

Name: _____

THE AMERICAN HOMEFRONT DURING WORLD WAR II

Document #4: Victory Gardens

During World War II there was a campaign to encourage the use of homegrown foods. Because commercially canned goods were rationed, the *Victory Garden* became an indispensable source of food for the home front. The Victory Garden was a household activity during the war and one of the most well received of all home front chores. At its peak, it is estimated that nearly 20 million gardens were grown and about 40 percent of all vegetables produced in the U.S. came from Victory Gardens. Across the nation, home canning and preserving of farm produce flourished so that more supplies would be made available for our troops. The idea was simple in conception and inexpensive for the individual American at home to carry out. Of all the advertising techniques used to make Americans feel a part of the war effort, propaganda posters were perhaps the most successful.

DOCUMENT 4 QUESTIONS

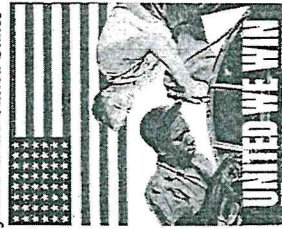
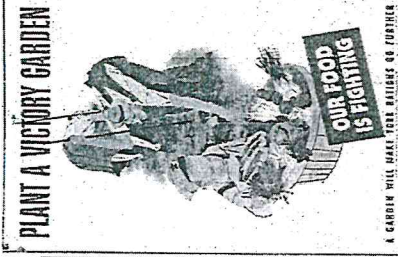
1. What was a Victory Garden?
2. Why did people grow them during WWII?
3. About how much of the nation's vegetables were produced by Victory Gardens?
4. How did the government encourage people to grow these gardens?

Document #5: New Roles for Minorities during WWII

World War II created new job opportunities for minorities on the home front. More than one million African Americans worked in the defense industry during the war. Many of these jobs were along the West Coast and in the North. As a result, more than one million African Americans migrated from the South during the war. On paper, African Americans enjoyed equal rights in some workplaces. Besides African Americans, other minority groups also lent support to the home front effort. Some 46,000 Native Americans left their reservations to work in the nation's war industries. Tens of thousands Hispanics also joined the ranks of the country's war-related laborers and lent support to the farm industry. Both African Americans and Mexican Americans faced a great deal of prejudice in the United States as they attempted to aid in the war effort.

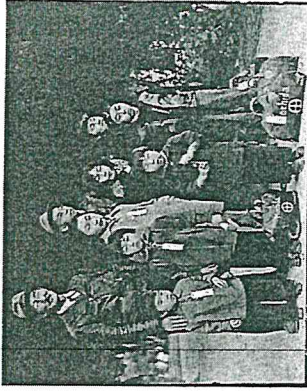
DOCUMENT 5 QUESTIONS

1. How did minorities' role change during World War II?
2. Name three minority groups who aided in the war effort during WWII.
3. How were these minority groups treated?



Document #6: Internment Camps

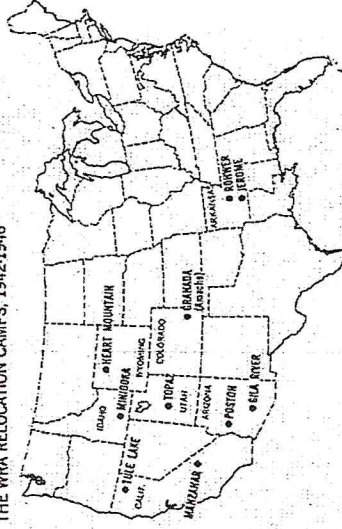
In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, a growing number of Americans began to direct their anger toward people of Japanese ancestry. In the days and weeks after Pearl Harbor, several newspapers declared Japanese Americans to be a security threat. President Roosevelt eventually responded to the growing anti-Japanese hysteria. In February 1942, he signed an order that allowed for the removal of Japanese and Japanese Americans from the Pacific Coast. This action came to be known as the *Japanese-American internment*. More than 110,000 men, women, and children were rounded up. They had to sell their homes and possessions and leave their jobs. These citizens were placed in *internment camps*, areas where they were kept under guard. In these camps families lived in single rooms with little privacy. About two-thirds of the people sent to live in internment camps were *Nisei*, Japanese Americans born in the United States. Many Japanese Americans argued that internment for racial reasons was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court, however, upheld internment throughout the war. However, in 1988 Congress apologized for the treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII and voted to pay survivors of the camps \$20,000.



DOCUMENT 6 QUESTIONS

1. What are internment camps? Why were Japanese Americans forced to live in these camps?

THE WRA RELOCATION CAMPS, 1942-1946



2. What are *Nisei*?
3. What were conditions like at these camps?
4. Why did some people claim that internment camps were unconstitutional?