They Called Us Enemy

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Questions and Activities

1. Why is it important to learn about and preserve historic places that have challenging histories, like the internment camps in the story?

2. Take a walk in your neighborhood. What places are significant to the understanding of where you live? Why are these places significant? Are there historic places that have challenging histories in your neighborhood or city?

3. Think about your life and your family’s heritage. Is there a specific place that represents your family and your heritage? What can be learned about your family by visiting this place?

4. Visit or virtually explore one of the historic places featured in the story such as Los Angeles City Hall, Boyle Heights, Nishi Hongwanji Temple, Little Tokyo, Santa Anita Racetrack, and Tule Lake. How are these places representative of different communities? In addition to the Japanese American community, how have other groups made an impact on these places? Check out these resources for more information about these historic places and others that are important to the Japanese American community:

Japanese American National Museum
Little Tokyo Historical Society
Los Angeles Public Library
Los Angeles Conservancy