



TITLE

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: BRONZEVILLE, LITTLE TOKYO & POST WWII RACIAL GEOGRAPHIES

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

DISCIPLINE: History/ Social Studies

TOPIC: Japanese internment, Residential Segregation, Black-Japanese racial tensions, Japanese and Black displacement

STANDARDS: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1 | CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 g | CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

OBJECTIVES:

- Engage with a key text to explore the impact of state-sanctioned displacement and Japanese Incarceration on a community within Los Angeles
- Conduct close reading to analyze the main points of a text
- Activate the archive by analyzing primary source documents to excavate their historical significance

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- How did Japanese internment impact cities with Japanese majorities like Little Tokyo?
- What were the role of the US state and federal governments in displacing both Japanese and Black Americans?
- What does Little Tokyo/ Bronzeville reveal about racial tensions in the US post-WW2?

KIT INCLUDES:

One (1) [slide deck presentation](#) entitled "A Tale of Two Cities: Bronzeville, Little Tokyo & Post WWII Racial Geographies "

[Anchoring text](#) for students: "Bronzeville, Little Tokyo, and the Unstable Geography of Race in Post-World War II Los Angeles.pdf"

Four (4) [primary source analysis worksheets](#)

Four (4) [reading analysis worksheets](#)

One (1) [sample visual response Sub-Topic Deep Dive Continued](#) Reading Sheet

CLASSROOM HOURS NEEDED:

180-220 min

FINAL ASSESSMENT TYPE:

Visual project

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Access to internet for slides/texts/ worksheets or printouts

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**ACTIVITY
DAY 1
(60-80 MIN)**

INTRO VIDEO & WARM-UP - SLIDES 3 & 4

- Play intro video "Ugly History: Japanese American incarceration camps" from TED-Ed & Densho
- Warm-Up Questions: What stuck out most to you about the video?
- What are the historical implications of radicalized displacement in the United States?

HOW 'LITTLE TOKYO' OF LOS ANGELES CHANGED INTO 'BRONZEVILLE' AND BACK AGAIN

- Listen to "[How 'Little Tokyo' Of Los Angeles Changed Into 'Bronzeville' And Back Again](#)" on NPR to gain context about Bronzeville/ Little Tokyo

READ & ANNOTATE - SLIDE 6

- Assign students "[Bronzeville, Little Tokyo, and the Unstable Geography of Race in Post-World War II Los Angeles](#)" by Hillary Jenks to read and annotate.

READING ANALYSIS WORKSHEETS - SLIDE 7

- Have students complete the [summarizer sheet](#) and 1 of the 3 other reading analysis worksheets as they read.
- [Connector](#)
- [Discussion Question](#)
- [Literary Luminary](#)
- Incomplete work should be completed as homework.

**ACTIVITY
DAY 2
(120-150
MIN)**

LECTURE/ SUMMARY - SLIDES 8-19

- Present lecture slides 8-19 as a summary of the anchoring text.

REDLINING ACTIVITY - SLIDE 12

- Utilize this [interactive redlining map](#) to explore the phenomenon of redlining in Los Angeles.
- Distribute the link to the map to students, or explore together as a class
- Using the "+" in the upper right hand corner, zoom in closer
- Click on the different sections of the city, and read the area descriptions created by agents of the federal government's Home Owners' Loan Corporation between 1935 and 1940. How do these descriptions relate to redlining? What are their justifications for redlining?
- Try to find Little Tokyo/Bronzeville & West Adams as you explore the map.



**ACTIVITY
DAY 2
(CONTINUED)**

GROUP DISCUSSION - SLIDES 20-23

- Pose the questions on slides 20-23 to the group and encourage students who completed the discussion question reading analysis sheet as well as all other student to contribute their questions also.
- What is the significance of the property seizures that took place amid Japanese Incarceration in relation to an economic system of capitalism? Have other ethnic minorities faced similar seizures in the U.S.?
- Japanese and Black Americans both experienced racial discrimination across the nation. Why do you think some Japanese Americans sought the favor of anglos rather than solidarity with Black Americans?
- During WWil the united states was at war against the Axis Powers which included Nazi Germany yet German Americans were not incarcerated en masse. What does that tell us about race relations in the United States?
- What role did exoticization and orientalism play in the survival of little Tokyo amid the death of Bronzeville?
- Exoticism definition: a cultural phenomenon that views non-Western cultures from a Western lense and constructs the East as "other"
- Orientalism definition: representing the East in a stereotyped way

SUB-TOPIC DEEP DIVE- SLIDE 24

Have students select a subtopic related to the experiences of Japanese and African Americans that was mentioned in the text from the following options:

- Yellow Peril & Immigration Policy
- Japanese Agricultural Labor
- Racialised housing covenants, Redlining & Ghettoization
- Model minority myth & racialized tension
- State-sanctioned displacement
- Black-Japanese solidarity
- Ethnic economies

Japanese erasure from movement building in So Cal Shifting Anglo perspectives on Japanese. For continued reading on each subtopic, provide students access to this document.

ACTIVATING THE ARCHIVE - SLIDE 25

Have students utilize the [UCLA Library Digital Collections](#) & the [Densho Digital Repository](#) to explore primary sources related to their topics.

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES - SLIDE 26

Have students use 1 of 4 primary [source analysis sheets](#), to analyze the source they found in the archive.

- [Gral History Evaluation](#)
- [Photo Analysis](#)
- [Propaganda Analysis](#)
- [Written Document Analysis](#)



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