

## **DBQ: Japanese Incarceration During World War II**



PHOTO COURTESY HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

**EQ: To what extent are individual rights and national security protected during times of war?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## DBQ: Japanese Incarceration During World War II

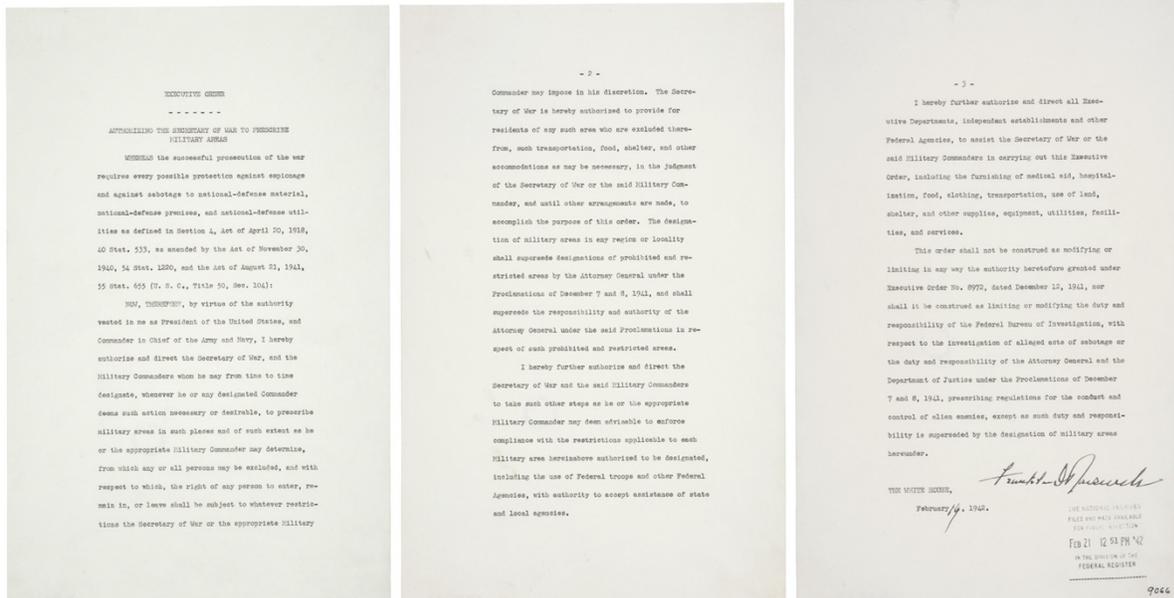
After the bombing of [Pearl Harbor](#) in 1941, many Americans and indeed the federal government characterized the Japanese and Japanese American populations as dangerous enemies. In response to this infamous day, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This reactionary law authorized the evacuation of people with Japanese ancestry from the west coast to military zones in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Imposing watch towers, rows of barracks, and barbed wire fences that separated Americans from seemingly desolate landscapes beyond characterized [Japanese American incarceration camps](#) where more than 127,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned until 1945.

There are **9 documents** that follow this page. Complete the questions for each document. Once you respond to all questions, answer the following prompts using *at least three documents* to support your short-essay response.

1. Describe actions taken by the U.S. government against Japanese Americans between 1942 and 1945.
2. Describe actions taken by Japanese Americans while they were incarcerated between 1942 and 1945.
3. Evaluate the significance of the actions taken by the U.S. government and Japanese Americans in relation to rights and citizenship in the United States.



## Source One: Executive Order No. 9066 (issued February 19, 1942)



Source: <https://www.docstoc.org/documents/document/executive-order-9066>

[Reprinted]

**Executive Order No. 9066**

**The President**

**Executive Order**

**Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas**

Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage...

I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate...to prescribe military areas...from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order...

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions...including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of medical aid, hospitalization, food,

clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services...

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House,  
February 19, 1942

**Source One Questions:**

**1. Why did President Roosevelt issue Executive Order 9066?**

---

---

---

**2. What were government agencies required to do to enact Executive Order 9066?**

---

---

---

**Source Two: Photograph of individuals of Japanese ancestry at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in April 1942 before removal to War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps.**



Source: <https://www.archives.gov/research/japanese-americans/wra>

Source Two Questions:

1. What is happening in the photograph taken in April 1942?

---

---

---

### Source Three: Loyalty Questionnaire (1943).

FORM APPROVED  
POSTER BUREAU NO. 33-1000-43

  
(LOCAL BOARD DATE STAMP WITH CODE)

**STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Surname) (English given name) (Japanese given name)

(a) Alias \_\_\_\_\_

2. Local selective service board \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

(City) (Country) (State)

3. Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

4. Present address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State)

5. Last two addresses at which you lived 3 months or more (exclude residence at relocation center and at assembly center):

\_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

6. Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you a registered voter? \_\_\_\_\_ Year first registered \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_ Party \_\_\_\_\_

8. Marital status \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship of wife \_\_\_\_\_ Race of wife \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Father's Name) (Town or Ken) (Birthplace) (State or Country) (Occupation)

10. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mother's Name) (Town or Ken) (Birthplace) (State or Country) (Occupation)

In items 11 and 12, you need not list relatives other than your parents, your children, your brothers and sisters.  
For each person give name; relationship to you (such as father); citizenship; complete address; occupation.

11. Relatives in the United States (if in military service, indicate whether a selectee or volunteer):

(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Relationship to you) (Citizenship)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Complete address) (Occupation) (Volunteer or selectee)

(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Relationship to you) (Citizenship)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Complete address) (Occupation) (Volunteer or selectee)

(c) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Relationship to you) (Citizenship)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Complete address) (Occupation) (Volunteer or selectee)

DSS Form 304A  
1-25-43 (If additional space is necessary, attach sheets) 16-12883-1

Source: [https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Loyalty\\_questionnaire/](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Loyalty_questionnaire/)

### Source Three Questions:

1. Who created this document?

---

---

2. Why was this document created?

---

---

Source Four: "Visit to Cheyenne Jail with Japanese American Draft Delinquents"

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Denver

SUBJECT: Selective Service Cases  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming  
*Relocation Center*

DATE: May 26, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/29/81 BY SA/GRM/lpm

For the information of the Bureau there are being transmitted herewith two copies of a report furnished the Denver Field Division by representatives of the Japanese American Citizens League who interviewed numerous Japanese-American subjects presently awaiting trial for refusal to report for their pre-induction physical examinations at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, Heart Mountain, Wyoming. The individuals who contacted the defendants were MIK MASUI, prominent nisei attorney whose background is known to the Bureau, and JOE GRANT MASOAKA, regional representative in Colorado for the Japanese American Citizens League.

These individuals have previously endeavored to induce nisei Selective Service registrants in this area to comply with the provisions of the Selective Training and Service Act, their purpose in visiting the Heart Mountain draft delinquents was to ascertain their reasons for refusing to report for the pre-induction physical examinations as ordered.

100-2674-30  
Enclosure - 2

RECORDED & INDEXED  
100-164193-43  
F B I  
23 MAY 29 1944

55 JUN 30 1944  
ET 104

Source: <https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-122-866/>

Source Four Questions:

1. Why was this document created?

---

---

---

2. How did some Japanese Americans respond to the draft?

---

---

---

Source Five: *Heart Mountain Sentinel*, Vol. I No. 1 (October 24, 1942), pg. 7.

**COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES**  
*Policy Statement*

COMMUNITY Enterprise is a departent set up by the War Relocation Authority for the convenience and service of the residents in the relocation centers. It is hoped that the residents will organize their own co-operative shortly, which will take over the operation of all the stores and other industries temporarily established by Community Enterprises.

THE GENERAL THOUGHT in back of this is that they organize on a consumer co-operative basis. All profits under this plan will be divided according to patronage. Before such co-operatives can be set up, Community Enterprises will operate in order to furnish needed service. All profits which are derived from businesses engaged then will be held for the benefit of the residents.

PROFITS MAY BE used for the expansion of the business, establishing such services as shoe repair shops, barber shops, beauty parlors, recreational facilities or any other service which may be deemed necessary; or such profits may be turned over to the co-operative to be disposed of under their direction on the basis of patronage.

STORE No. 2 8-26	STORE No. 3 20-25
---------------------	----------------------

**COMMUNITY DRY GOODS STORE**

Source: <https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-97-99/>

Source Five Questions:

1. What is the purpose of this policy statement?

---

---

---

2. What does this document tell us about life at Heart Mountain?

---

---

---

3. How did the U.S. government regulate the activities within their incarceration camps?

---

---

---

**Source Six: “A Baseball Game” by Estelle Ishigo, Heart Mountain incarceree.**



**Source:** <https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/hb7199p4f9/>

**Source Six Questions:**

**1. What does this picture tell us about the contrasts of living at Heart Mountain?**

---

---

---

**Source Seven: Civil Liberties Act of 1988, enacted by the United States Congress on August 10, 1988.**

“Congress recognizes that...a grave injustice was done to both citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry by the evacuation, relocation, and internment of civilians during World War II...these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage, and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.”

**Source:** <https://www.pbs.org/childofcamp/history/civilact.html>

**Source Seven Questions:**

**1. Why was the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 enacted?**

---

---

---

**2. What does this document tell us about the changing perceptions of Japanese incarceration over time?**

---

---

---

**Source Eight: Sam Mihara, excerpt from [“Why Here”](#) video (August 4 and 11, 2021).**

“These are massive, huge camps, made out of desolate properties that were previously owned by the government. So as a result, Heart Mountain was the ideal location within Wyoming to select for creating this prison. And it took them three months to build it. In the meantime, we were held in a temporary prison at horse racetracks in California until the camp was finished. And so the government decided then to build this camp. And in this place between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, which is east of Yellowstone about 15 miles, and we were about 15 miles away from the town of Cody. And so, literally, they had to clear the land, build an entire complex, install 450 barracks, [and] it had to be near a railroad to bring all these people [and] it had to have water nearby. There’s a lot of water coming out of Yellowstone and a river. And it had to be owned by government and, which it was, it was Bureau of Reclamation land.”

**Source:** <https://edsitement.neh.gov/media-resources/i-remember-japanese-incarceration-during-wwii>

**Source Eight Questions:**

**1. What attributes does Sam Mihara highlight about the physical landscape surrounding Heart Mountain?**

---

---

---

**2. According to Sam Mihara, why was Heart Mountain, Wyoming chosen as a location for one of the incarceration camps built during WWII?**

---

---

---

## Source Nine: Heart Mountain Relocation Center Memorial

“So the local farmers, built a monument, a plaque, a roadside marker, indicating ‘this is the place.’ After that, more people became interested in the project. And they decided to build a regular memorial site upon on the hill, away from the highway with more details. And so they created more things to memorialize what happened. The first one was a large display board that had the names of every Japanese American prisoner who served in this country.”

--Sam Mihara, [“Remembering at Heart Mountain”](#)



Source: <https://www.waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=b3d73400-e5e6-4105-b190-dfaf2d846fb5>

### Source Nine Questions:

1. Who created this memorial?

---

---

---

2. What purpose does this memorial serve?

---

---

---

**Discussion and notes page:**



**Image: Marker on a wall with Heart Mountain in the background.**