Manzanar National Historic Site

Lesson 2: Connections to the Past

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?

How do we connect with the past?

Objective:

Students relate to children of the 1940s.

Procedure:

- Divide the class into 7 groups.
- Distribute one of the 7 photographs (located in Lesson 2 Activity 2 Resources section) to each group.
- Ask your students the following questions and have them take notes on their responses:

What do these photos show us about time? How do these images represent America? What do they show about America's identity? How was life in the 1940s different from life today?

Share photographs on an overhead projector for group discussion.

- Have the class compare and contrast life in the 1940s and today.
- Ask your students if they would have wanted to live in the 1940s. Why or why not?

Assessment:

1. Participation in the group and classroom discussion.

Extension:

1. Place the photographs so that all the students can see them. Have your students choose one photo that they feel a connection to. Then, have the students write a story in their journal that connects their identity in America to the photograph. Grade Level: 4th Time: 30 minutes Materials: 7 Photographs circa 1940 Projector

Concepts Covered: Compare and contrast. Work cooperatively in a group. Explain how the present connects to the past. Identify both similarities and

differences. **Describe** how things change

over time or remain the same.

CDE Standards:

4th Grade English/Language Arts: Writing 2.1.a 2.1.b History/Social Science 4.4.5

Manzanar National Historic Site Lesson 2: Connections to the Past

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s? How do we connect with the past?

Images of Life in the 1940s:













Larger versions of these photographs are located in the Lesson 2 Activity 2 Resources section.





Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?

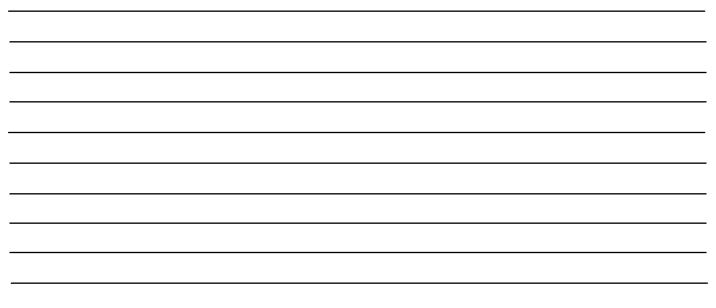


Primary class in new school, Prairie Farms, Montgomery, Alabama, Marion Wolcott, Spring 1939

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



Swimming pool, Greenbelt, Maryland, Marion Wolcott, August 1939





Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



Cajun children on Terrebonne Project, Schriever, Louisiana, Marion Wolcott, June 1940



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Lesson 2: Resources

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?

Skiers near Franconia, New Hampshire, Marion Wolcott, March 1940

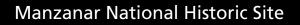
Manzanar National Historic Site

Lesson 2: Resources

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



Cotton carnival, Memphis, Tennessee, Marion Wolcott, May 1940

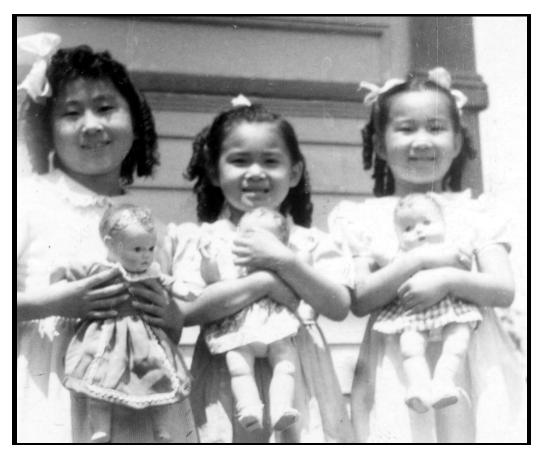


Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



First grade children and teacher, Goodman School, Coffee County, Alabama, Marion Wolcott, April 1939

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



Japanese American girls, Los Angeles, 1940. Rose Matsui Ochi Collection, Manzanar NHS

