
PEN PAL LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVE:

Students will determine the impact removal of Japanese Americans had on individuals and families. Students will be able to analyze how American Citizens were forced to leave their homes by the United States Government and how this was a violation of their Constitutional rights.

ALIGNED STATE STANDARDS:

CSS.SS.5.7.3: Understand the fundamental principles of American constitutional democracy, including how the government derives its power from the people and the primacy of individual liberty.

CSS.SS.5.7.4: Understand how the Constitution is designed to secure our liberty by both empowering and limiting central government and compare the powers granted to citizens, Congress, the president, and the Supreme Court with those reserved to the states.

CSS.SS.5.7.5: Discuss the meaning of the American creed that calls on citizens to safeguard the liberty of individual Americans within a unified nation, to respect the rule of law, and to preserve the Constitution.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY:

It's now time to return George's letter! Using the letter format provided, students are invited to write back to George or to their docent about their visit to the camp. Letter topics can include what they enjoyed most about their visit, what they did not like, how they would feel to live in an internment camp, or how they felt while visiting. Teachers are invited to send their students' completed letters to:

George Egami
C/O The California Museum
1020 O Street
Sacramento California, 95814

MATERIALS:

1. Discussion notes
2. Letter template

DISCUSSION NOTES:

Review with students what they learned at the California Museum's Time of Remembrance Program including the history of Japanese American communities and the events that occurred leading up to the removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast of the United States and life in the Internment Camps for Japanese Americans.

