

Japanese American Internment

History's Mysteries—Solve the Crime of the Time



About the authors

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WELCOME TO JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT!

In this hands-on investigative activity, students are given an authentic task: to think like criminalists and review mock forensic files of a historical event. Students gather, analyze, and interpret evidence, engaging in tasks such as examining physical objects (e.g., a model of a guillotine, bullets, a blood-spattered uniform), poring over photographs, analyzing documents, and reading maps and charts. A PowerPoint® presentation includes an introduction to the task, a coroner's report, and several types of sources from the "crime scene." Students then fill out a "forensic report" graphic organizer, hypothesize how the event took place, and conclude by reading a "Mystery Solved" handout that provides historical background on the "crime." Optional extension activities include having students create a "breaking news" TV report, write a front-page newspaper article, or compose a "news alert" text message. Grades 6–12.



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What impact did World War II have on the lives of Japanese Americans living in the United States?



AREA 1:
CRIME SCENE



March 1942, transportation
to relocation camps



AREA 2:
POLICE REPORT



POLICE INCIDENT REPORT

Incident Date	02/19/1942
Address of Incident	Pacific Coast: Washington state to California and extending inland into southern Arizona.
Arrested Suspected perpetrator(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female Name(s): Not applicable. (More than 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese.) Suspect(s) arrested for: Charges: Possible national security risk.
Victim(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Name(s): Not applicable. Age(s):
Details	Suspects were arrested as part of Executive Order 9066.

Incident Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Robbery <input type="checkbox"/> Assault <input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping <input type="checkbox"/> Murder <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to Comply with Current Law <input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy (a secret agreement between two or more people to perform an unlawful act) <input type="checkbox"/> Espionage (the systematic use of spies to get military or political secrets) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:
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AREA 3: DETECTIVE'S RESEARCH



On December 11, 1941, a large squadron of Japanese war planes attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

More than 2300 Americans died in the attack.

The Japanese destroyed the U.S.S. Arizona battleship and capsized another battleship, the U.S.S. Oklahoma.

