



# Amache National Historic Site Junior Ranger Activity Book

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior







## To become an Amache Junior Ranger...

Stories are an important part of Amache. They help us piece together what life was like here. This story will help you learn more about the site as you explore.

**To earn your badge**, read the story and complete the following number of activities.

If you are 5-8 years old, complete at least 6 activities.

If you are 9-12 years old, complete at least 8 activities.

If you are 13+ years old, complete the whole book.

Be careful while exploring Amache National Historic Site. Long pants and close-toed shoes are recommended. Bring an extra layer of clothing and plenty of water.



# Hello

My name is Kasumi, but you can call me Rose. This is my brother Masao, but he goes by Mas. From 1942 to 1945, our family lived here at Amache. But this was not always our home. We used to live in California with our family and friends.



In 1942, the United States government forced our family to leave our home. People were afraid of us because the government of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i. We had not done anything wrong, but we looked like the enemy. Our grandparents immigrated from Japan, but we were born in the United States. Some people in the United States never accepted us as citizens and treated us differently because of how we looked and where our families were from. World War II made this worse.

Many families like mine were forced from their homes along the West Coast and moved to incarceration centers across the country. We were far from our homes and our friends in a new, unfamiliar place.

**Would you like to learn about Amache with us?**



## What we could carry

One day, we came home from school to find signs telling us we needed to leave our home. We were being sent to an unknown place for an unknown length of time. We only had a week to pack two suitcases each. We packed clothes, our photo albums, extra shoes and underwear, a favorite toy, and some dishes from Japan.

We didn't know what was going to happen to us. We were scared, sad, and angry about what was going on.



My dad was sad about losing our farm.



My mom was angry that we were being forced to leave our home.



Mas was scared about what would happen to our dog.



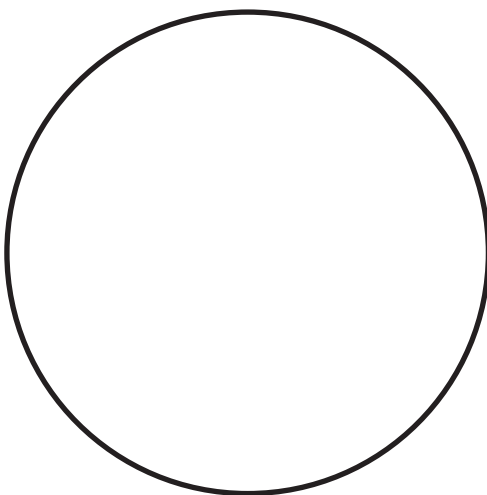
I was embarrassed that kids at school were treating me differently.



My grandmother was worried that our family would be split up.

## How would you feel?

Draw one of the emojis or create your own



I would feel: \_\_\_\_\_

## What would be the hardest thing to leave behind?







## A long journey

First, we were sent to the Merced Assembly Center. We lived there for a few months before we were put on a train. We didn't know where the train was taking us. There were armed guards watching us and they wouldn't let us open the window shades.

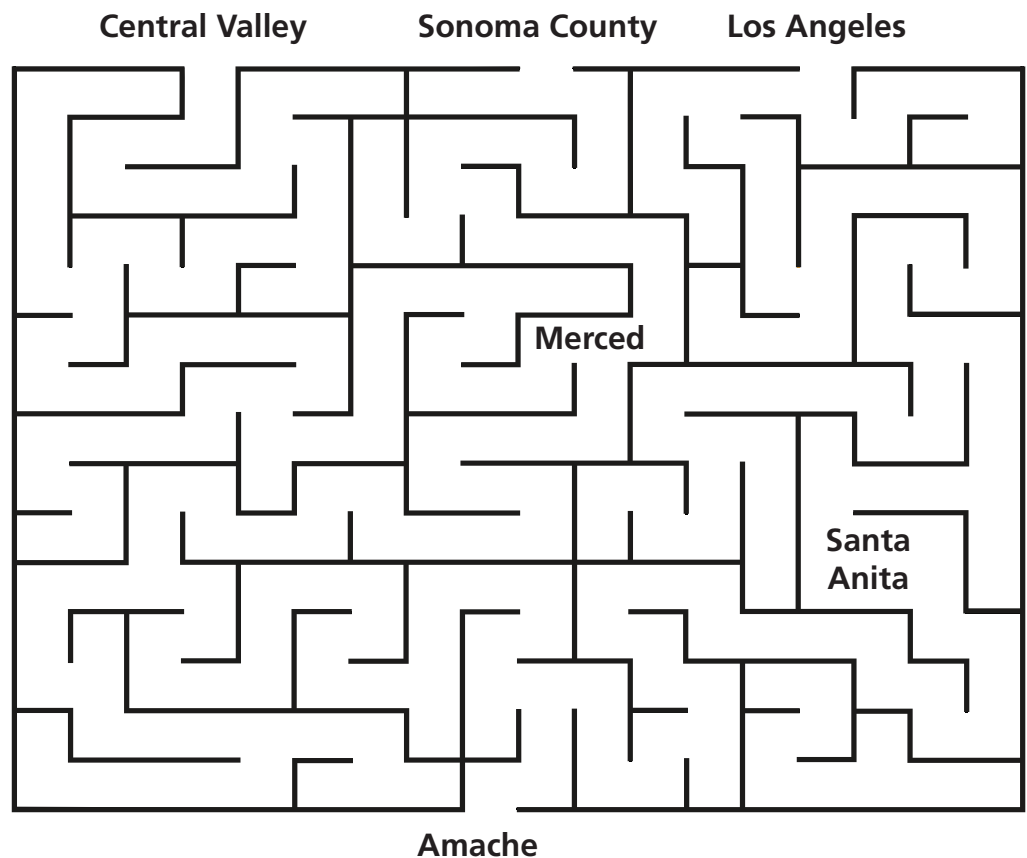
After a few days, we arrived in Colorado. It was so windy and there was sand everywhere. It was very different from our home in California.



## Find your way from California to Colorado

People at Amache were removed from their homes in Los Angeles, Sonoma County, and farming communities in the Central Valley of California. They lived in temporary detention centers at the Santa Anita Racetrack or the Merced County Fairgrounds for months before being moved to Amache.

Choose one of the starting points, move through the temporary detention center, and arrive at Amache.



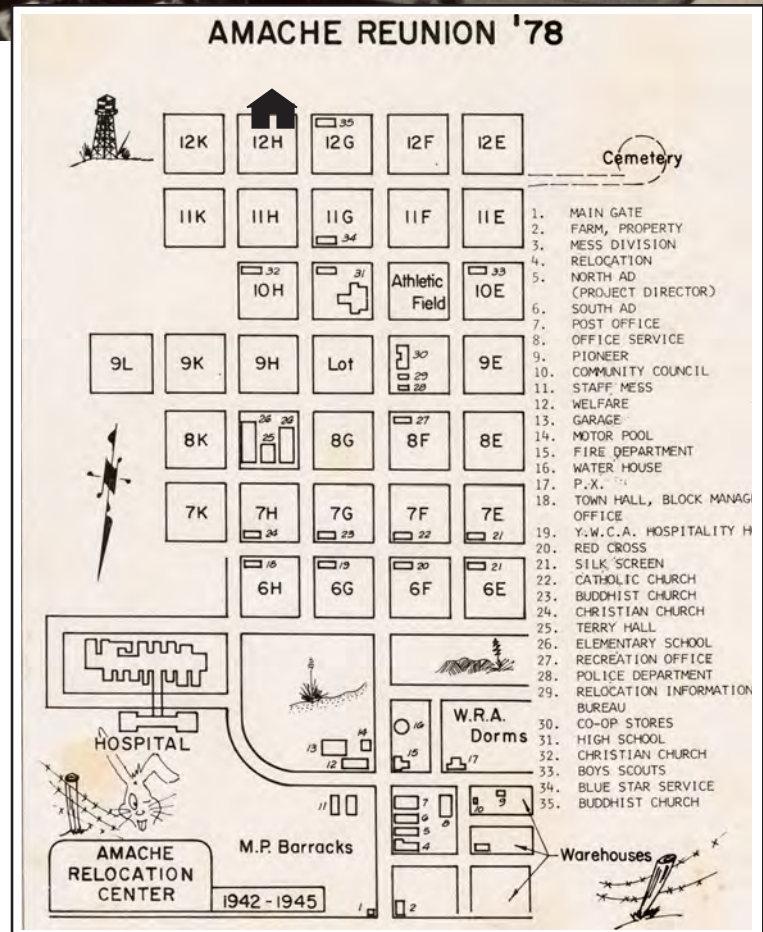




## Getting to know Amache

From the train station, we were brought to the Granada Relocation Center, also called Amache. At first it was just rows of barracks. But over time, it became a city behind barbed wire. There was a hospital, a store, schools, and different neighborhoods.

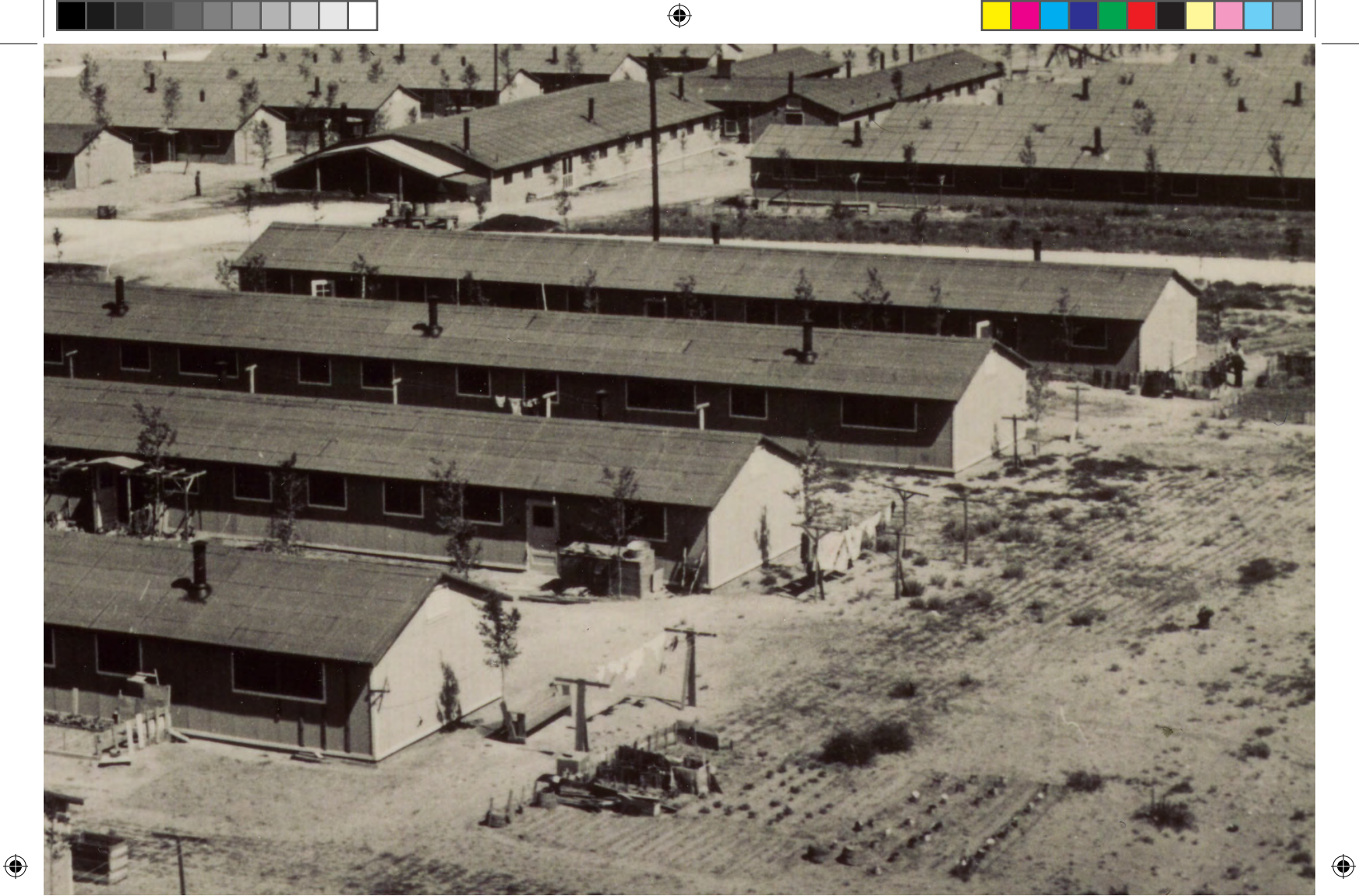
Our family lived in Block 12H with my grandparents. Our apartment was Barrack 7, Unit E. My best friend lived in Block 11F, Barrack 6, Unit D. My brother and I went to school at the elementary school in Block 8H. I had to learn how to find my way around so I would not get lost!



Map photo credit (ddr-densho-390-142 — Amache camp map | Densho Digital Repository),  
Courtesy of the Matsuoka Family Collection, Densho







# Map your visit

As you explore the site, draw symbols on the map to the left for the places you visit. Be sure to add your symbols to the Map Legend and explain what they are.

**Hint: check out the park audio tour.**

## Map Legend



barrack



## Cramped quarters

In our house in California, my mom cooked us dinner every night and we ate together. Our house had a kitchen, bathroom, living room, and we each had our own bedroom.

At Amache, we ate in the Mess Hall and shared a bathroom with 300 people. Our whole family lived together in one tiny room.

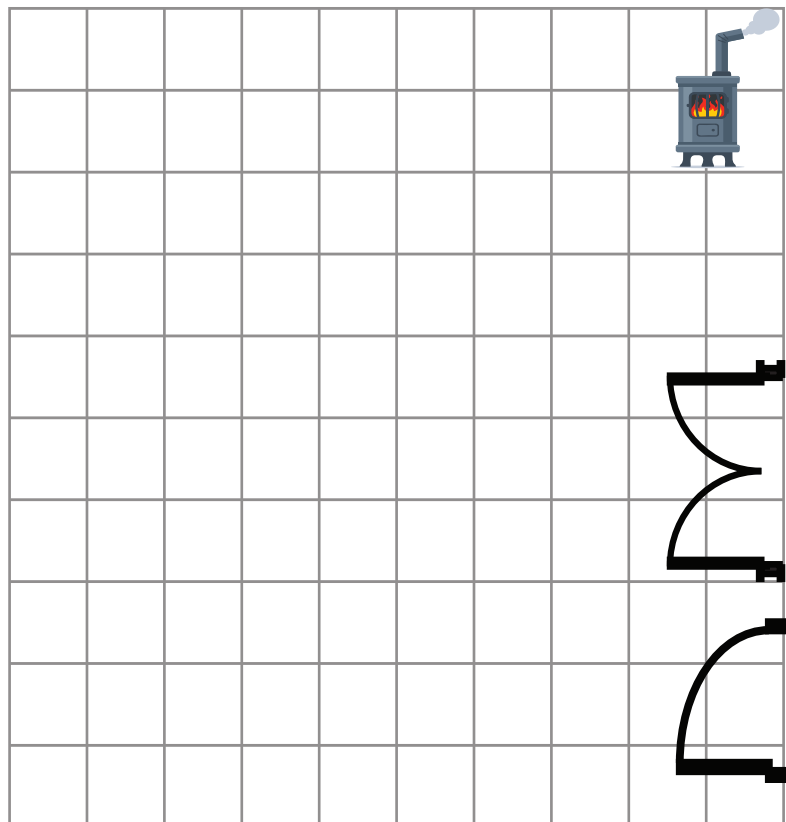
My parents built furniture and used curtains to create small rooms, but you could still hear everything! My brother snored and the baby next door kept crying, so it was sometimes hard to sleep.

## Design your family's unit

Families lived together in 400 square foot rooms. The rooms had one light bulb, a closet, and a stove for heat. As many as eight people lived in a single room. They found creative ways to use their space to create some privacy and a sense of home.

Design a living space for your family. How many beds would you need? What other furniture? Draw or color in the right number of blocks for the furniture. The stove, door, and closet have already been filled out.

- One bed = 6 (3x2) blocks
- Medium furniture (table, dresser) = 4 (2x2) blocks
- Small furniture (chair, etc.) = 1 block





# We are Japanese Americans

My brother and I each have two names. One is Japanese, and one is American. Our grandparents immigrated from Japan to the United States. They speak Japanese. Our parents were born in California and speak both English and Japanese. Mas and I learned to speak both, so we have names that show who we are as Japanese Americans. We are Americans whose families immigrated from Japan.

Many things at Amache were written in English and Japanese—the newspaper, important signs, and people's names. This is how I write Rose in Japanese.

ローズ (RO - ZU)

アa	イi	ウu	エe	オo
カka	キki	クku	ケke	コko
サsa	シshi	スsu	セse	ソso
タta	チchi	ツtsu	テte	トto
ナna	ニni	ヌnu	ネne	ノno
ハha	ヒhi	フfu	ヘhe	ホho
マma	ミmi	ムmu	メme	モmo
ヤya	ユyu	ヨyo		
ラra	リri	ルru	レre	ロro
ワwa				ヲwo
ンn				
ー Long vowel ツ Double consonant				

Sourced from MochiKana

ガga	ギgi	グgu	ゲge	ゴgo
ザza	ジji	ズzu	ゼze	ゾzo
ダda	ヂji	ヅdu	デde	ドdo
バba	ビbi	ブbu	ベbe	ボbo
パpa	ピpi	プpu	ペpa	ポpo

キya	キュkyu	キョkyo
ギya	ギュgyu	ギョgyo
シsha	シュshu	ショsho
ジャja	ジュju	ジョjo
チャcha	チュchu	チョcho
ニya	ニュnyu	ニョnyo
ヒya	ヒュhyu	ヒョhyo
ビya	ビュbyu	ビョbyo
ミya	ミュmyu	ミョmyo
ピya	ピュpyu	ピョpyo
リya	リュryu	リョryo

## Katakana Chart

### Write your name in Japanese

Use the katakana chart to write your name in Japanese. Look for the syllables to make your name. Does the chart show all the sounds you need?

## How did Amache get its name?

The site of Amache is named after Ameohtse'e Ochinee Prowers, who was an accomplished Cheyenne woman. Ameohtse'e (AH-MAYO-TSAY) translates to Walking Woman. She was a rancher and advocate for her community. She lived in two worlds, Native American and American, but always honored her Cheyenne family roots and traditions. Amache was the nickname incarcerated used for the Granada Relocation Center.

Amache National Historic Site is on the ancestral lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. For thousands of years, they hunted, gathered, and lived on these prairies. In the 1860s, they were removed from their home and forced to go somewhere unfamiliar, much like the Japanese Americans in the 1940s. Today, descendants of Amache and members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes still call these lands home and remember the stories and traditions of their peoples.



Photo of Amache Courtesy of of History Colorado.





# Growing a garden

My grandfather was a farmer and a gardener. In front of our barrack, he created a garden filled with flowers. It reminded me of the garden he had at our house in California.

We couldn't buy things for the garden, so we found them instead. Grandfather used chunks of concrete and rocks from the river to build stone walls. He found pieces of wood to construct a bridge. His garden was beautiful and creative. Having a garden made Amache look and feel more familiar.



## Create an Amache garden

People at Amache created beautiful gardens with plants and trees, as well as objects they found and repurposed. Use the following prompts to design your own Amache-style garden.

What is an object that other people might throw away that you could use creatively?

What is an object that is important to your family or your culture?

Name a plant or tree that is local to where you live.







Use your answers to draw your Amache garden here.







## Keeping busy

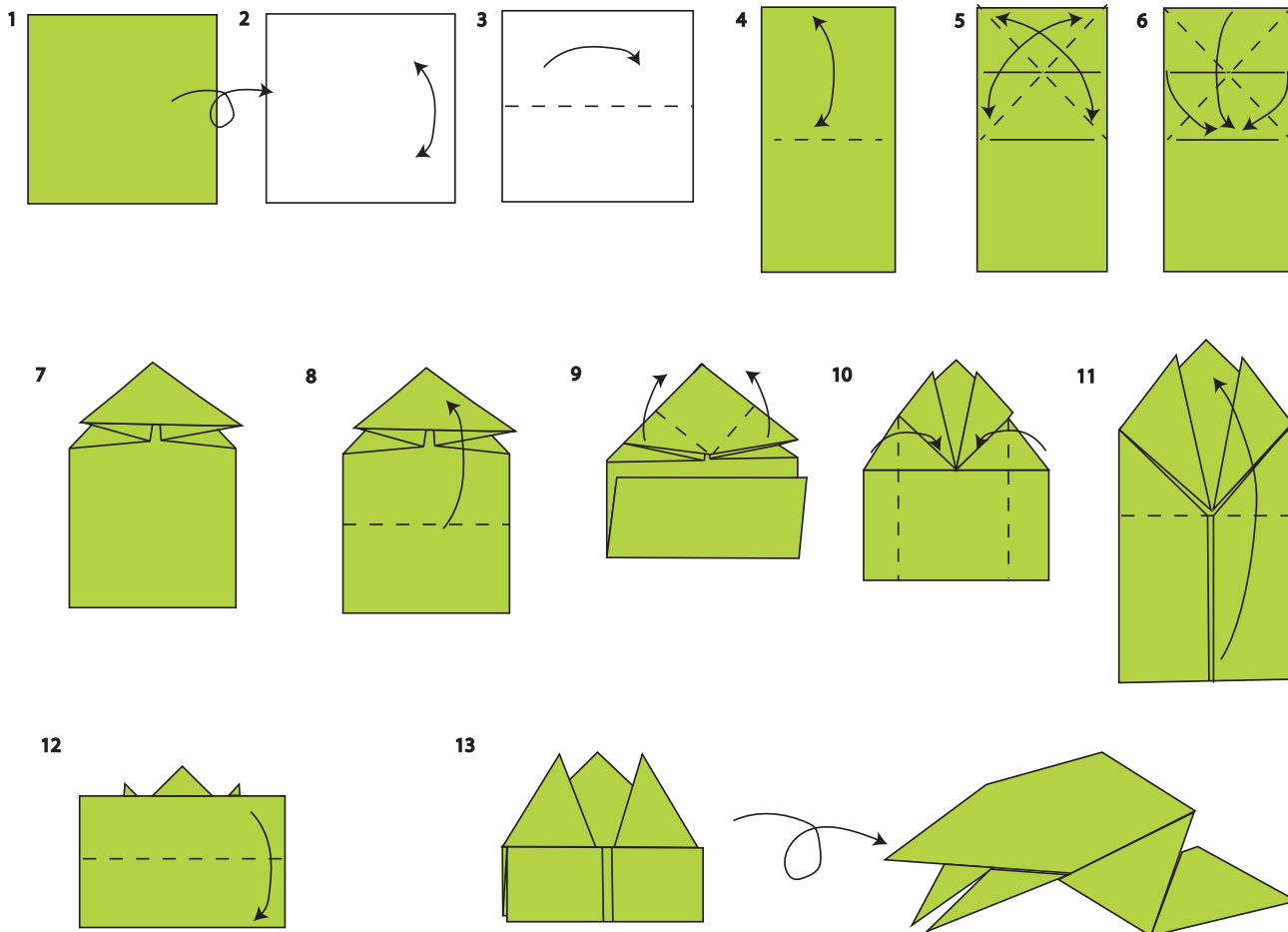
In California, my family ran a farm. There were always chores and things to do. At Amache, some people had jobs, but there was less to do.

Being busy helped prevent our minds from thinking about all the things we lost. Lots of people took art classes to learn new things and keep busy. My mom took a painting class, and my grandfather learned to carve wood. They used their art to express how they felt.

Mas and I took an origami class in the Recreation Hall. My grandmother told us that she learned origami when she was a little girl in Japan.

## Try origami

Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding. Follow the instructions below to learn how to make your own origami frog.







## Finding community

Nobody was sure how long we would be at Amache, so people tried to make life here feel as normal as possible. We participated in groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and baseball teams. We had dances, parades, and a summer carnival. People did their best to bring parts of their lives from home to Amache.

Even though we had these activities, the barbed wire fence and guard towers reminded us that we were never truly free.



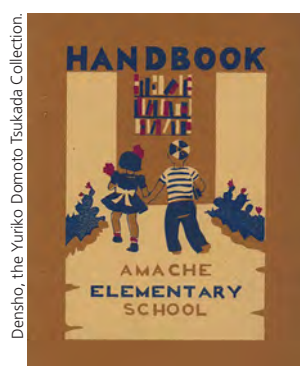
## What activities do you enjoy with family and friends?

Of the 10 War Relocation Authority camps created in the U.S., Amache was the only one that had a successful silkscreen printing shop. It produced posters and training materials for the US Navy. It also produced flyers to advertise for activities around Amache.

Do you like to participate in any of the activities shown here at home? Look at the Silk Screen Shop's flyers and circle the activities you enjoy or would like to try some day.



Travel



Go to School



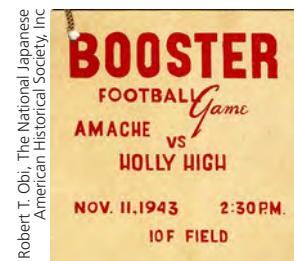
Dance



Celebrate Holidays



Music



Sports







Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.



## Starting over

In 1945, the government announced that Amache was closing. Our family had been here for three years. The government gave us a train ticket and \$25 to move somewhere.

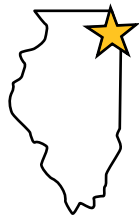
We didn't know where we would go. We wanted to keep our family together. We lost everything when we had to leave California in 1942. How were we supposed to start over again?

## Choose where to move

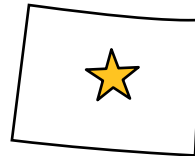
Once the government announced the incarceration centers would close, people had to make a decision about where they would go. Below are some of the options people faced. Read through the descriptions and choose where you would want to move.



**California:** We could move back home, but our neighbors made **racist comments** about our family after Pearl Harbor was bombed. We had to **sell our house and farm**. Still, California was our home, and **we miss it!**



**Chicago:** There are a **lot of jobs** here, and **other Japanese Americans** have moved to the city. My friend's older brother sent a letter home saying it is **really cold**, but the people are **not as racist**.



**Denver:** It is **close by** and lots of other **families from Amache** already moved there so we know people. Also, Governor of Colorado Ralph Carr has been **welcoming to Japanese Americans**.



**Staying here:** My grandfather wants to just stay here, but the **government says we can't**. He says that the government **forced us to come here** and lose everything. We made do and created a new community. They should not be able to just close Amache and **force everyone out**.

Where would you go?

Why?





## Moving on

We left Amache in October of 1945 and went home to California. Some of our old neighbors were happy to see us, while some were less friendly. My dad talked to other farmers and found us land and a house. The items we left behind were still in storage at a Buddhist temple nearby, thanks to friends who volunteered there.

It felt odd to be home and see all my old friends. I never completely forgot how some of them treated me when the war started and we were ordered to leave our life here.

Mas and I kept in touch with many of our friends from Amache. Some families struggled more than others with moving on. Our time at Amache affected everyone differently, but the majority of our parents never ever spoke about our time there. Eventually, I earned an agriculture degree in college and took over the family farm. Mas became an engineer.



## Amache: now and then

After Amache closed, all the buildings were removed and the site was abandoned. In the 1970s, people started returning to honor what happened here. Amache became a memorial and archeological site.



Compare these two photographs. They are both taken from the big orange and white water tower. **Circle the image that looks more like Amache today.**

**List three things that are different:**

Camp overview photo (historic), Courtesy of Amache Preservation Society, McClelland Collection.  
Camp overview photo (modern), Jesse Kuroiwa/University of Colorado VRC.



# Returning to Amache

Seventy years later, Mas and I returned to Amache. I was contacted by a university doing archeology at the barrack we lived in, and they invited us to join them. While we worked with the archeologists, we found things we brought with us from California and things we got while living at Amache. Mas even found parts of Grandfather's garden. Some things were whole, while some things were in pieces. Many of the objects made me cry as they brought back memories of living here and how hard it was on my grandparents and parents. Mas and I shared the stories we remembered with each other and the archeologists.





# Archeology tells a story

Archeology is the study of people in the past. Archeologists look at objects, called artifacts, left behind. The artifacts help tell stories about people and events from the past. When artifacts are moved or taken from a site, part of that story is lost.

*Photos of archeologists and volunteers at Amache, working to find artifacts*



Parts of a story Rose remembers while living at Amache are missing because some of the objects were removed from the archeological site. Can you make her story whole again by filling in the missing parts, using the artifacts to the right?

It was Mas' birthday. As a treat their mom gave Rose and Mas each a \_\_\_\_\_ to buy a \_\_\_\_\_ of soda at the co-op store.

Back at their barrack they sat on a \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden to drink. Then Mas played with his toy \_\_\_\_\_, dragging his \_\_\_\_\_ in the dust until friends from next door came over for a game of \_\_\_\_\_. Later, they helped Grandpa plant flowers in \_\_\_\_\_.

Mas and Rose then played with other kids in the block until their mom came out with her \_\_\_\_\_ and told them it was time for dinner in the mess hall.



Hints: marbles, bench, nickel, bottle, tea cup, shoes, airplane, and tin cans.





Amache columbarium

## Remembering

Before we went home, we visited the small brick building in the cemetery. It was built by the people at Amache in 1945. It is called a columbarium. Inside is a monument to people who died at Amache.



Cemetery photo (historic), Courtesy of Mitch Homma

Monument inside the columbarium

Students from the local high school planted trees and grass in the cemetery to show respect for all the people incarcerated at Amache. The students helped make it a peaceful place.

Every year, people come from across the country to gather here and remember what happened. This journey is called a pilgrimage. Amache and the cemetery are places for remembering, reflecting, and sharing our stories.



NPS/J. Ellis



## Write a haiku

A haiku is a Japanese form of poetry consisting of 3 lines. The first line contains 5 syllables, the second line contains 7 syllables, and the third line contains 5 syllables.

Try writing a haiku of your own reflecting on your visit to Amache.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

(7) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

"Crossing over many  
mountains and rivers,  
finding the first  
sunrise on New Year's  
in the wasteland."

- Granada Bungei, January 1943

This haiku was translated from Japanese into English, so it no longer fits the traditional syllable structure.

Thank you for joining us in learning about and exploring Amache. We hope you will take what you have learned here home with you and share it with others. With your help, we can make sure that what happened here may never be repeated.







Amache National Historic Site exists because many different people and groups worked for many years to preserve Amache and tell its stories. They live all around the country but work together. By becoming an Amache Junior Ranger, you are joining this team of people who care about Amache and the people who were unjustly held here.

Together, we made a difference. And you can make a difference, too.

**Write your Junior Ranger pledge.** Think about your time at Amache and what you learned. What are some things you can promise to do as you continue your journey? Write it on the certificate below.

Examples: I promise to...

Explore new places

Learn about the past

Protect the rights of others

# Amache National Historic Site Official Junior Ranger

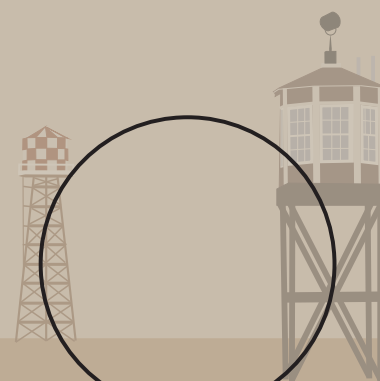
As a Junior Ranger, I promise to



Junior Ranger Name



Ranger Signature



Passport Stamp

Special thanks to:

- The Amache community for their support and feedback during the development of the Junior Ranger booklet.
- Dr. April Kamp-Whittaker, professor of anthropology at California State University, Chico, for her expertise and help creating the story.

Illustrations by Scott Goto, a fine artist and illustrator whose great-grandparents and paternal grandaunt, along with 3 generations of her family, were incarcerated at Amache.

Editorial and art direction by Julianna Ellis, park ranger.

To learn more about Amache, visit [www.nps.gov/amch](http://www.nps.gov/amch)

For more Junior Ranger programs and online activities, visit [www.nps.gov/kids](http://www.nps.gov/kids)

