



# Lesson 2: Connections to the Past

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

## Activity 2: Learning from Each Other

How do we we connect with the past?

### Objective:

Students learn about the past through the experiences of an older person they know.

### Procedure:

- ✓ Review oral history interviews with your class online through the Densho website, [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org) (obtain a free login one week prior to the lesson). Interviews are found on the website under the Archive section Visual History Collections. Choose one option such as the Manzanar Collection.
- ✓ Ask students to conduct an interview with a parent, grandparent or elderly friend and document answers in their journal. Encourage students to record the interview if their interviewee provides consent. Also, remind your students to respect the privacy of their interviewee as he/she may not want to answer some questions. The class assignment is to have the students encourage the interviewees to respond with descriptions of what life was like when they were teenagers. The Leading Questions below are also located in the Lesson 2 Activity 2 Resources section.



Young people dancing at Manzanar. Francis Stewart, 1942

Young women in a barracks apartment. Francis Stewart, 1942



*How did you wear your hair?*

*What was your favorite movie and why?*

*How much did it cost for snacks or a soda at a movie?*

*What sports were popular? What movie stars or music groups were popular?*

*Did you go to dances? What types of dances did you do?*

*What were the common modes of transportation?*

*How has technology changed?*

*What sights, sounds or smells remind you of your childhood?*

*How did you rebel or get into trouble?*

*Did you serve in the military?*

*Do you remember positive stories and/or stories of struggle?*

*How have you changed since then?*

*What wisdom can you pass on to young people?*

**Grade Level:** 10 & 11

**Time:** 3 hours (class)  
90 minutes (home)

**Materials:** Student journals, Internet access, Leading Questions List, Video or Audio recorder (optional), Densho member login

### Concepts Covered:

**Learn** about different points of view.

**Listen** for detail.

**Present** an oral report.

### CDE Standards:

**10th Grade English/Language Arts**  
Listening and Speaking

1.1 1.13

**History-Social Science**  
10.8.6

**11th Grade English/Language Arts**  
Listening and Speaking

1.1 1.2 1.3

**History-Social Science**  
11.7.6 11.8.1 11.8.7



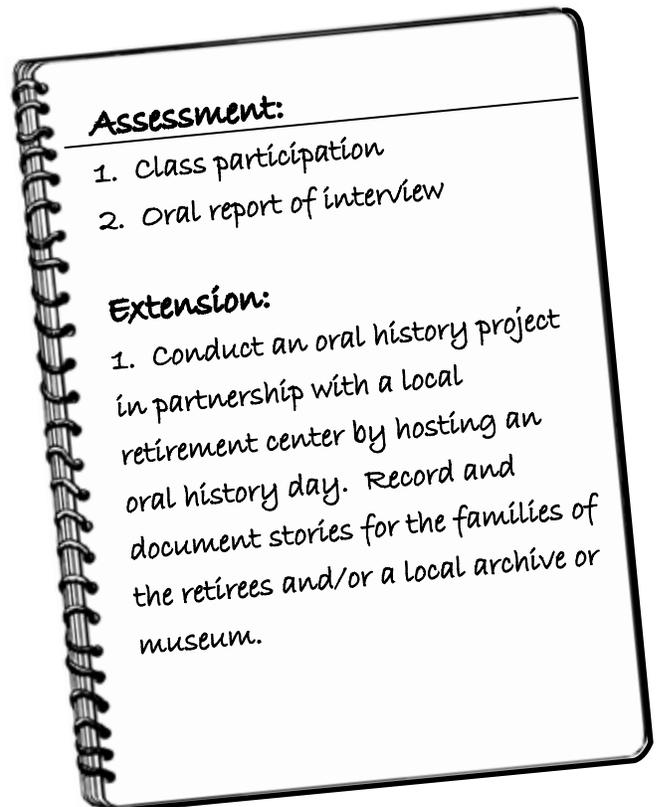
Activity 2: **Learning from Each Other**  
How do we connect with the past?



*Boys basketball game at Manzanar. Francis Stewart, 1942*

**Procedure (continued):**

- ✓ Have students develop and present 5-10 minute oral reports to the class, based on their interviews.
- ✓ Ask students if (or how) their experiences define who they are. How do they feel the interviewee's stories define his/her identity or life story?
- ✓ Ask your students: "How do you connect with stories from the past?"





Activity 2: **Learning from Each Other**

*Leading Questions for an Interview*

*How did you wear your hair?*

*What was your favorite movie and why? How much did it cost for snacks or a soda at a movie?*

*What sports were popular? What movie stars or music groups were popular?*

*Did you go to dances? What types of dances did you do?*

*How has technology changed?*

*What were the common modes of transportation?*

*What sights, sounds or smells remind you of your childhood?*

*How did you rebel or get into trouble?*

*Did you serve in the military?*

*Do you remember positive stories and/or stories of struggle?*

*How have you changed since then? What wisdom can you pass on to young people?*