

Kintsugi Project

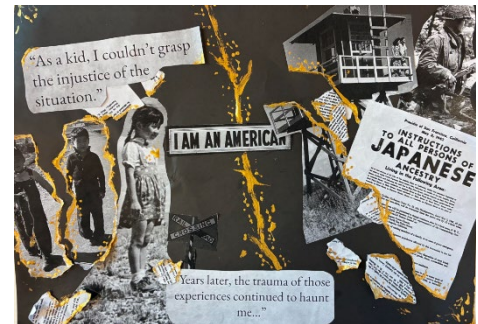
Teacher Lesson Plan

Developed by: Julie Griggs

SUBJECT ELA / AR History	GRADE LEVEL Grades 7–12	DURATION 2 class periods	FORMAT Mixed-media art + writing
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Rationale and Explanation

In this English Language Arts lesson, students will create a mixed-media artwork inspired by kintsugi, the Japanese art form that repairs broken pottery with gold or other precious metals. The student's kintsugi will feature brokenness via a deconstructed photograph of the Japanese American Incarceration and restoration via words from primary sources and personal narratives. In an accompanying artist statement, the student will explain how the artwork demonstrates both brokenness and repair.



Lesson Objectives

Comprehension Demonstrate comprehension of the Japanese American incarceration during WWII.	Analysis Analyze how events demonstrate brokenness and repair.	Visual Communication Present information visually.	Writing Write to a specific topic, audience, and purpose.
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Arkansas State History Standards & College/Career Readiness Anchor Standards

Course / Grade Band	Standard	Relevant Focus
Arkansas History (Grades 7–8)	H.1.AR.H.11	Investigate social, economic, and political effects of World War II on various segments of the population in Arkansas, including ... Japanese-American internment camps.
Arkansas History (Grades 9–12)	H.5.AR.H.7	Analyze social, economic, and political effects of World War II on various segments of the population in Arkansas, including ... Japanese-American internment camps (i.e., Jerome and Rohwer).
CCSS ELA — Reading	CCRA.R.7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
CCSS ELA — Writing	CCRA.W.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
CCSS ELA — Writing	CCRA.W.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CCSS ELA — Speaking & Listening	CCRA.SL.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
CCSS ELA — Speaking & Listening	CCRA.SL.5	Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Lesson Outline

Note

Previous lessons provide an introduction to the Japanese American incarceration. This lesson assumes background knowledge from those lessons or another source.

Preparation

Before you begin this lesson, download the [Kintsugi Project Supplementary Materials.zip](#) on the Rising Above website. Take some time to curate the photographs and texts you wish to use. Consider the time you can allow for the project as you curate your collection.

Photographs

Selected photos are available in the [Kintsugi Project Supplementary Materials.zip](#) (Photos for Kintsugi Project.pptx) or students can use the Rising Above archive to locate their own photos. Instructions for using the archive are provided below.

- Go to <https://risingabove.cast.uark.edu/>.
- Click **Archive**.
- Click **Filters**. The filters include:
 - **Dates:** Use the sliding bar to create a date range. It is recommended to focus on the years of incarceration (1942 – 1945) to see photos from the camps.
 - **Item Type:** 3D Object, Artwork, Audio, Photo. Select photos. However, students might find other media like camp printed ephemera or newspaper articles (i.e. publications) useful.
 - **Topics:** Can be used to delve into specific topics of interest. May/may not be helpful in this exercise.

Short Texts

Suggested texts to represent repair or restoration:

- [Reagan Reparations Speech](#)
- [Letter of apology from George H.W. Bush, President of the United States, October 1990](#) (Densho)
- [George Takei, “Why I Love a Country That Once Betrayed Me”](#)
- [President Bill Clinton Speaks About Civil Leader Fred T. Korematsu](#)
- “Go for Broke” — [a PDF story about the rescue of the Lost Battalion by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team with photographs, statistics, and maps](#)
- [Press release regarding the attempts to make Rohwer concentration camp a National Historic Site](#), accompanied by a letter written by Mayor Rosalie Gould

Books for Excerpting

- *They Called Us Enemy* — Written by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott; Illustrated by Harmony Becker
- *Blindsided: The Life and Times of Sam Mihara* (Afterword) — Written by Sam Mihara, as told to Alexandra Villarreal
- *We Hereby Refuse* (Part Five: No Going Home 1946) — Written by Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura; Artwork by Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki

- *Setsuko's Secret* (Afterword) — Written by Shirley Ann Higuchi

CLASS 1

45 minutes

Introduce & Create

1. View the video [EASTERN PHILOSOPHY — Kintsugi \(The School of Life\)](#) (5 minutes).
2. Explain that students will create a mixed-media artwork inspired by kintsugi. (5 minutes)
 - Students will deconstruct their selected photograph to show the “broken” element of the kintsugi.
 - Students will reassemble the photograph with words as the “gold” element of the kintsugi. You may also consider requiring an element of the color gold through yellow construction paper, gold pen, gold paint, kintsugi powder, etc.
 - Examples are available in the [Kintsugi Project Supplementary Materials.zip](#) ([Examples of Kintsugi Projects.ppt](#))
 - In an accompanying artist statement, the student will explain their choice of photograph (how it represents brokenness) and words (how they represent repair).

***Note:** Before students begin working, set expectations for the project timeline. This lesson allows the next class to complete projects (35 minutes), conduct a gallery walk (10 minutes), and close with a discussion (10 minutes).*

3. Allow the remainder of class for students to select their photographs and texts. (35 minutes)

CLASS 2

45 minutes

Complete, Share & Discuss

1. Complete kintsugi projects. (35 minutes)
2. Participate in a gallery walk. (10 minutes)
3. Close with a whole class discussion. (10 minutes)

Additional Resources

HEAL Framework (next page)

HEAL Framework: Japanese American Incarceration

Historical Commemorations

Museums, monuments, memorials, medals,
awards, commendations

- [Heart Mountain: WWII Japanese American Confinement Site](#) (Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation)
- [Rohwer Japanese American Relocation Center](#) (Arkansas State University)
- [Japanese American Confinement](#) (National Park Service)
- [Private First Class Sadao S. Munemori's Medal of Honor](#) (National WWII Museum)
- [Nisei Soldier Congressional Medal of Honor](#) (Smithsonian)

E Events Planned

Planned public occasions that serve a specific goal - run, walks, galas, speeches

- [Pilgrimage](#) (Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation)
- [McGehee Japanese internment museum commemorates 10 years of preserving history \(2:10\)](#) (Fox 16 KLRT)
- [George Takei speaks at the 10th anniversary of the WWII Japanese Internment Camp museum in McGehee - Full Speech \(10:49\)](#) (Arkansas Online)
- [Memories flood back for former residents of state's Japanese American internment camps](#) (Arkansas Democrat Gazette)
- [Day of Remembrance \(February 19\)](#) (Japanese American Citizens League)

Art

Creative endeavors such as painting, sculpture, theater, dance, music, and folk art (quilts, embroidery, baskets, carving, etc.)

- [Untitled \(S.557, Wall-Mounted Tied-Wire, Closed-Center Twelve-Petaled Form Based on Nature\)](#) by [Ruth Asawa](#) * (Asawa)
- [Gregory \(Effigy\)](#) by [Isamu Noguchi](#) (Noguchi)

Acts

Effort with a goal - food drives, fundraisers, letter writing, social media campaigns, etc.

[Irei: National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Launch \(2:26\)](#)

(Japanese American National Museum)

- [Ireichō: The Book of Names at Japanese American National Museum \(3:29\)](#)
Ireichō: “book to console the spirits” (Japanese American National Museum)
- [Ireizō: Website as Monument](#)
Ireizō: “consoling spirits storehouse” (Japanese American National Museum)
- [Ireihi: Light Sculptures as Monument](#)
Ireihi: “structure for consoling the spirits” (Japanese American National Museum)

L

Literature

Written and spoken texts - fiction, nonfiction, and poetry

- George Takei's graphic novel: *They Called Us Enemy* * (Takei)
- George Takei's TED Talk: "Why I Love a Country That Once Betrayed Me" > [Transcript](#) | [Video \(15:58\)](#) * (Takei)
- ["An epic political and personal bond, forged behind barbed wire"](#)
Featuring Alan Simpson and Norman Mineta (5:07) * (The Washington Post)
- ["Going For Broke: The 442nd Regimental Combat Team"](#) (National WWII Museum)
- [Medal of Honor](#) (Go for Broke National Education Center)
- Podcast: ["Rachel Maddow Presents: Burn Order"](#) (Maddow)
- President Ronald Reagan: Remarks on Signing the Bill Providing Restitution for the Wartime Internment of Japanese-American Civilians > [Transcript](#) | [Video \(8:52\)](#) * (Reagan)

Law

Laws and the effect of laws; court cases