

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Why were Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII?

<i>Document</i>	<i>Reasons for incarceration suggested by this document</i>	<i>Evidence from document to support these reasons</i>
The Munson Report Date: _____		
The Crisis article Date: _____		

Final Hypothesis: Why were Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II?

## Document B: The Munson Report

*In 1941 President Roosevelt ordered the State Department to investigate the loyalty of Japanese Americans. Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson carried out the investigation in October and November of 1941. The product of this investigation became known as the "Munson Report," and it was presented to President Roosevelt on November 7, 1941. The excerpt below is from the 25-page report.*

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There is no Japanese 'problem' on the Coast. There will be no armed uprising of Japanese. There will undoubtedly be some sabotage financed by Japan and executed largely by imported agents. . . . In each Naval District there are about 250 to 300 suspects under surveillance. It is easy to get on the suspect list, merely a speech in favor of Japan at some banquet being sufficient to land one there. The Intelligence Services are generous with the title of suspect and are taking no chances. Privately, they believe that only 50 or 60 in each district can be classed as really dangerous. The Japanese are hampered as **saboteurs** because of their easily recognized physical appearance. It will be hard for them to get near anything to blow up if it is guarded. There is far more danger from Communists and people of the **Bridges type** on the Coast than there is from Japanese. The Japanese here is almost exclusively a farmer, a fisherman or a small businessman. He has no **entree** to plants or **intricate** machinery.

**Source:** The Munson Report, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941.

### Vocabulary

**saboteurs:** a person who deliberately destroys something to gain a military advantage

**Bridges type:** a reference to Harry Bridges, a leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

**entree:** access

**intricate:** complicated

### Document C: *The Crisis*

*The following excerpt is from an editorial published in The Crisis shortly after the establishment of incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. Founded in 1910, The Crisis is the official magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization dedicated to promoting civil rights.*

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Along the eastern coast of the United States, where the numbers of Americans of Japanese ancestry is comparatively small, no concentration camps have been established. From a military point of view, the only danger on this coast is from Germany and Italy. . . . But the American government has not taken any such **high-handed** action against Germans and Italians – and their American-born descendants – on the East Coast, as has been taken against Japanese and their American-born descendants on the West Coast. Germans and Italians are “white.”

Color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps. Anyway, there are no Italian-American, or German-American citizens in such camps.

**Source:** Harry Paxton Howard, “Americans in Concentration Camps,” *The Crisis*, September 1942.

#### **Vocabulary**

high-handed: using authority without considering the feelings of others