
Making Connections - Yesterday & Today

During World War II, the Presidio of San Francisco – the Army’s Western Defense Command – played a pivotal role in the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, purportedly in the name of national security. This special exhibition marks 75 years since Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Orders from the Presidio, and examines the post’s little understood part in these events.

The exhibition invites visitors to investigate the choices – both personal and political – that led to this dark chapter in American history. How did leaders arrive at this decision? How did Japanese Americans respond to the violation of their civil liberties? And what, as a nation, have we learned that can help us address the present-day issues of immigration, racism, and mass incarceration?

EXCLUSION

THE PRESIDIO'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II

JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION

SPECIAL EXHIBITION STUDENT GUIDE



Presidio
Trust

Name:

As You Enter the Gallery

Spend 10 minutes looking around to better understand what the message is of the Special Exhibit: *EXCLUSION*.

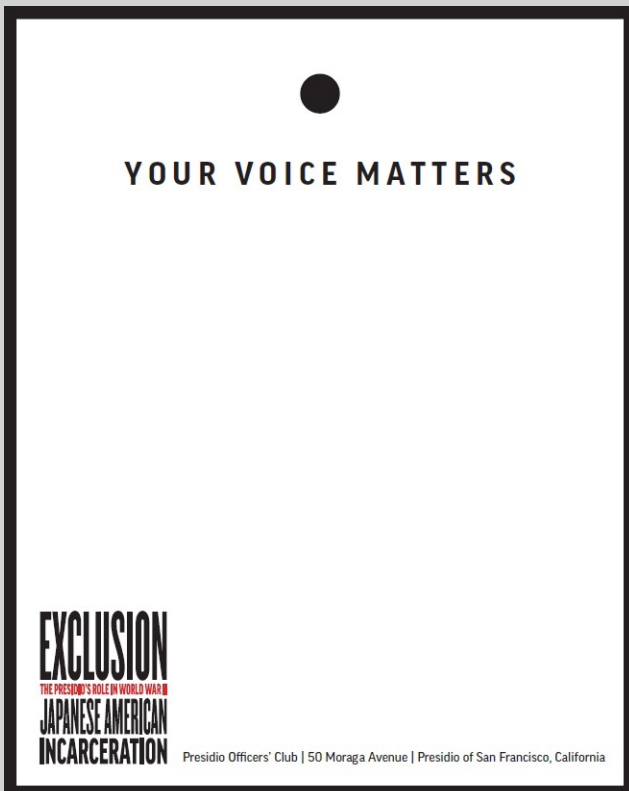
Locate a primary source in the gallery that resonates with you.

[*Primary source: a first-hand, original account, record, or evidence about a person, place, object, or an event.*]

Complete the activity to the right.

When You Are Finished

Please contribute to “Your Voice Matters.”



I SEE

Describe what you see.

I THINK

What do you think happened?

I WONDER

What questions do you have about this primary source, and what connections can you make?