

Japanese American Exclusion 1942 – Primary Sources

Look at the primary source documents from 1942 in the order that they are presented, beginning with Document #1 and answer the following questions.

Document #1 – The Shibuya Family

Japanese immigrants to the US were called Issei or first generation
The children of Japanese immigrants were called Nisei or second generation.

Who in the Shibuya family would be Issei and who would be Nisei?

How did the Mr. Shibuya earn his living?

Document #2: Children Salute American Flag

What do you notice about the race and nationalities of the children saluting the American flag?

What do you think that photographer Dorothea Lange was trying to say with this photo of children, including Japanese American students, saluting the American flag?

Document #3: I Am An American

What is the significance of the date when the Japanese American store owner put this sign on his store?

Why do you think this storeowner put a sign in his window “ I am an American?”

Why was the store sold?

Document #4: Executive Order 9066

The President is concerned with “espionage and sabotage” to our national defense. What is espionage and sabotage?

The President says that military commanders can determine areas from which “all persons may be excluded”. Why is President Roosevelt calling for the exclusion of Japanese Americans from the West coast?

Document #5: Map of Exclusion and Internment Camps

To the west of the dark black line on the map represents the area of exclusion. Which states are to exclude Japanese Americans from their coastal areas?

Name two of the California Relocation centers:

Document #6: Ouster.... Newspaper

Ouster means to push out. What is the SF Examiner newspaper headline saying is happening?

The word “Jap” appears in the headline is a racial epithet for Japanese Americans. Why do you think the newspaper editors felt they could use this derogatory term in their newspaper?

Document #7: Instruction to all Persons of Japanese Ancestry

Who do you think are “alien Japanese” and who are “non-alien Japanese”?

List three items that Japanese Americans “must carry” with them on their departure to the “reception center.”

Document #8: The Mochida Family

Imagine you were a member of the Mochida family from Hayward. In the suitcase list the personal items you would most want to pack. Outside of the suitcase list the important things you would be forced to leave behind.

