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This map, from the National Park Service and online via the U.S. National Archives, depicts the location of the ten "War Relocation Centers," also referred to as internment camps. Japanese-Americans were sent to these camps as a result of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

After people were initially processed at the assembly centers, they were sent to one of ten internment camps, located in seven states. (Ethnic Japanese in Canada were also rounded up and transferred to Canadian internment camps.)

Many remained in their assigned camp for the duration of World War II, although others were allowed to leave, join the Army (where they served with distinction), or attend college outside of the West-coast exclusion area.

To understand who was actually sent to the camps, we need to know some of the terms referenced in government documents:

- Issei: The first generation of ethnic Japanese in America (born in Japan, immigrated to the States)
- Nisei: The second-generation in America (born in the States to Japanese-immigrant parents)
- Sansei: Third generation in America (children of Nisei, born in the States)
- Kibei: Children who returned to Japan to attend school

Members of each group were impacted by the exclusion order.

On the 14th of February, 1942, Lt. General John L. DeWitt sent his recommendation for exclusion to the Secretary of War. Referred to as "Evacuation of Japanese and Other Subversive Persons from the Pacific Coast," DeWitt had concluded that the west coast was vulnerable to Japanese air and naval attacks, not to mention acts of sabotage on land.

Requesting the power to exclude ethnic Japanese from their homes and businesses, DeWitt set forth his military justification:

*The area lying to the west of Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains in Washington, Oregon and California, is highly critical not only because the lines of communication and supply in the Pacific theater pass through it, but also because of the vital industrial production therein, particularly aircraft. In the war in which we are now engaged racial affiliations are not severed by migration.*

*The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become "Americanized," the racial strains are undiluted...That Japan is allied with Germany and Italy in this struggle is no ground for assuming that any Japanese, barred from assimilation by convention as he is, though born and raised in the United States, will not turn against this nation, when the final test of loyalty comes.*

*It, therefore, follows that along the vital Pacific Coast over 112,000 potential enemies, of Japanese extraction, are at large today. There are indications that these are organized and ready for concerted action at a favorable opportunity. The very fact that no sabotage has taken place is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.*

Once the government approved removing people of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific-coast region DeWitt had described, they were sent to one of the following camps:

**Amache (Granada), Colorado**

Opened: August 24, 1942

Closed: October 15, 1945

Highest Population: 7,318

**Gila River, Arizona**

Opened: July 20, 1942

Closed: November 10, 1945

Highest Population: 13,348

**Heart Mountain, Wyoming**

Opened: August 12, 1942

Closed: November 10, 1945

Highest Population: 10,767

**Jerome, Arkansas**

Opened: October 6, 1942

Closed: June 30, 1944

Highest Population: 8,497

**Manzanar, California**

Opened: March 21, 1942

Closed: November 21, 1945

Highest Population: 10,046

**Minidoka, Idaho**

Opened: August 10, 1942

Closed: October 28, 1945

Highest Population: 9,397

**Poston (Colorado River), Arizona**

Opened: May 8, 1942

Closed: November 28, 1945

Highest Population: 17,814

**Rohwer, Arkansas**

Opened: September 18, 1942

Closed: November 30, 1945

Highest Population: 8,475

**Topaz (Central Utah), Utah**

Opened: September 11, 1942

Closed: October 31, 1945

Highest Population: 8,130

**Tule Lake, California**

Opened: May 27, 1942

Closed: March 20, 1946

Highest Population: 18,789

Although the camps have been closed for decades, we can take a trip back in time to visit a few of the most notorious.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/INTERNMENT-CAMPS-Japanese-American-Internment>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/INTERNMENT-CAMPS-Japanese-American-Internment>

Media Stream

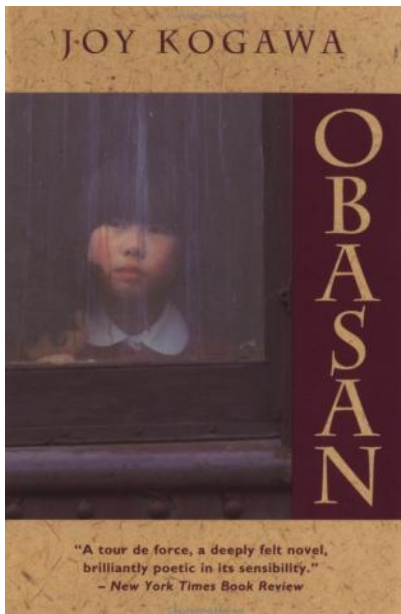


## Map Depicting War Relocation Centers

U.S. National Archives, National Park Service

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-War-Relocation-Centers>



## Obasan - by Joy Kogawa

Image of book cover online, courtesy Amazon.

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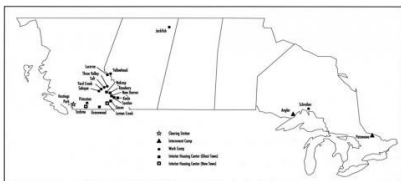


Figure 3.14 Japanese Canadian relocation sites.

## Japanese-Canadian Relocation Sites

Work, described above, published by the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Publications in Anthropology 74. 1999 (rev. July 2000).

Online, courtesy U.S. National Park Service.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Canadian-Relocation-Sites>



## Lt. General John L. DeWitt

Image of John L. DeWitt, online courtesy U.S. Department of Defense.

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