



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Japanese-American Internment and WWII Service

with US Veteran Grant Ichikawa

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ichikawa.mp3>

Pre-Listening Questions

- How does wartime affect civilians? Do you think having the same ethnicity as an enemy country during wartime affects somebody? How so?
- What do you think it should take to earn the U.S. government's highest civilian medal?

Discussion Questions

- What happened to Japanese-Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor? What do you think about this?
- Why do you think President Obama and Congress decided to give Congressional Gold Medal to over 19,000 Japanese-American war veterans over 60 years after the war's end?
- What about the average Japanese Americans who were held in internment camps during the war? Do you think they should receive a special honor?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans & the U.S. Constitution
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion>
- Price of Freedom: Americans at War
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/>

Related Resources from History Explorer

- Becoming Aware of the Japanese Internment Camp Experience
<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=11>
- OurStory: Life in a WWII Japanese American Internment Camp
<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=22>

Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Fighting Injustice by Studying Lessons of the Past- from ReadWriteThink
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/fighting-injustice-studying-lessons-125.html>

Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)
 - Standard 3: The causes and course of World War II, the character of the war at home and abroad, and its reshaping of the U.S. role in world affairs

Related Standards for World History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 8: A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900-1945)
 - Standard 4: The causes and global consequences of World War II

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary- Define these words:

Internment

Commission

Pre-Listening Question:

How does wartime affect civilians? Do you think having the same ethnicity as an enemy country during wartime affects somebody? How so?

What do you think it should take to earn the U.S. government's highest civilian medal?

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

What happened to Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in the U.S. after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

How did Mr. Ichikawa contribute to the war effort?

Why did the 200-250 Japanese soldiers mentioned in the podcast have difficulty surrendering? What made it easier for them? What do these things tell you about Japanese soldiers?

How did Mr. Ichikawa feel about being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal?

Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

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