

## 2 SUITCASES

by Kathryn Krodel

### Objectives

- ~ Students will gain an understanding of the plight of Japanese Americans during World War II.
- ~ Students will understand the dangers of hate & extremism.
- ~ Students will empathize with having one's life uprooted & their freedom taken away.

### TEKS

U.S. History #'s 1c, 6b, 9b, 15b, 24 a,b,g , 25 a,b,d, 26 a,b

### Time and Materials

- ~ One or two class periods.
- ~ 2 suitcases with essentials.

### Context

In the picture, Japanese Americans are being evacuated from the West Coast area under U.S. Army War Emergency Order.

These Japanese Americans are going to camp at Owens Valley. They are gathering around a baggage car at the old Santa Fe Station. They had to leave their home with a limited amount of personal items. On the day the lesson is introduced, 2 suitcases with clothes, toiletries, pictures, etc., will be presented to the class.

### The One-Day Lesson

Ask students to imagine being forced to leave their homes. They are allowed 2 suitcases of their most precious possessions. What would they take? What would they be forced to leave behind? How would this make them feel? On what would they base their choices? Would monetary value mean less or more than emotional/personal value? Why?

Have students write their responses in their class notebooks. Have them share their responses with the class. Discussion follows.

### Extending the Lesson

Ask students to pose the same scenario to family members or guardians: You are being forced to leave your home and will be allowed to take only 2 suitcases of personal belongings. What would you choose and why?

Have students record answers, identifying the differences and similarities between their own answers and answers from their loved ones. Then have students write a one-page paper about their family's responses. The teacher may also complete this exercise and share it with the class.

After the reports are presented, have students list the range of emotions they and their families experienced during this exercise.

Assessment : Why did FDR order the internment of Japanese Americans?

Multiple Choice –

Executive Order 1099 was issued by President F. D. Roosevelt because

- the fear of sabotage by Japanese Americans
- the draft was not enlisting enough young men in the army
- Americans were afraid of German-Americans contacting their relative in Europe
- Journalist were not telling the “real” story about the Holocaust

*Los Angeles, California. The evacuation of the Japanese-Americans from West Coast areas under U.S. Army war emergency order. Japanese-Americans going to camp at Owens Valley gather around baggage car at the old Santa Fe Station.*

[Lee, Russell, 1903-](http://www.memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query) photographer. [www.memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query](http://www.memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query)

*The below picture is #12.*

