

janm



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

Activity Guide

**DON'T
FENCE
ME IN**

COMING OF AGE IN AMERICA'S
CONCENTRATION CAMPS

MARCH 4 - OCTOBER 1, 2023



About the Exhibition

Don't Fence Me In: Coming of Age in America's Concentration Camps explores the experiences of Japanese American youth who asserted their place as young Americans confronting the injustice of being imprisoned in World War II concentration camps and embarking on the universal journey into adolescence.

Through photographs, personal stories, and artifacts, *Don't Fence Me In* reveals the strength and ingenuity of young Americans who came of age in the War Relocation Authority camps and the Crystal City Department of Justice internment camp. From volunteer projects and camping trips to social dances, scout trips, and sports leagues, they drew upon their own resilience and creativity to forge friendships and community in the face of abrupt upheaval and wrongful imprisonment in their youth.

About the Activity Guide

This activity guide was created by JANM's Education Unit to accompany *Don't Fence Me In: Coming of Age in America's Concentration Camps*. We invite you to use it in the galleries and take it home with you to continue reflecting upon the exhibition.

Please be mindful that only pencils may be used in the galleries.

Image: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Jack Muro, 2012.2.721) (left); Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Myrtle Joyce Barley (Ward), 2003.12.14) (right).



Designed by Rosie Yasukochi

Snapshot

Look carefully at the objects. There's a lot to see!

Draw a "snapshot" of an object that is really interesting to you.

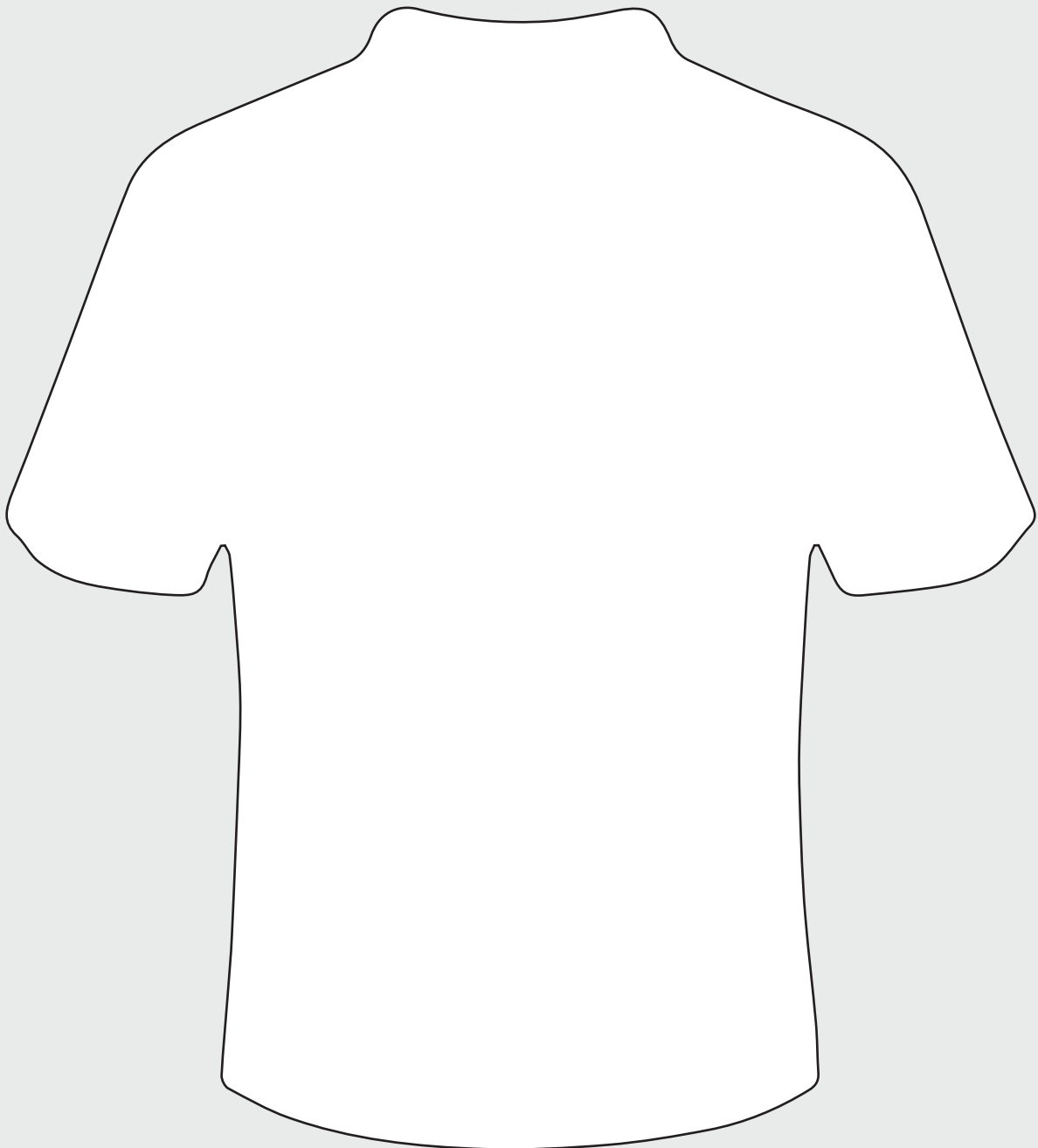
For a caption, write why you chose that object. What's interesting to you about it?
What do you want to remember about it later?

A drawing template for a "Snapshot" activity. It consists of a large white square for drawing, surrounded by a yellow border. Below the drawing area are three horizontal lines for writing a caption. The entire template is held together by four black corner tabs.

Go Team!

Sports were a big part of youth life in camp. Design a jersey for a sports team that you'd like to represent.

Hint: Look for inspiration from the many jerseys and uniforms in the exhibition!



Great Work!

A club you are part of has won first place in a recent competition! Take inspiration from the trophies, medals, and certificates on display to design an award of your own.



What's in a Name?

There are a lot of interesting nicknames among young Japanese American Nisei (second generation). Many have fun stories behind them and though they were given in youth, they lasted throughout one's life, into adulthood.

Find and write your favorite camp nickname here. Why do you like it?

What might your nickname be? Why?

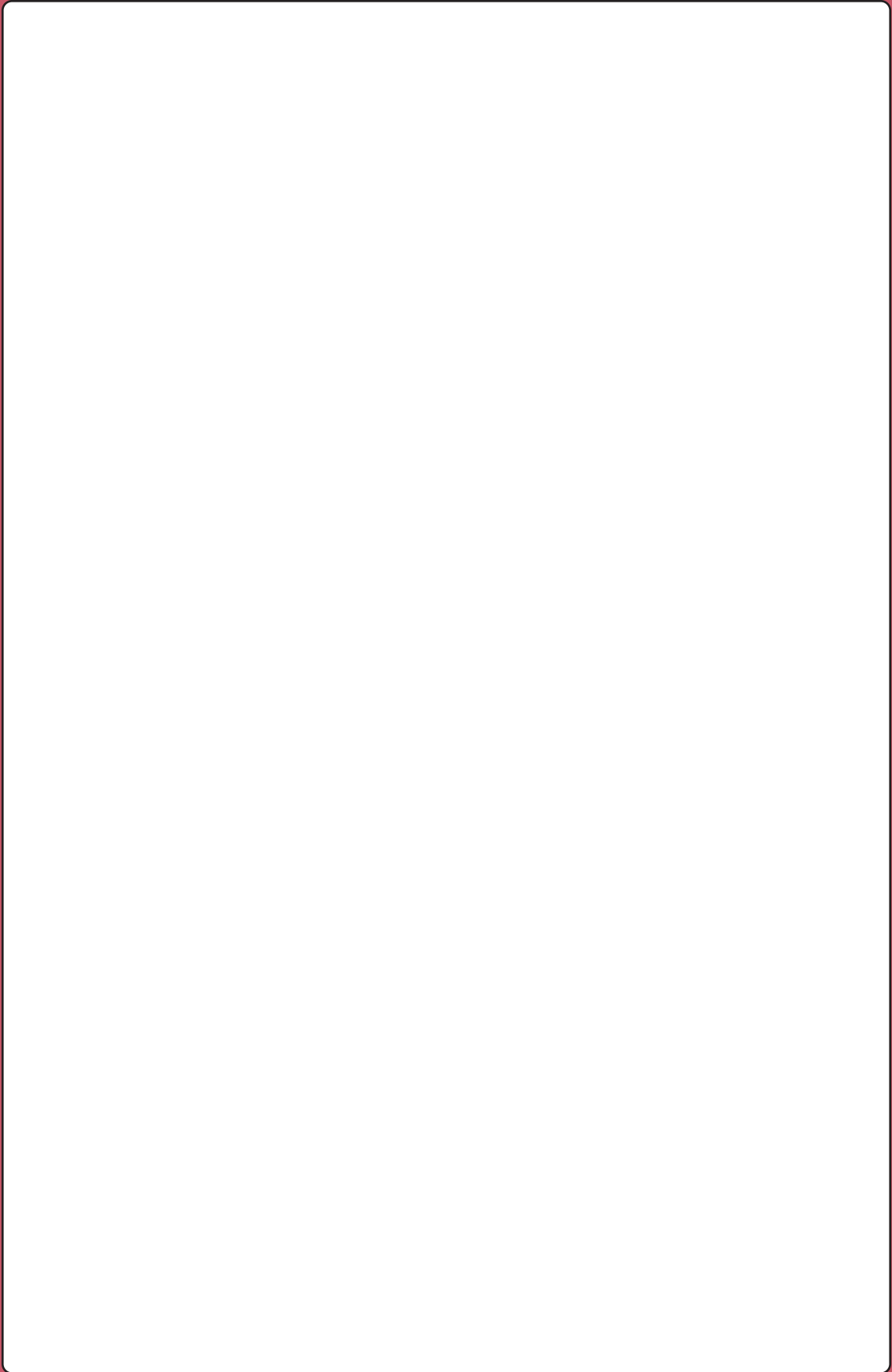
Think of nicknames for the people you are visiting with today and write down why you chose that as their nickname.

Name	Nickname	Why

Join the Club!

Imagine that you are going to start a club just for fun with your friends. What would it be like? How would you get more members to join? Draw a poster to advertise your club! Things to think about:

- What is your club's name?
- Do you have a mascot or logo that communicates what you are all about?
- What makes your club fun and special?
- What types of activities would you do together?



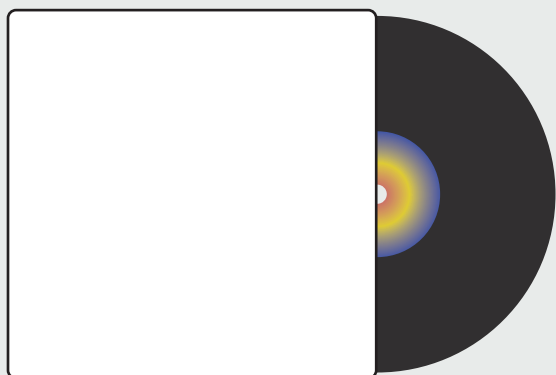
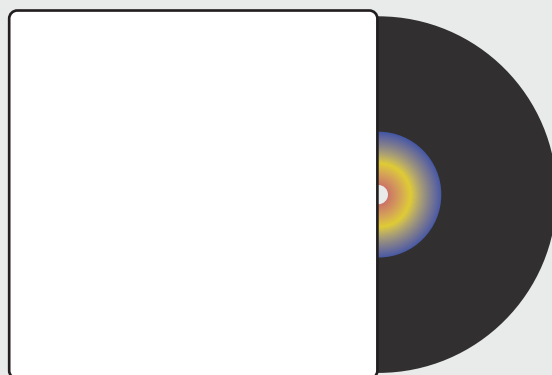
Name That Tune

Music is a big part of life for many young people. For Japanese Americans in camp this was especially true as music and social dancing brightened this time of injustice, upheaval, and disruption to their youth.

What is your favorite song to listen or dance to?

What about the people you are visiting with today? If you are visiting with people who are older than you, ask them to share the name of a song they remember enjoying as a young person. You can even ask them to sing the song for you, or you can try to find the songs and listen to them!

Write the names of all your favorite songs on the album covers below.



Autographs

Sign Here!

Autograph books and yearbooks were a way for youth to collect memories and remember friends, classmates, teachers, and others who were around them at a certain time in their lives. Sometimes inscriptions were as simple as a signature and sometimes they included little drawings or notes.

Collect autographs of people you came with to the Museum today.

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