

Fred Korematsu Biography and Viewing Guide

Both the biography and video of Fred Korematsu from the *Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education*

Read the biography of Fred T. Korematsu and put the following events in chronological order, beginning with the first event and ending with the tenth event.

- A. _____ Fred Korematsu refused to go to the internment camps.
- B. _____ Fred Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- C. _____ Fred Korematsu was born and raised in Oakland, California.
- D. _____ Fred Korematsu was arrested and taken to jail for disobeying the law incarcerating the Japanese.
- E. _____ Governor Schwarzenegger signed a bill making January 30th, Korematsu's birthday, Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.
- F. _____ President Ronald Reagan signed a bill, apologizing to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in the camps during World War II.
- G. _____ Korematsu took his case to the Supreme Court, but the court decided that internment was legal.
- H. _____ Fred Korematsu died.
- I. _____ Fred Korematsu's conviction was overturned and the courts said that Japanese Americans did not deserve to be put in internment camps.
- J. _____ Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941.

View the film, "Of Civil Rights and Wrongs: the Fred Korematsu Story"

1. Why didn't Fred Korematsu comply with the evacuation order?

2. What claim did Fred Korematsu make that the internment of Japanese Americans was a violation of the US Constitution?

3. What claim did majority on the Supreme Court make that the mass incarceration of Japanese of Americans was legal and justified?

4. Karen Korematsu, Fred's daughter, didn't learn about her father's role in opposing the internment order until she was in high school. Why do you think Fred Korematsu didn't talk with his daughter about this experience?

5. In the 1980's Fred Korematsu received a second day in court. What did the Judge Patel decide about the incarceration of Korematsu, and all Japanese Americans, during World War II?

6. When President Clinton awarded Fred Korematsu the Congressional Medal of Freedom, he compared Korematsu to another Civil Rights hero, Rosa Parks. In what ways were Fred Korematsu and Rosa Parks similar?