

Connections to Canada

Lesson 2:

Japanese Canadians Internment

Lesson Description:

Learners will have an opportunity to learn about the Japanese Canadian experience during the pre-WWII years and the WWII years. Their experience is marked by racism and mass internment of the Japanese Canadian population for the duration of WWII. Lesson 2 attempts to encompass all aspects of the Japanese Canadian experience from the time Japanese nationals immigrated to Canada to the end of internment in Canada. By using historical information, informative videos, and interactive activities lesson 2 tackles Japanese Canadians Internment, oppression, and racism.

Core question(s):

- Why were Japanese Canadians interned? Are trends of internment still happening today? What leads to internment?

Learning Goals:

- To learn about the Japanese Canadian experience during the pre-WWII years and the WWII years
- To grasp what oppression is and how it affects a person, community, and country

Competencies: Historical Thinking

Historical Significance	Cause & Consequence	Continuity & Change	Historical Perspective
Using primary and secondary sources	Through inquiry	Through inquiry	Through inquiry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determine & explain the importance of people, events/developments or ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the impact of the past and on the present <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate how importance may shift for various people and over time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify various causes using one or more accounts of the event or development <input type="checkbox"/> Explain both intended and unintended consequences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess the relative influence of various causes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluate the impact of various consequences	<input type="checkbox"/> Compare what has changed and what has stayed the same over a period of time (explain why) <input type="checkbox"/> Determine using sound inferences from multiple sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess how an event may involve progress for some people or groups and decline for others	<input type="checkbox"/> Explain reasons for then and now ideas and beliefs <input type="checkbox"/> Infer past viewpoints using varied sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analyze how and why of ideas and beliefs in a particular time and why they may be different from today (context) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analyze the tension that can exist between conflicting past and present-day viewpoints about history (presentism)

Materials

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Image Theater on 3 I's Activity [guide](#)
- Japanese Canadians Internment – Narrated by David Suzuki [\[video\]](#)
- Minoru - Memory of Exile [\[video\]](#)

Materials Extension

- Japanese deportations in Canada during WWII: Throwaway Citizens (1995) – The Fifth Estate [\[video\]](#)
- Film study [worksheet](#)
- Obasan by Joy Kogawa [book]

(All videos in this lesson require access to wifi)

Activity	Grouping			Approach (Pedagogy)	Materials
	W	S	I		
Activity 1: The Japanese Canadian Experience Pre-War and War Years	✓			Go through slides on Japanese Canadian experience. The slides also include two videos. Check materials section for suggested play times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview – Japanese Migration • Anti-Japanese Sentiment in Canada • Japanese Canadians – WWII The Early Years • Japanese Canadians Internment • Internment Camp Conditions • Dispersal and Deportation of Japanese Canadians • Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Breaking down videos and Japanese Internment as a group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation • Japanese Internment – narrated by David Suzuki [video] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ suggested stop time 7:04 • Minoru - Memory of Exile [video] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ suggested stop time 12:04
Activity 2: The House We Live In	✓			The House We Live In is an activity where learners will evaluate Japanese Canadians Internment through an oppression lens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning what oppression is through various definitions • Learning how it affected people internally, externally, and institutionally <p>The lesson will evaluate oppressions role through Japanese Candaians Internment but also the lesson will ask learners to try to identify some forms of oppression today through personal or observed experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation
Image Theater Three I's		✓		Learners will take what they learned from part 1 of the activity and create a theatrical tableau based on what they think the three forms of oppression look like. <p>This activity will be broken down once all the groups have finished and presented to the class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation

Activity	Grouping			Approach (Pedagogy)	Materials
	W	S	I		
Activity 4: Final Discussion and Thinking Questions	✓			The lesson will conclude with an in-depth discussion in collaboration with learners and facilitator/ teacher about Japanese Internment in Canada, racism then and now, and oppression. Conduct as facilitator/ teacher sees fit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint Presentation

(W) Whole group (S) Small group (I) Individual

Extension Learning Activity: Open-ended Inquiry Project

Film Study

- Japanese deportations in Canada during WWII: Throwaway Citizens (1995) – The Fifth Estate [[video](#)]
- Film study [worksheet](#)

Other Resources

- Obasan by Joy Kogawa [book]

Bibliography

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tPD6kmRCpfH3TzFF1Gclp9oCoqksZ5bTCEZ5chj36sU/edit>