Service and Confinement

Japanese American experiences on the home front and in Europe

SS24.US2.8c "Describe the experiences of Japanese Americans in World War II, including their internment on the home front and military contributions in Europe to Allied victory."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about confinement at home and circle two details about military service in Europe. Write the same number beside one underlined detail and one circled detail that show a contrast.

Two Wartime Realities

1. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, suspicion fell on Japanese Americans, especially on the West Coast. In February 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which allowed military commanders to exclude people from designated areas. The government then forced about 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes; roughly two-thirds were U.S. citizens. Families had little time to sell businesses, store belongings, or arrange care for property. The removal was based on ancestry, not individual proof of disloyalty. Many families first lived in crowded temporary assembly centers before being sent farther inland.

2. At the inland camps run by the War Relocation Authority, families lived in barracks behind fences and under guard. Dust, heat, and cold made daily life difficult. People created schools, newspapers, and gardens, but these efforts did not make their confinement voluntary. Some adults faced a government questionnaire about loyalty; for men, it also asked about willingness to serve in combat. In 1943, the Army began recruiting Japanese American volunteers for a segregated combat unit. Some men enlisted from camps; others came from Hawaii, where Japanese Americans had not been subjected to the same mass removal.

3. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up largely of Japanese American soldiers, fought in Italy and France. The 100th Infantry Battalion, formed earlier with soldiers from Hawaii, joined the 442nd in 1944. In France, members of the 442nd rescued a surrounded U.S. unit known as the Lost Battalion, suffering heavy casualties in the effort. Their service helped Allied forces advance against Nazi Germany. At the same time, many of these soldiers had relatives confined in U.S. camps. Their courage did not erase the injustice at home, but it challenged claims that Japanese Americans could not be trusted.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the government's removal policy affect Japanese Americans on the West Coast, including U.S. citizens?

2. Describe daily life at the inland camps. Why did the activities people created there not make their stay voluntary?

3. How did Japanese American soldiers contribute to the Allied war effort in Europe? Include a specific action and its cost.

4. What contrast does the passage show between the government's treatment of Japanese American families and its use of Japanese American soldiers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label explaining how a Japanese American family could face confinement at home while a relative served in Europe. Use at least three precise facts from the passage, including one detail about family life and one specific military action, and end by explaining what this contrast reveals about U.S. wartime policy.

ANSWER KEY

Service and Confinement

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.8c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about confinement at home and circle two details about military service in Europe. Write the same number beside one underlined detail and one circled detail that show a contrast. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the government's removal policy affect Japanese Americans on the West Coast, including U.S. citizens?	**The government forced about 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes, including many U.S. citizens. Families had little time to protect their property.**
2	Describe daily life at the inland camps. Why did the activities people created there not make their stay voluntary?	**Families lived in guarded barracks and faced dust and extreme temperatures. They created schools, newspapers, and gardens, but they had been forced into the camps.**
3	How did Japanese American soldiers contribute to the Allied war effort in Europe? Include a specific action and its cost.	**The 442nd fought in Italy and France. In France, its soldiers rescued the surrounded Lost Battalion and suffered heavy casualties.**
4	What contrast does the passage show between the government's treatment of Japanese American families and its use of Japanese American soldiers?	**The government confined families based on ancestry and questioned their loyalty, while Japanese American soldiers fought for the United States in Europe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1942, a Japanese American family on the West Coast could be forced from home without any individual proof of disloyalty. At an inland camp, relatives might live in guarded barracks and struggle with heat or cold. Meanwhile, a son or brother in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team could fight in France. Members of that unit rescued the surrounded Lost Battalion despite heavy casualties. This family's experiences reveal a wartime contradiction: the United States confined people because of their ancestry while relying on Japanese American soldiers to help defeat Nazi Germany.

Accept other passage-supported details about confinement and service. In the museum label, look for an accurate explanation of the contrast, not just a list of facts.