

# Historical Seattle Locations

## Story Thematic - Lesson 3

**Title:** Omoide Northwest Stories

**Summary:** This lesson emphasizes the stories and events authors had living in specific areas in the Pacific Northwest.

**Age/grade level:** 4<sup>th</sup> and up

**Related EALR:** Check the Omoide website for Washington State 2008 EARLS and CBA's applicable to your grade level focusing on map skills.

**Suggested materials:** Copies of Nihonmachi map and selected Omoide stories.

**Time needed:** One or two class sessions

**Lesson Objective:** Students will make connections between the Pacific Northwest region in the United States and the events documented in the Omoide book series that occurred as documented by selected contributors.



## Presenting the Lesson

### Preparation:

1. Decide if you will share the suggested Omoide stories as a group, in student pairs, or as individual readings. Make copies as applicable. Example stories may include: Omoide IV – Childhood Games, Public Bath, Sports, Decision at the Crossroad, Living in the International District. Omoide V – Uwajimaya, Citizen's Arrest, Our Special Neighborhood, My Greatest Teachers
2. Make copies of the "Map of Nihonmachi," or make a display copy.
3. Have a Washington State and a Seattle map available for reference and display.

### Set/Introduction:

1. Read the following paragraph:  
"For our family, home was the Japanese Language School, aka "Tip School" at Rainier and Weller streets in Seattle. We were enrolled at St. Mary's Grade School at 20<sup>th</sup> and Weller."
2. Have students identify on the Nihonmachi map where the language school is located.
3. Point out modern day familiar sites for reference. (i.e., downtown, stadiums, International District)

### Main activity:

Tell students in the language school example, each story in the Omoide book happened somewhere in the Pacific Northwest. Have someone point out the Pacific Northwest on the Washington map.

1. Students read through the sample stories and identify areas on the map where the events in the stories occurred.

2. As time allows, have students find locations from other stories on the Washington map and Pacific Northwest/US map.

### ***Secondary activity:***

Students draw maps of their own neighborhood and briefly describe an event that happened in the area depicted. Students can refer to their maps when they share their events.

### ***Guided questions/Potential answers:***

- ❑ Are the locations mentioned in the stories still around today? (*Depending on the story, some are; some aren't, but can be found on most modern day maps.*)
- ❑ Why do you think locations and their descriptions were important in the stories? (*Describes setting and creates a clearer understanding of where things occurred. May also help connect events to area and illustrates the connection of the author to the setting.*)
- ❑ Can you describe an address or an area mentioned in the stories as it appears today? (*Answers will vary, but you might choose to share photos of the Japanese Language School which was used as temporary housing for a few returning Japanese American interned families.*)
- ❑ Is there an important memory you have that you associate an area with?

### ***Summary:***

Remind students that part of history is based on the location of where things occur. The stories in *Omoide* are true events. The areas in which they took place are real and available so that when future generations see these areas they might remember.

### ***Assessment options:***

Make note of the map skills that students use as they try to find different places described in the book. If necessary, use the introduction exercise and main activity as a pre-assessment to see how easily students are able to find different locations based on textual references. From there, build on standard map skills such as legend reading, grid usage, and directional references as well as practicing map reading with others.

### ***Extensions/Follow up:***

Use the Map of the Camps lesson for further map investigation skills.

### ***Additional Bibliography:***

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

### ***Notes:***