Group One: Anti-Asian Sentiment and Introduction to the Akimotos

Primary Sources:
Photograph, *Japs Keep Out You Rats*, November 11, 1944

Poster, *Mass Meeting of the Oregon Property Owners’ Protective League, Inc.*, 1945

Political Cartoon, *Waiting for the Signal from Home*

Photograph, *Masanori with Brothers*, c. 1906

Photograph, *Ted and Johnny Akimoto*, 1925

Photograph, *Mary with Students*, 1907

Photograph, *The Akimoto Family*, 1927

Photograph, *Victor by Bank*

Photograph, *The USS West Virginia and USS Tennessee after the attack on Pearl Harbor*, December 7, 1941

Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882

Secondary Sources:
Excerpt, Matthew Elms, *When the Akimotos Went to War*
Group One Task Card

You will have 30 minutes to prepare a two to three minute skit that includes all of your group members. The skit will:

1. Introduce anti-Asian racism in America between 1880 and 1945. You should include quotes, posters, cartoons, etc.
2. Introduce Akimoto family members including Masanori (Father), Mary (Mother), Victor (Son), Johnny (Son), and Ted (Son) as they struggle to deal with anti-Asian sentiment.
Photograph, *Japs Keep Out You Rats*, November 11, 1944

Densho and the National Archives and Records Administration (210-CC-IN-4)

Door of barber shop owned by Any Hale, in a little desert tow of Parker, 15 miles from where the Colorado River Relocation Center was located. Evacuees from the center, who cannot leave its confines without a pass, are discouraged from shopping in Parker, by WRA officials, Parker, Arizona, November 11, 1944
Poster, *Mass Meeting of the Oregon Property Owners’ Protective League, Inc.*, 1945

Densho

Advertisement for a meeting held by the Oregon Property Owners’ Protective League, Inc., 1945
Political Cartoon, *Waiting for the Signal from Home*

University of California at San Diego Library

The “Honorable 5th Column” refers to an undercover Japanese spy organization. The Japanese Americans are depicted with racially stereotypical hats, round glasses, and slanted eyes. Dr. Seuss editorial cartoon, February 13, 1942
Photograph, *Masanori with Brothers, c. 1906*

Akimoto Family Collection

Masanori Akimoto (middle) with brothers. c. 1906
Photograph, *Ted and Johnny Akimoto*, 1925

Akimoto Family Collection

Ted and Johnny Akimoto, Idaho, 1925
Photograph, *Mary with Students*, 1907
Akimoto Family Collection

Mary “Miki” Shiratori with her first pupils prior to her marriage to Masanori Akimoto, c. 1907.
Excerpt, *When the Akimotos Went to War*

As Victor grappled with the ways of the U.S. Army, his family struggled with new obstacles placed in their path. In Los Angeles, California on Dayton Street, the Akimotos opened their home to another Japanese American family. The parents had been fired from their jobs due to their Japanese ancestry. One day after Victor wrote to his family, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This powerful executive order changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans living along the west coast of America. Within weeks, the isolation and forced incarceration of Japanese Americans would reveal long held prejudice against Asian Americans. Even Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, used his artistic skills to portray Japanese Americans as traitors wearing stereotypical bowler hats, round eyeglasses, and leering through slanted eyes.
Photograph, *The Akimoto Family, 1927*

Akimoto Family Collection
Photograph, *Victor by Bank*
Photograph, *The USS West Virginia and USS Tennessee after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941*

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882

British Columbia Archives (PDP03732)

Reaction to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882