



LESSON 2: CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

Activity 3: Learning from Each Other

How do we connect with the past?

Objective:

Students understand that most people share similar experiences as children.

Procedure:

- ✓ Obtain a free login for Densho’s website (www.densho.org) one week prior to the lesson.
- ✓ Show students oral history interviews online through Densho (see the Archive section, Visual History Collections, Manzanar Collections). Select Sue K. Embrey’s and Henry Fukuhara’s oral history interviews to gain perspectives on the following assignment.
- ✓ Ask your students to conduct an interview with an older adult living in his/her home or an elderly friend. Have them journal the interview, including what life was like when the interviewee was a child or young adult. Sample questions:

- How did you wear your hair?*
- What was your favorite movie and why?*
- What sports were popular? What was your favorite sport?*
- How much did it cost for food and drink at a movie?*
- Did you go to dances? What dances did you do?*
- What did you and your friends do on the weekends or after school?*
- How did you spend your summer vacation?*
- How did you listen to music (45s, LPs, vs. i-pods, etc.)?*
- How has technology changed?*
- How did people get around (transportation)? What was your first car?*
- What sights, sounds or smells remind you of your childhood? What do they remind you of?*
- What was your happiest, saddest, funniest and/or scariest childhood memory?*
- How has the passing of time changed your identity?*

Grade Level: 4th
Time: 40 minutes (class)
 60 minutes (home)
Materials:
 Densho member login
 Student journals
 Interview questions
 Internet access

Concepts Covered:
Develop interview techniques.
Apply classroom knowledge to develop forms of communication.

CDE Standards:
4th Grade English/Language Arts: Writing
 2.3.a 2.3.b 2.3.c

History/Social Science
 4.4.5 4.4.6 4.4.9

