



## F is for Fred Korematsu | ABC's of AAPIs

This lesson plan is about Fred Korematsu and Japanese American incarceration.

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In partnership with the Asian American Advocacy Fund (AAAF), WQED Education took AAAF's ABC's of AAPIs coloring book project and created lesson plans for educators to use in the classroom to provide a creative activity and resource for AAPI Studies.

**Time Allotment:** 1 class period

### Learning Objectives

- Learn about Fred Korematsu as an important Asian American historical figure
- Learn about Japanese American incarceration

### Prep for Teachers

- Have the video clips ready to view
- Print enough copies of the coloring sheet and poem (see support materials)
- Vocabulary list

### Supplies

- "F is for Fred Korematsu" coloring sheet
- Pencil
- Paper
- Coloring supplies

### Media in this Lesson

- Video: [Japanese American Incarceration During World War II | Asian Americans](#)
- Video: [Constitutional Rights of American Citizens | Asian Americans](#)
- Video: [Who Defines Loyalty? Japanese Americans during World War II | Asian Americans](#)

### Vocabulary

- Adversity - a state or instance of serious or continued difficulty or misfortune
- Dignity - the state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect; a sense of pride in oneself
- Discrimination - the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex
- Injustice - violation of right or of the rights of another: unfairness
- Liberty - the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authorities on one's way of life, behavior, or political views

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- Presidential Medal of Freedom - the foremost U.S. civilian decoration, awarded to individuals who have made “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors”

## Learning Activities

1. Have students watch this video: [Japanese American Incarceration During World War II | Asian Americans](#)
2. Have students research about Fred Korematsu and why he is important.
3. Ask students the discussion questions. Have them record their responses in notebook or on a piece of paper or as a class discussion.
  - a. When you close your eyes, what and who do you see when you hear the phrase, "American Citizen"? Did you see only one race/ethnicity or many? Does your answer differ from those of your classmates? Why do you think you envisioned what/who you saw?
  - b. What does it mean to have an American identity?
  - c. How do you think it felt like for the Japanese Americans to be put in incarceration camps?
  - d. What would you take with you if your family was ordered to leave your homes and lives?
  - e. What do you think happened after Japanese American families returned home?
  - f. Why is Fred Korematsu a hero? Why do you think he isn't talked about more in history classes?
  - g. What would it take for you to stand up against injustice?
4. Distribute copies of the coloring sheet and put students into small groups to read and analyze the poem.
5. Groups will define key terms outlined in the vocabulary and summarize the poem. Each group should write a reflection question for classmates to consider and respond to the poem.
6. Have students write their own version of the poem based on their findings, their reflections, and on the video they watched.
7. Class reflection:
  - What parallels do you see from the Japanese American Incarceration to anti-Asian hate during COVID-19?
  - What kinds of ideas, bias and language is similar between the two? Create a Venn Diagram and fill in differences and similarities.
  - What can we do as a society and community to prevent and combat against something like incarceration camps and anti-Asian hate?

## Extension Resources:

- For additional resources visit the Korematsu Institute <https://korematsuinstitute.org/>
- Video and Support Materials: [Constitutional Rights of American Citizens | Asian Americans](#)
- Video and Support Material: [Who Defines Loyalty?: Japanese Americans during World War II | Asian Americans](#)