

TEACHER'S GUIDE
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MISSION 6: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

Looking for Work after the Camps

After incarceration ended, some Japanese Americans were unable to return to their pre-war lives: they had lost their homes, their jobs, their savings, and their property while imprisoned. Facing difficult employment opportunities and prejudice, one-third of former incarcerated were forced to move to a different state. In response, the War Relocation Authority (WRA) created a resettlement program for those Japanese Americans. In the following photograph from 1945, three former incarcerated of the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming look over a bulletin board of possible job opportunities at the WRA headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Source: Gretchen Van Tassel, "Mr. and Mrs. Tomatsu Gorai and Mr. Ushimatsu Kubota looking over the job bulletin board in the Philadelphia WRA office," photograph, July, 1945. WRA no. G-932, War Relocation Authority Photographs of Japanese-American Evacuation and Resettlement, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

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