10-B

Personal and ~~Confidential~~

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

I thought it might be of interest to the President and you to have the inclosed charts before you, which show the number of Japanese, German and Italian aliens taken into custody by the FBI as of December 9th. This gives the exact location of the numbers apprehended and places at which they were apprehended.

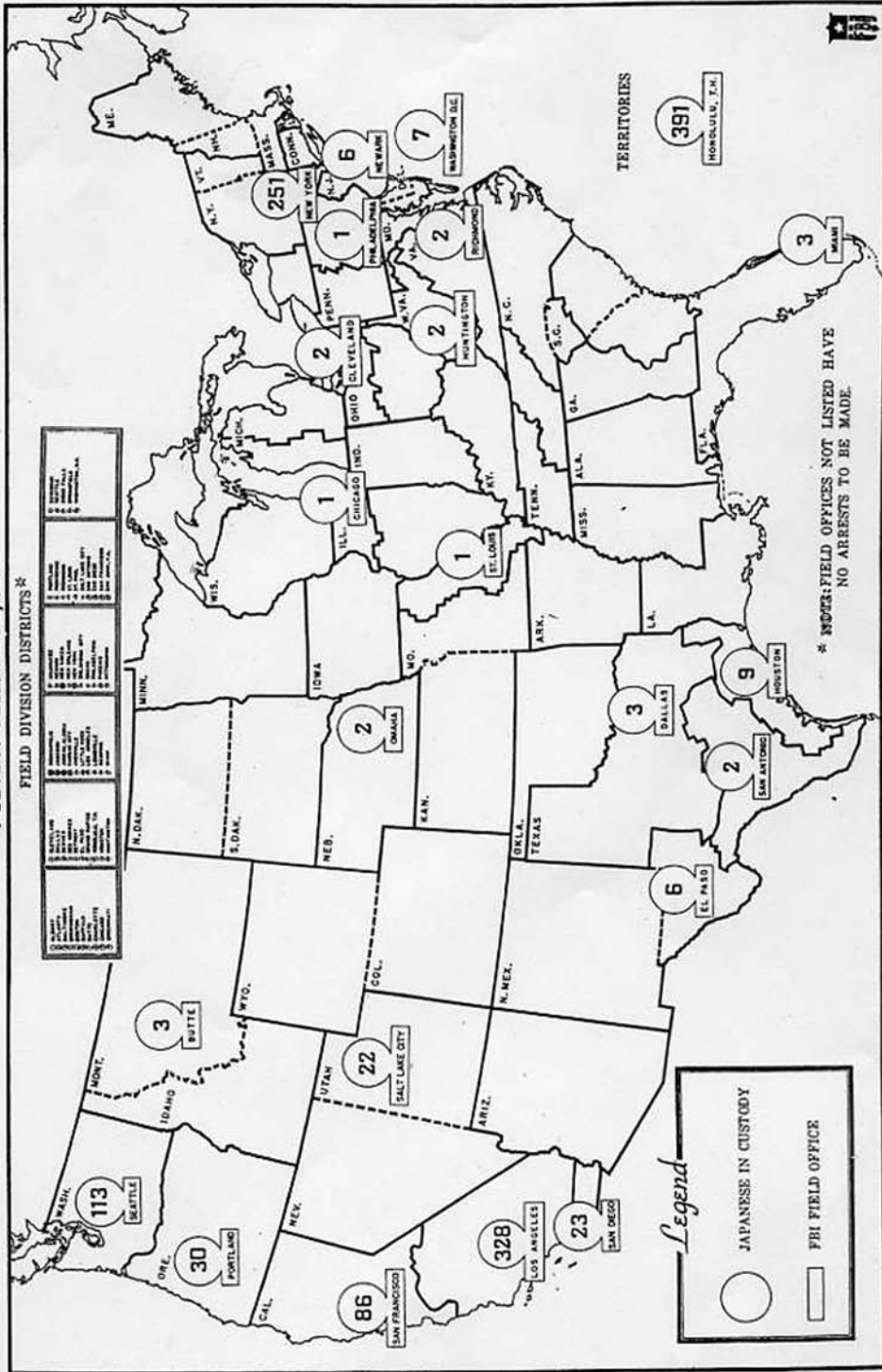
Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Inclosures

1,212 JAPANESE ALIENS
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY FBI

7:30 A. M. DECEMBER 9, 1941



FRONT PAGE FURY FOR YOUR MARQUEE!

Every American will want
to see this story of

JAPAN'S DOUBLE DECADE OF DOUBLE DEALING!

TO SEE

How Japs
planned to stab
stab U.S. in back

TO SEE

How Japs
militarists played
filthy game of

TO SEE

How Japs
repaid kindness with
ruthless murder!

TO SEE

How Gen.
McArthur is moving
to defeat aggressors!

THE BEAST OF THE EAST!

MENACE *of the* RISING SUN

Universal's White Hot Special!

NOW BOOKING

FOR KEY
SITUATIONS

World Premiere, Keith Theatre, Baltimore!



**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**
Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 1, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 1200 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 800 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 800 a. m. and 500 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 800 a. m. and 500 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

JAPANESE HUNTING LICENSE



Season Now Open — For the Duration
ISSUED: Dec. 7, 1941

FEE: Loyalty to American Ideals.
BOUNTY: Gratitude of 130,000,000
True Americans

This is to Certify That Franklin Delano Roosevelt
IS ENTITLED TO HUNT THE JAPANESE RAT, and is hereby warned to exercise extreme
caution in approaching this savage beast: it is a vicious animal and strikes from behind
without warning.

This animal has the characteristics of a skunk in appearance and odor, but
has an appetite for women and children instead of small fowls. Look for the
yellow stripe down its back.

In shooting this stinkin' skunk, aim at its stomach, since it has lots of GUTS,
but no heart or brains.

Game Warden

Uncle Sam

Issued by

Clerk

Hari Kari

This license expires soon, we hope.



Japanese-Americans of World War II

Amendment V

“No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

U.S. Supreme Court

TOYOSABURO KOREMATSU v. UNITED STATES, 319 U.S. 432 (1943)

319 U.S. 432

TOYOSABURO KOREMATSU

v.

UNITED STATES.

No. 912.

Argued May 11, 1943.

Decided June 1, 1943.

Mr. A. L. Wirin, of Los Angeles, Cal., for Korematsu.

Mr. John L. Burling, of New York City, for the United States.

Mr. Justice BLACK delivered the opinion of the Court.

Korematsu was found guilty by the District Court for the Northern District of California of remaining in the City of San Leandro, California, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 97a, 18 U.S.C.A. 97a, and the orders issued thereunder. 1 The District Court's order was that he 'be placed on probation for the period of five (5) years, the terms and conditions [319 U.S. 432, 433] of the probation to be stated to said defendant by the Probation Officer of this Court. Further ordered that the bond heretofore given for the appearance of the defendant be exonerated. Ordered pronouncing of judgment be suspended.'

The defendant appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit which, under 28 U.S.C. 225, 28 U.S.C.A. 225, has 'jurisdiction to review by appeal final decisions.' The Circuit Court of Appeals, doubting whether it had jurisdiction to hear an appeal from an order placing the defendant on probation without first formally sentencing him, has certified to us the following question under 239 of the Judicial Code, 28 U.S.C.A. 346:

'After a finding of guilt in such a criminal proceeding as the instant case, in which neither imprisonment in a jail or penitentiary nor a fine is imposed, is an order by the district court, that the convicted man 'be placed on probation for the period of five (5) years' a final decision reviewable on appeal by this circuit court of appeals?'

The federal probation law authorizes a district judge 'after conviction or after a plea of guilty or nolo

appealable. Our answer to the question is Yes.

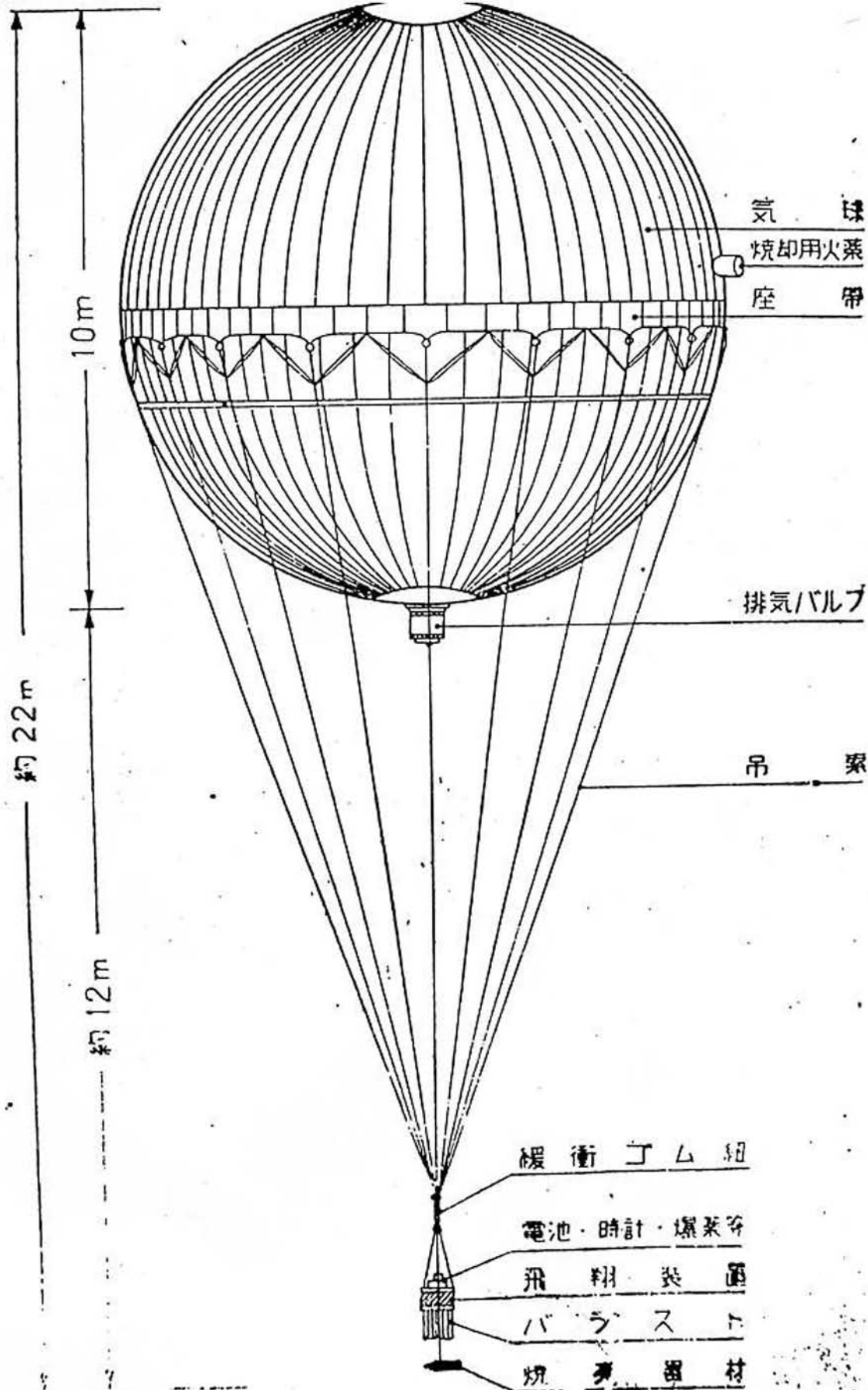
Question answered.

Footnotes

[Footnote 1] The relevant orders are Executive Order 9066, Feb. 19, 1942, 7 Fed. Reg. 1407, and General DeWitt's Public Proclamation No. 1, March 2, 1942, and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, May 3, 1942, issued under authority of the Executive Order.

[Footnote 2] For the background of the probation legislation see *Ex parte United States*, 242 U.S. 27 , 37 S.Ct. 72, L.R.A.1917E, 1178, Ann.Cas. 1917B, 355; *United States v. Murray*, 275 U.S. 347 , 48 S.Ct. 146. Cases on the instant problem are collected at 126 A.L.R. 1207.

[Footnote 3] 'Final judgment in a criminal case means sentence. The sentence is the judgment.'



第1図 風船爆弾の全図

LIEUTENANT KEI TANAHASHI was killed in action in Italy on July 4, 1944.

He was born in Los Angeles 25 years ago. From Lincoln High School he went to the University of California at Los Angeles. There he was president of the Bruin's Club, a member of Scabbard and Blade, and a captain in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He graduated in 1939.

He was assistant scoutmaster of the famous Troop 379 of Los Angeles which was presented to President Roosevelt during the Scout Jamboree of 1936.

With his family, Lt. Tanahashi was evacuated first to the Pomona Assembly Center and then to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, where those dearest to him are now. They have been held for over two years without charge and without trial--something new in American justice. Of this evacuation Justice Murphy of the United States Supreme Court said, "It bears melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded the Jewish race in Germany and other parts of Europe."

Shortly before his death, Lt. Tanahashi wrote:

"WHEN THIS UNFINISHED BUSINESS IS TAKEN CARE OF, WE SHOULD ALL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER AS GOOD AMERICANS. MY FERVENT HOPE IS THAT THE SLANT OF THE HEART WILL DETERMINE A MAN'S LOYALTY."

Nisei Officer Killed in Italy



LIEUTENANT KEI TANAHASHI of Los Angeles, Calif., whose parents now reside in the Heart Mountain relocation center in Wyoming, was killed in action in Italy on the Fourth of July, according to the War Department.

NOTICE

Memorial services for Lt. Kei Tanahashi, who was killed in action in Italy on July 4, will be held at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 29 at 2-27 mess hall.

Joy Tanahashi, wife
Soji Tanahashi, father
Kin Tanahashi, mother
Yasaku Hirano, father-in-law
Chiye Hirano, mother-in-law
Kiyoshi Tanahashi, brother
Fusaye Tanahashi, sister-in-law
Masako Fujii and Hanako Cho, relatives
Boy Scout Troop 379
Block 2 residents

NOTICE OF AN AMERICAN MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD BEHIND THE BARBED WIRE OF HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER, WYOMING.

Camps Hold Kin of 45 Nisei Soldier Dead

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7. (P)—Forty-five American soldiers of Japanese ancestry with next-of-kin living in relocation centers have been killed in action in Italy, W.R.A. Director Dillon S. Myer reported today to Secretary of Interior Ickes. Other casualty telegrams received in the centers have told of 92 wounded and two missing.

Earned by Japanese Americans in Italy:

Over 1,000 Purple Hearts
46 Silver Stars
31 Bronze Stars
9 Distinguished Service Crosses
3 Legion of Merit medals
The Distinguished Unit Citation



JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED—GLADSTONE
This tribute is by FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY - 305 Kensington Place - Pasadena 3





Japanese Internment Documents

Directions: For EACH document viewed, answer the following questions. (OR) Each student in the group should answer the questions using one document. (Teacher: please see below)

1. What type of document is this? (Photo, newspaper article etc.)

2. What is the date of the document? _____

3. Who created the document? _____

4. How does the document relate to the topic of Japanese internment? _____

5. What does the document mean to you? _____

6. Why was this document created? (What was it's purpose?) _____

7. Why would anyone save this particular document? _____

8. What does this document say about American life during this era? _____

There are several ways that these questions may be adapted for a variety of learners in the High School or Middle School classroom. For the student who needs enrichment, the questions could be answered without teacher support and be used as an evaluative tool. For the typical student, assign him/her one or two documents, answer the questions above, allowing the use of other students in the group as a resource if necessary. It may be most appropriate for the special needs student to have the document read to him/her and the questions answered orally with the assistance of the teacher or other individual. The questions may be divided up within a group for younger students. The point is to have all students gain experience 'reading' a historic document. It is also important for students to 'react' to a document.

The documents enclosed could be used as a Document Based Essay Question, (DBQ) or could be used to create a student newspaper on the era. The classroom teacher could choose one document to begin the topic in class, and one document could be assigned for homework. The use of photographs and cartoons as 'text' to be 'read' by students is an important skill to be taught. It requires interpretation and analysis and is an excellent method of encouraging critical thinking at any grade level.