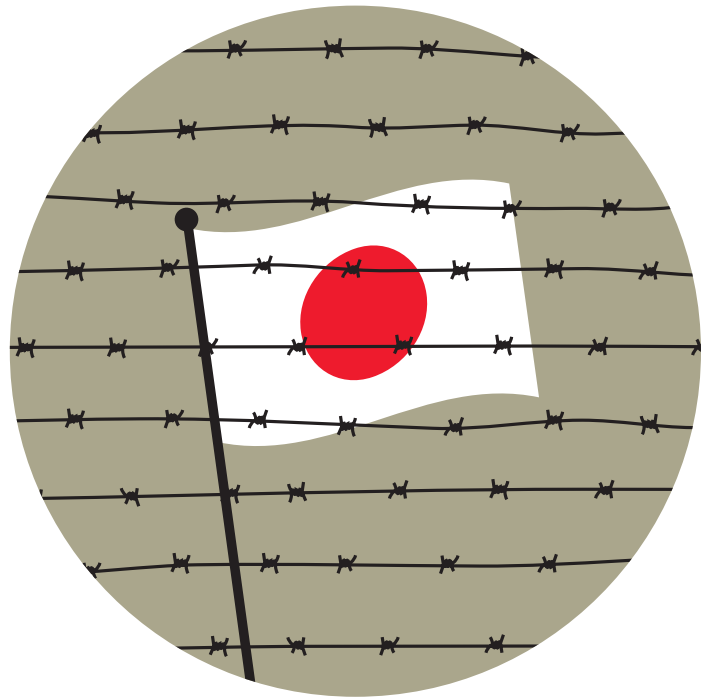


Japanese Internment

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What happened to Japanese Canadians and Americans during World War II?
2. What historic event caused US and Canadian governments to relocate people of Japanese origin?
3. What role does the media play during wartime?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many meanings and words as you can before you read.
You can check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. colony | a) a person who secretly watches people's movements and behaviour |
| _____ 2. generation | b) short-term |
| _____ 3. discrimination | c) a region that is under control by another country |
| _____ 4. loyal | d) the state of being held like a prisoner |
| _____ 5. spy | e) having spikes on a fence to prevent escape or entry |
| _____ 6. interior | f) a group of people born during a single time frame |
| _____ 7. abandon | g) the state of becoming established in a new area |
| _____ 8. temporary | h) showing long-term support for a person, place, or organization |
| _____ 9. internment | i) inland, not on the coast |
| _____ 10. barbed-wire | j) unfair treatment based on a quality such as race, religion, or gender |
| _____ 11. resettlement | k) to suddenly leave a place with no plans to return |
| _____ 12. compensation | l) repayment (usually money) to make up for a loss or injury |

Reading

1. On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked a US naval base in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor. That same day, Japan also attacked the British **colony** of Hong Kong, where many Canadian soldiers were stationed. The next day, the US and Canada declared war on Japan.
2. In 1941, many people of Japanese ancestry were living on the West Coast of Canada and the US. About one-third were first **generation** immigrants (*Issei*). The others were second generation (*Nisei*). Though many had never been to Japan, they faced racial **discrimination** long before the war began.
3. Racism against the Japanese worsened when the US and Canada joined the war. The government and media assumed Japanese people would be **loyal** to their ancestry. Many business owners were accused of being **spies**. When Canadian Pacific Railway fired all of its Japanese employees, many other companies did the same.
4. In February 1942, President Roosevelt ordered the relocation of all people of Japanese origin to camps in the **interior** of the US. Approximately 120,000 people had to **abandon** their homes. Many sold off their property far below market price. They waited in **temporary** shelters, such as racetracks, until **internment** camps were built.
5. In March 1942, Prime Minister Mackenzie King made a similar evacuation order. About 23,000 people of Japanese descent had to leave the "protected area" along Canada's West Coast. Like in the US, evacuees waited in temporary holding areas, including animal stalls. Their businesses, homes, and personal property were sold off to pay for camps in the interior of BC.
6. Japanese internment camps were cold in the winter and hot in the summer. They were crowded and didn't have proper plumbing or electricity. In the US, the camps were guarded and surrounded by **barbed-wire** fences.
7. After the war ended in 1945, **resettlement** was not easy. In the US, internees received a train ticket to their pre-war homes but faced anti-Japanese groups when they arrived. In Canada, they were told to settle east of the Rockies or return to their war-torn homeland. They weren't allowed to return to the West Coast until 1949.
8. It wasn't until 1988 that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President Ronald Reagan finally offered formal apologies and financial **compensation** to the surviving victims of North America's Japanese internment camps.

*"You, who deal
in lifeless figures,
files, and statistics,
could never measure
the depth of hurt
and outrage dealt
out to those of us
who love this land."*

—Muriel Kitigawa, 1943 letter
to the Canadian government

-ee

In English, the suffix -ee is often used to form a word that means *a person who is the object of the verb found in the word*.

- internee
- evacuee
- employee
- interviewee
- attendee
- refugee
- referee

Comprehension

A. Quiz Your Partner

Create your own comprehension questions about the reading using the following question words. Try to include the **bold** vocabulary words in your questions. Quiz your partner.

1. Who?

2. What?

3. Where?

4. When?

5. Why?

6. How?

B. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1–8).
One item is not mentioned in the reading.
Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- _____ Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy.
- _____ Many people of Japanese ancestry rushed to sell off their property and belongings in the US.
- _____ Japanese Canadians and Americans were held in temporary shelters, such as racetracks.
- _____ Anti-Japanese groups made it difficult for Japanese Americans to resettle on the West Coast.
- _____ People of Japanese ancestry faced discrimination in North America.
- _____ The leaders of the US and Canada ordered the relocation of people of Japanese ancestry.
- _____ Internees lived in poor conditions in internment camps for up to three years.
- _____ Japan surrendered and World War II came to an end.

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. We had to abandon our car on the highway.
a) stop
b) escape
c) leave
2. We live in the interior, so I miss the ocean.
a) region
b) inland
c) coast
3. The internment lasted three years.
a) case
b) war
c) imprisonment
4. Do women in your country face discrimination?
a) unequal treatment
b) settlement
c) spying
5. Each victim received \$20,000 as compensation for their losses.
a) cash
b) temporary
c) repayment
6. I have been a loyal citizen for over 20 years.
a) supportive
b) hardworking
c) temporary

B. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. Our parents were first _____ immigrants.
2. The internment was _____, but it felt like forever in the camps.
3. The camp has _____ fences that make it difficult for evacuees to escape.
4. My grandmother was afraid during the war. She thought every foreigner was a _____.
5. Our country used to be a British _____. Now we are an independent country.
6. His organization helps refugees with _____.
They want to make the adjustment easier on newcomers.

Put Yourself in Their Shoes

EVACUATION

To *put yourself in someone else's shoes* means to imagine what it must be like (or *have been like*) for another person in a difficult situation.

During World War II, Japanese internees had little time to pack up their belongings and leave their homes and businesses. What would you pack if you had to evacuate today? You may not return for three years!

Imagine you only have one suitcase. Make a short list. Then compare it with your group members. Did you change anything on your list? What would be the hardest thing to leave behind?

In my suitcase, I would bring:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Discussion

1. If war broke out today, would the US and Canada set up internment camps?
2. US and Canadian governments apologized for the Japanese internment in 1988. Do you think there was any justification for these camps?
3. After the war, many Japanese Canadians and Americans internees did not talk or complain about their experience. Why do you think they stayed quiet about it?
4. How are US-Japanese relations today? What about Canadian-Japanese relations?

Research

On the US mainland, most people of Japanese ancestry were interred during World War II. In Hawaii, only select people and families were interred. Do a little research to find out why. Share your findings with your class.