



## ***Teacher's Guide***

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

**Grade Levels:**

Grades 7-12

**Subject Areas:**

Social Studies

U.S. History

Multicultural Education

**Synopsis:**

Documents the previously untold story of the Japanese-American soldiers who, to prove their loyalty to the United States, distinguished themselves during World War II. Exposes the racism and prejudice of Americans towards Asian Americans during the war and immediately after. Contrast this with the achievements of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, their rescue of the Lost Battalion, their successful campaigns in Northern Italy, and their liberation of the concentration camps. Brings the story to the present, with the apology of the American government and the belated award of the Congressional Media of Honor to 21 soldiers from these regiments.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will:

Understand the history of Japanese Americans before, during and after World War II.

Appreciate the courage and perseverance of Japanese Americans who re-established their civil rights.

Understand that the Nisei and Kibei respected their cultural traditions but maintained allegiance to the United States.

Understand the unique contributions of the Nisei and Kibei in successful campaigns in the Pacific.

**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 settle at first?

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 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and those of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

Without Due Process: Japanese-Americans and WWII  
America's Black Soldiers  
America's Quest for Freedom series