

Women of Heart Mountain- Module

Learning Goals: In this module students will learn about the lives of women at Heart Mountain. Students will analyze and evaluate the unique characteristics of culture and how the Women of Heart Mountain influenced the larger framework of Japanese American culture (SS8.2.3, SS12.2.3). They will create original art utilizing a variety of resources and apply the elements and principles of designs (FPA.VA.1). Students will improve technical writing skills by developing narratives based on textual evidence, to convey ideas (CCW6-16, CCRI6-12).

Introduction: Women are often overlooked in historical context, however they play a large role in the shaping of events. The same is true in the case of Heart Mountain. Though men were prominent members of Heart Mountain and did a great deal for Japanese Americans, the women who lived in Heart Mountain also accomplished much. They were community leaders, journalists, and artists. They shaped the experience of Japanese Americans at the Heart Mountain camp.

Videos

- [Notable Women of Heart Mountain](#)
- [For Joy](#)

Activity

- Write it out (CCW 6-12, Social Studies Content Standard 2 and 6.4, CCRI 6-12)
 - Mary Oyama Mittler was a journalist. She published several articles for newspapers in Powell and Cody voicing her opinion and speaking for Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain. Take a few minutes and think about the experiences of the people who lived at Heart Mountain. As a class discuss these questions. What was life like? What kind of hardships did they face? How did the people in the surrounding towns feel towards them? How do you think people reacted to the articles published during the war?
- OR**
- Split the class and have half of the students look at newspaper article written by Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain and the other half by residents in Powell or Cody. Remind students that there were many different reactions to the opening of Heart Mountain and the arrival of Japanese Americans. Once the class has read their articles, let students share what they've found and discuss.
 - Research (CCW 6-12 and Social Studies Content Standard 6.4)
 - Share with students that the Women of Heart Mountain shaped their communities. Have students research a woman in Heart Mountain and how she impacted the community. Have them write a short 2-3 page paper on the woman they've researched and share her story and community impact with the class.
 - Camp Artists-A Source Analysis (Social Studies content standard 6.4 and Fine Arts VA.1)
 - Take a look at the drawings of Estelle Ishigo. She created these to show the experiences of those at the Heart Mountain Camp. After you've taken a look at her drawings and other artwork, discuss the work in class. What do you see?

Why do you think the artist created this piece? How does this artwork express the feelings of the artist? How does the artwork vary? What image or scenery was drawn often by different artists?

Reading Suggestions

- Memoirs of Toshi Ito
- The Block Manager