



Recommended for Grades 3-8

“Gabriel’s Heart Mountain” Worksheet and Discussion Guide Building Heart Mountain in Minecraft

BACKGROUND

Heart Mountain, Wyoming, was the site of one of the ten incarceration camps where Japanese Americans were forced to live during World War II. Starting in 1969, 24 years after the end of World War II, groups of Japanese Americans began to organize visits to these sites. These visits ensure that no one will ever forget the injustices that took place in the incarceration camps.

WATCH

Visit <https://www.buildinghistoryproject.com/video-gabriels-heart-mountain1> and watch the video called “Gabriel’s Heart Mountain.”

RECALL

1. When Gabriel visits Heart Mountain, what family members go with him?
2. How does Gabriel describe Heart Mountain when he first arrives there?
3. How does Gabriel learn enough about Heart Mountain to be able to build it in Minecraft?

INTERPRET

4. Visit the [Building History Timeline](#). Gabriel’s grandmother Marie was 13 years old when her family was forced to leave home in 1942. Which American president signed the executive order that forced Japanese Americans from their homes, and what was the name of that order?
5. Visit the [Building History Map](#). On the map, can you find the incarceration camp where Gabriel’s family was forced to live during World War II?

APPLY

6. Gabriel is learning about the Japanese American incarceration camps from his grandmother. Have

you ever learned about history from a friend, teacher, or family member who lived through it?

7. What are some things that you experience today that you might want to share with younger people, after you grow up? Why would that be important to you?

ANALYZE

8. Today, many former incarceration camps are historic sites that are run by the National Park Service. Every year groups of people, including survivors of the camps, have traveled to visit these camps on trips called “pilgrimages.” What is a pilgrimage? (Do some Internet research, if needed!) Why have Gabriel and his family decided to visit Heart Mountain? Why do you think that Japanese Americans who were forced to live in incarceration camps during World War II might decide to go back on a pilgrimage?

EXTENSION

Minecraft activity: Visit [Building History’s Minecraft activities](#) and install the Manzanar virtual camp.

(You can play alone or with a friend on a separate device!) Explore the camps that have already been built there. Can you identify any of the structures in the Minecraft virtual camps?

Historical documents: Visit the [Densho website article about Heart Mountain](#) and look at the photographs of the camp. What do you notice about the camp and the landscape? Do you think that people who visit the camp today on pilgrimages notice the same things?

Oral histories: Are there people you know who were forced to live in the World War II Japanese American incarceration camps? If you’d like to hear from elders who lived through World War II, you can find some of their stories here on [UCLA Asian American Studies Center’s Collective Memories](#) project and [Densho’s Oral History webpage](#).