

Life in Camp

Story Thematic - Lesson # 2

Title: What did you do in camp?

Summary: This lesson investigates the experiences that children had while they were living in internment camps and compares those experiences to present day life.

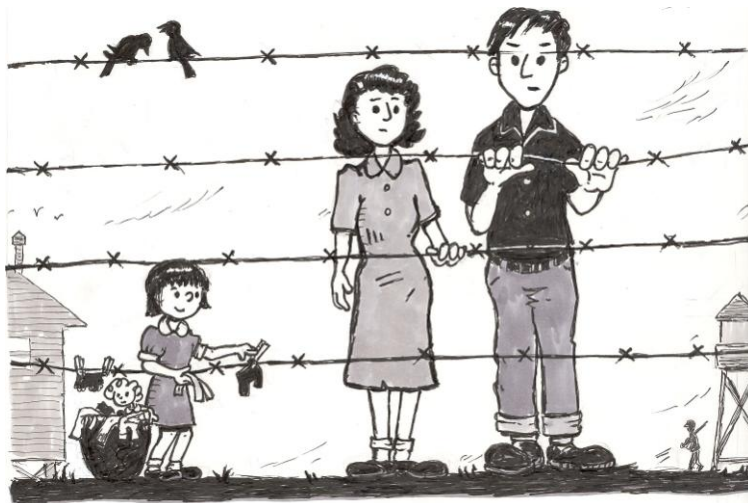
Age/grade level: 4th - 6th

Related EALR: Check the OSPI website for EARLS and CBA's applicable to your grade level.

Suggested materials: Copies of Omoide stories. (your choice)

Time needed: One or two class sessions

Lesson Objective: Students will evaluate life of Omoide internees and identify camp experiences as they differ from a modern day camp definition.



Presenting the Lesson

Preparation:

1. Select the stories that you will have students read later. Make copies of stories or decide how to share book.
2. Post or copy the guided questions.

Set/Introduction:

Ask students to brainstorm what they do or would do at "camp." List their responses.

Main activity:

With partners or individually have students read 3 or 4 of the stories in the Omoide book. Tell students to make a list as they read of activities the characters do that demonstrate what life in an internment camp was like.

1. When everyone has read 3 or 4 of the stories, compare the activities they listed.
2. Refer to the list of camp activities students gave at the beginning of the lesson.
3. Compare the lists and label them as internment activities, normal childhood activities or both.

Secondary activity:

Have students generate questions that they would like answered about what life in camp was like. If possible, save these to ask an Omoide team member or send them to the Omoide team. Someone will try to answer the questions during a presentation or send answers back to the students. (See the contact information listed on the website.)

Guided questions/Potential answers:

(Answers will vary depending on the students' experiences and stories read. See the assessment section below.)

- Do you think children in the camps knew the environment they lived in was unique? Why or why not?
- If you were living in an internment camp now, how do you think you would spend your time?
- Do you think older children and adults had a different experience in internment camps than the children? How were they different? How were they alike?
- Do you think camp life was good or bad? Why or why not?

Summary:

Ask individual students to share their discoveries about how life might have been as a child in an internment camp during wartime. Emphasize differences and similarities and include discussion about attitudes as well as events.

Assessment options:

Have students respond in writing to any or all of the guided questions. Use the [response rubric](#) or the [empathy rubric](#) at the back of the guide to assess understanding.

Extensions/Follow up:

Based on what students read and discuss, have them make a weekly calendar of events they believed occurred during internment. Take those calendars and compare them to a weekly calendar of events in their present day lives.

Additional Bibliography:

Other resources can be found in the [bibliography](#) located on the Omoide curriculum website.

Notes: