

Grades 9-12

Future of America's Past, "A Grave Injustice"

In THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S PAST, notable scholar Ed Ayers takes viewers to the sites of complex and evocative chapters in American history. Throughout the series, Ayers meets with public historians working to preserve the past, from National Park Service rangers to curators and community activists. He visits the sites - both familiar and unknown - of monumental events and brings on guests who offer a range of perspectives.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the US military and the FBI arrested more than 110,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry. Taken to desert camps and confined for months or years, many of these Americans lost their homes and businesses. We visit the largest of these camps, now a National Park Service site - and meet those keeping memory alive.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is the central idea? How is the central idea developed?
- Cite evidence from Future of America's Past "A Grave Injustice" to support your determination of the central idea.
- Provide an objective summary of the program.
- What does *Injustice* mean? Why is this episode entitled "A Grave Injustice"?
- Describe the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- Why did the US Military and FBI arrest more than 110,000 American citizens?
- What were the camps like?
- Who was the President at the time?

Question Box 2

- What were some of my most powerful learning moments and what made them so? Explain.
- What surprised you in the program, and why?
- What's the most important thing you learned from the TV show? Why do you think so?
- What in the program made you curious? Explain.
- What did you learn from the program?
- Why is it important to have the relocation camps become a National Park?

- How would you feel if you were in one of these camps?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Research some of the oral histories of Japanese internment. How did they survive? What are the similarities and differences between the current stay at home order in place?
- Research the 442? Who made up the 442 and what were their stories?
- In February 2020, California formally apologized to Japanese Americans - read about it here <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/feb/20/california-japanese-internment-camps-apology> What are your thoughts?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Manzanar was called the ultimate negation of democracy but now as a park tells the story of ultimate inclusion. What were the stories of the Native Americans from there, the ranchers after them and finally the stories of the Japanese to be interred?
- Manzanar is a story of cultural and racial intolerance and subjugation by the federal government. Tell a story of intolerance or subjugation that you've witnessed, either in your home, school, city or state. Why do you think this took place? Who could have stopped it? Why didn't they? What will you do to ensure that it doesn't happen again?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Conduct independent research on one Military Monument that you find interesting.
- Google "Military Monument"
 1. This search should provide you a row of pictures for you to select from.
 2. Click on one that you would like to learn more about.
 3. This page will provide links to websites with more information regarding the monument you selected.
- Using the information from the websites answer the following questions.
 1. What is the name of the military monument?
 2. When was it created, established, or dedicated?
 3. Who is responsible for maintaining the monument?
 4. How many visitors does the monument receive each year?
 5. What is the purpose of the monument?
- Would you visit this monument? Why or why not?
- The Japanese Americans had to persevere despite great odds. Often out of tragic events, people become even stronger. Think about a time that you had to persevere through something, and you came out stronger afterwards. Write in your journal about the event and talk about the skills you needed to persevere through it.