

# Nihonjin Face

## Pre-Show Activities & Discussion



*Primary Grades; 10 – 20 minutes*

- 1.) Brush up on your understanding of Japanese American experiences during World War II.
  - For a concise overview of the events leading up to the forced removal and incarceration of American citizens and residents of Japanese heritage, visit Densho's [Sites of Shame](#), which includes a couple brief paragraphs on what happened.
  - Peruse the videos at the [Densho YouTube Channel](#) .
  
- 2.) Options for introducing the content to your student(s):
  - Try something outrageous, like telling them that all students are going to have to give up screen time for the rest of the week because one student *might* behave poorly sometime in the future. Discuss why or why not this is fair.
  - Read an age appropriate book from [Densho's List](#) of children's books and discuss.
  - Have a conversation: ask students to imagine being forced from their homes, along with their families and imprisoned in a camp surrounded by soldiers, not because anyone in their family did anything wrong, but because they *could* do something wrong. Would this be a reasonable rule? Why or why not?
  - Read or summarize an article on the current rise of anti-Asian racism that is occurring due to COVID-19. Why is it problematic to blame an entire group for something? Whether or not you are part of that group, what do we all lose when we blame or limit the rights of an entire group, based on how people look or speak, or where their family is from?



Trains to Assembly Center, 1942; Dorothea Lange; Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration