Discovering Dorothea Lange’s Photographs of the Internment of Japanese Americans

Image Set for Classroom Use
Flag of allegiance pledge at Raphael Weill Public School, Geary and Buchanan Streets. Children in families of Japanese ancestry were evacuated with their parents and will be housed for the duration in War Relocation Authority centers where facilities will be provided for them to continue their education. San Francisco, California. April, 1942.
As evacuation of residents of Japanese ancestry progressed in April 1942, this sign advertising a swimming pool was posted in many San Francisco districts. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration. San Francisco, California. April, 1942.
Following evacuation orders, this store, at 13th and Franklin Streets, was closed. The owner, a University of California graduate of Japanese descent, placed the I AM AN AMERICAN sign on the store front on December 8, the day after Pearl Harbor. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration. Oakland, California. March, 1942.
Residents of Japanese ancestry registering for evacuation and housing, later, in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration of the war. San Francisco, California. April 1942.
Farm families of Japanese ancestry awaiting evacuation buses which will take them to the Tanforan Assembly Center. Centerville, California. May, 1942.
Wash-day 48 hours before evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from this farming community in Santa Clara County. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration. San Lorenzo, California. May, 1942.
A soldier and his mother in a strawberry field. The soldier, age 23, volunteered July 10, 1942, and is stationed at Camp Leonard Wood, Missouri. His was furloughed to help his mother and family prepare for their evacuation. He is the youngest of six children, two of them volunteers in the U.S. Army. The mother, age 53, came from Japan 37 years ago. Her husband died 31 years ago, leaving her to raise six children. She worked in a strawberry basket factory until last year when her children leased three acres of strawberries “so she wouldn’t have to work for somebody else.” The family is Buddhist. This is her youngest son. Her second son is in the army stationed at Ft. Bliss. 453 families are to be evacuated from this area. Florin, Sacramento County, California. May, 1942.
Members of the Mochida family awaiting evacuation bus. Identification tags are used to aid in keeping the family unit intact during all phases of evacuation. Mochida operated a nursery and five greenhouses on a two-acre site in Eden Township. He raised snapdragons and sweetpeas. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration. Hayward, California. May 1942.
Just about to step into the bus for the assembly center. San Francisco, California. April, 1942.
Barracks for family living quarters. Each door enters into a family unit of two small rooms (remodeled horse-stalls). The center was opened just two days before this picture was taken. The people shown in this photograph have just arrived and are occupying themselves with building benches, chairs, tables, and shelves, for their belongings, from scrap lumber. Quarters are equipped with only a bed and mattress for each person. Tanforan Assembly Center, San Bruno, California. April, 1942. [Note “Impounded” written across bottom of photo.]
Inside a barracks apartment at Tanforan, California. 1942.
An elementary school with voluntary attendance has been established with volunteer evacuee teachers, most of whom are college graduates. Manzanar, California. July, 1942.
Evacuee Boy at This War Relocation Authority Center, Reading the Funnies. Manzanar, California. July, 1942.