



# LESSON 3: WAR

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

## Activity I: So Far From the Sea

How does war affect our lives?

### Objective:

Students are introduced to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

### Procedure:

- ✓ Read the book *So Far from the Sea* to the class.
- ✓ Discuss the following questions as a class:

*What did Laura and Thomas learn about their identity? What objects did they find? What did the objects tell them about their identity?*

*How did Laura and Thomas' identity as Japanese Americans shape their life experiences? How did it shape the experiences of their parents or grandparents? Explain.*

*How did Laura and Thomas' parents explain the bombing of Pearl Harbor?*

*How did their parents explain why Japanese Americans had to go to the camps?*

- ✓ Ask your students how war affects their lives. Bring in examples of how war affects your local area and the nation, both historically and currently. Examples:
  - newspaper clippings*
  - news broadcasts*
  - books*
  - objects*
  - a guest speaker such as a war veteran.*



**Grade Level:** 4th  
**Time:** 90 minutes  
**Materials:**  
*So Far From the Sea* by Eve Bunting, Sources on war (newspaper clippings, news broadcasts, books, speaker, etc.)

### Concepts Covered:

- Begin** to understand how war affects people's lives.
- Relate** modern wars with World War II.
- Gather** information from a variety of sources including primary sources.

### CDE Standards:

- 4th Grade**  
**English/Language Arts:**  
 Listening & Speaking  
 2.3
- History/Social Science**  
 4.4.4 4.4.5 4.5.1 4.5.3