



# Lesson 4: Remembering Manzanar

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

## Activity 1: Remembering Manzanar

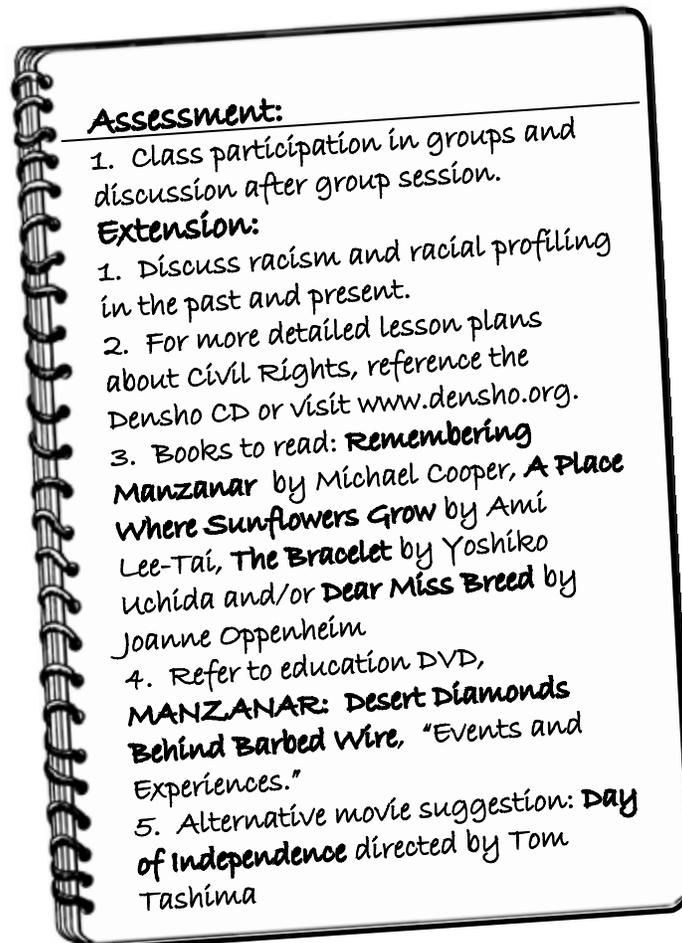
How did Japanese Americans' identities shape their internment experiences?

### Objective:

Students learn how internment altered the lives of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and many others.

### Procedure:

- ✓ Provide *Remembering Manzanar* Discussion Questions handout to students (located in the Lesson 4 Activity 1 Resources).
- ✓ Watch *Remembering Manzanar* DVD (22-minute documentary).
- ✓ Provide time for students to complete the handout.
- ✓ Discuss questions and answers as a class or break up into groups for discussion, then report findings to the class.
- ✓ Start reading the memoir *Farewell to Manzanar* to the class.



**Grade Level:** 4th  
**Time:** 40 minutes  
**Materials:**  
Discussion Question list,  
*Remembering Manzanar*  
DVD, *Farewell to Manzanar* by James D. & Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

### Concepts Covered:

**Explore** information from primary sources.

**Relate** primary source material to today's world.

### CDE Standards:

**4th Grade English/Language Arts: Writing**

1.1 2.1

**Listening and Speaking**

1.1 1.2 1.8

**History/Social Science**

4.4.3 4.4.4 4.4.5

Activity 1: **Remembering Manzanar***Remembering Manzanar* Discussion Questions

After watching the film *Remembering Manzanar*, use what you have learned to answer the following questions. Share your answers with your group members.

1. What did you learn about the Japanese immigrant experience? How were their identities affected by this experience?
2. What happened to Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor?
3. According to the film, what are some of the reasons why Japanese Americans were placed in the camps?
4. What can we learn from the internment of Japanese Americans?
5. What does *shikata ga nai* mean? What does it mean to you? Is there a phrase or word in American culture that means the same thing?