



Episode 3: FENCES

Not all fences are of the white picket sort. Many, in fact, represent a reality that goes against everything America imagines itself to be. In this episode, we're going to talk about the barbed-wire fence of World War II concentration camps—what it meant to the people it imprisoned, and to those it kept out. See the full transcript [here](#).

Discussion Questions:

1. Consider the sayings, “The nail that sticks up gets hammered down” and “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.” What do you think each of these sayings mean? Which saying do you identify with? What is an example of each of these from the episode?
2. To some, fences represent confinement and to others they represent safety. The American flag is another common symbol that has very different meanings for different people. Name two different things it represents to different groups, and then think about what it means to you.

Lesson Idea:

Zoom In: The purpose of this activity is to closely examine an image. This activity will take about 10 minutes.

Take a minute to look at the image, then answer the questions.



Zoom 1

What do you see or notice?

What makes you say that?

What does it look like or remind you of?



Zoom 2

What new things do you see?

How does this information confirm or change your thinking?

What new things are you wondering about?



Zoom 3

What additional things do you see?
What do you think is happening?
What questions do you have?



Zoom 4

What new things do you see in the final reveal?

What questions do you now have?

What comments do you have?



Following class discussion, share: This photo was taken in June 1944 in the Jerome, Arkansas concentration camp. It was one of 10 concentration camps run by the War Relocation Authority to house Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their homes during World War II. Jerome was the first camp to close. Camp inmates were either transferred to other camps or resettled in areas away from the West Coast. This photo shows incarcerated people lined up behind the barbed wire fence, waving goodbye to other incarcerated people who are leaving the camp on a train.

