

“Nisei Cubs Fan” Worksheet and Discussion Guide

A Japanese American soldier in World War II

Background

During World War II, when Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes, some young Japanese American men volunteered or were drafted to join the United States military. Previously, Japanese Americans had been prohibited from joining the military, but that rule was lifted in 1943 by President Roosevelt. The young men who volunteered were born in the U.S., and their parents were immigrants from Japan. The Japanese Americans who served the U.S. military during World War II are remembered for their bravery and sacrifice. Many of these men joined a military team called the 442nd Regiment, which was segregated--kept separate--from other military units. Its members, almost all Japanese Americans, were highly decorated and won awards for their military service.

Watch

Visit <https://www.buildinghistoryproject.com/video-nisei-cubs1> and watch the video called “Nisei Cubs Fan.”

Recall

1. During World War II, Cal went to Chicago and joined the U.S. Army. Where were his parents and sister during this time?
2. How old was Cal when he was separated from his family?

Interpret

3. Visit the [Building History Timeline](#). Cal was separated from his family in 1942, when Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes. Which U.S. President signed the order to force Japanese Americans to move to incarceration camps?
4. Visit the [Building History Map](#). Cal went to Chicago during World War II. In what U.S. state is Chicago located? (Do some Internet research, if you're not sure!) Were there any incarceration camps in that state?

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5. Visit the [Building History Map](#). Cal grew up in California. Were there any incarceration camps in that state? How many?

Apply

6. When Cal arrives at Wrigley Field to watch the World Series, the security guards welcome him and escort him past the crowds into the stadium, and many people clap as he passes by. Why is Cal treated like a hero? Are there any people in your life whom you consider to be heroes? What qualities do they have that make them heroes?

Analyze

7. Some Japanese Americans were permitted to leave incarceration camps starting in 1942 (three years before the end of World War II), but only if they could find housing and jobs. They were not allowed to return to their homes on the West Coast, and so many moved to Chicago until the end of the war. There were more job opportunities for Japanese Americans in Chicago, and they faced less discrimination there than they did on the West Coast. How do you think that Cal's experience in Chicago during World War II affected his love for the Chicago Cubs? Why do you think that he continued to be a fan of the Cubs even after he moved back to California?

Extension

Minecraft activity: Visit [Building History's Minecraft activities](#) and install the Manzanar virtual camp. (You can play alone or with a friend on a separate device!) Explore the camps that have already been built there. At camp, Japanese Americans created sports fields where they could play and get exercise. Can you find the baseball diamond that has been added to one of the camps?

Historical photographs: Look at this [image from Densho](#) of Japanese American soldiers. It appeared on the cover of a pamphlet published by the U.S. government during World War II. What is the title of this pamphlet? What does it mean to be *Nisei*? (Do some Internet research, if you're not sure!) Once the United States ended its rules that prevented Japanese Americans from serving in the armed forces, it produced photos like this to advertise that some *Nisei* fought for the U.S. in the war. Why do you think that the U.S. government made these kinds of posters?