



Student Activity

Japanese-Americans in WW II **Going for Broke**

Vocabulary:

loyalty, vicious, constitutional rights, injustice, vulnerability, custody, relocation, internment camps, enemy aliens, interracial marriage, unit citation, integrated, yellow peril, racial tolerance, Polynesian, militarism, philharmonic, martial law, battalion, Purple Heart, posthumous, Congressional Media of Honor, persecuted minority, incarcerated, unjust, ancestry, rectify

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why and when did the Japanese first immigrate to this country? Where did they first settle?

What happened to Japanese Americans during World War II? What happened to Japanese Americans in Hawaii? What happened to Japanese Americans in California?

When were the Japanese Americans allowed to be soldiers during World War II? How were they treated in the armed forces? What were their duties?

How long did it take Japanese Americans to re-establish their civil rights in America?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What was the difference between the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion and those of the 442nd Regimental Combat team?

How did these Japanese soldiers win renown during World War II?

Why did it take the American government so long to recognize the contributions of Japanese Americans during this war?

Why did so many Americans suspect the loyalty of Japanese Americans?

How did Japanese Americans retain their cultural values in a climate of disrespect?

What are the signs that Asian Americans have won their place in contemporary American society?

Further Activities:

Investigate the lives and activities of Japanese Americans living in Hawaii today. Are their lives in any way affected by the history of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which drew the United States into World War II?

Compare the life of a typical Japanese American living in Hawaii with that of a Japanese American living in California.

Investigate the biography of Senator Daniel K. Inouye. How has he distinguished himself as a U.S. senator?

Uncover the history of Japanese women who were accepted into the WACs during World War II.

Compare the history of The Lost Battalion and its rescue with Hollywood's depiction of these events.