

## Sadao Munemori | Lesson Plan

How did World War II hero, Sadao Munemori, demonstrate a victor mentality?

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Students will learn about Sadao Munemori, a courageous Japanese-American World War II hero, and explore the treatment of Japanese-Americans during and after Pearl Harbor, highlighting the sacrifices made by Munemori and his family to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States.

### Learning Objectives:

- Explain how Sadao Munemori persevered to prove his loyalty to the United States.
- Identify the effects Pearl Harbor had on Japanese-Americans and World War II.
- Analyze the impact that Executive Order 9066 had on Japanese-Americans during World War II.
- Describe how to have a victor mentality, just like Sadao Munemori.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Segregated:** To keep a group of people separated from another group.
- **Nisei:** The name for people who were born in America to Japanese parents who came from Japan.
- **Internment Camp:** A facility where people are detained or confined, often in large groups, without trial, typically during wartime or under government orders. Internment camps may hold civilians, prisoners of war, or other groups deemed a threat or undesirable by the governing authority.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, Historical Figures, American Values

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Sadao Munemori: Patriotism in the Midst of Persecution* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Sadao Munemori: Patriotism in the Midst of Persecution* (Click [Here](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Kick off the discussion by asking if anyone has ever felt like quitting something. Then, ask about times students have pushed through that feeling. Use examples for younger students if needed.
2. Introduce Sadao Munemori, a Japanese-American hero in World War II, explaining that he had unique challenges after Pearl Harbor was attacked:

Scan to watch episode:



- Sadao Munemori was a Japanese-American soldier during World War II, and the only Japanese-American awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the war.
  - Sadao Munemori's service in the military during World War II was significant due to the widespread suspicion and discrimination faced by Japanese Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor.
  - His courage and dedication significantly contributed to changing perceptions of Japanese-Americans, highlighting their patriotism and the injustice of their treatment back home.
3. Display the "Sadao Munemori Worksheet" on the screen and distribute copies. Point out the map and remind them of the two main sides in World War II: the Allies and the Axis.
  4. Encourage students to think about the complex situation Munemori found himself in, being American-born but of Japanese heritage. Ask them to make predictions about what choices he might have made during the war and invite them to share these predictions.
  5. Preview the worksheet so students know what to be on the lookout for as they watch the video.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Encourage students to complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Depending on the age of the students, pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Give students some time to finish their worksheets. Collect them as a formative assessment or lead a class discussion.
2. Dive into the topic of Sadao Munemori's heroism and the challenges he faced. Ask students to share their thoughts on how he overcame adversity and demonstrated his loyalty to the U.S., focusing on their answers to questions 8, 10, and 12 from the worksheet.
3. As a closing thought, encourage students to find inspiration in Sadao Munemori's story whenever they feel like giving up, reminding them that they, too, can be victors in their daily lives.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.