



Recommended for Grades 3-8

# “Boy Scouts of Heart Mountain” Worksheet and Discussion Guide Daily Life at Camp

## BACKGROUND

During World War II, Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and move to faraway camps where they were incarcerated. Daily life was hard in the camps. Families had to live in barracks with very little privacy after losing their homes and jobs. Children had to find new ways to have fun. At every incarceration camp, there were boy scout and girl scout troops. At the camp called Heart Mountain, boys joined a Boy Scouts troop.

## WATCH

Visit <https://www.buildinghistoryproject.com/video-boy-scouts-of-heart-mountain1> and watch the video called “Boy Scouts of Heart Mountain.”

## RECALL

1. How old was Bill when his family was forced to leave their home?
2. How did Bill feel about being at camp?
3. What were some of the activities that Bill mentions participating in during his time at camp?

## INTERPRET

4. Visit the [Building History Timeline](#). How many years passed in between the time when Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and the time when the incarceration camps closed at the end of World War II?
5. Visit the [Building History Map](#). On the map, can you find the incarceration camp where the Boy Scouts of Heart Mountain began?

## APPLY

6. What are some activities or games that you enjoy at home?
7. If you found yourself in an unfamiliar place without any of your belongings, do you think you might want to join a group like the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts? Why?

## ANALYZE

8. Bill says that he and his family were in prison at the camps. What clues can you find in the camp photographs from the video that support this? In what ways were the Japanese American incarceration camps like other prisons, where people are sent as punishment for crimes?

## EXTENSION

**Minecraft activity:** Visit [Building History’s Minecraft activities](#) and install the Manzanar virtual camp. (You can play alone or with a friend on a separate device!) The virtual camp already has guard towers and barracks. Using photographs from the video, build some of the additional structures that were at Heart Mountain. You could start with a baseball field, or by adding furniture in the barracks.

**Historical photographs:** Visit [Densho’s collection](#) of photographs taken at Heart Mountain during World War II. Looking at all of these photographs, what can you see are some of the ways that Japanese Americans tried to make camp life feel more like home? What do you think are some of the differences in how they experienced these activities at home, versus at camp?