

# Defining moments

from the past with lessons for a post-9/11 world...

## Lesson Four Biographical Comparison

### Overview/Objectives

Students will:

- Determine key factors in lives of individuals studied.
- Graphically compare the individuals' lives using a matrix and timeline.
- Compare and contrast the lives of two individuals involved in a single historic event.
- Create and analyze graphic representations of information.

### Benchmarks Targeted

SOC.I.4.HS.2

SOC.I.2.HS.2

SOC.I.2.HS.3

### Procedure

Students will design a matrix comparing major features of their lives and their role in the internment and subsequent case after watching the video and reading some background information about the Japanese American internment, Fred Korematsu and Frank Murphy (either from print or electronic sources). Students will need to brainstorm the biographical data that will be important and design the matrix.

Students will also create a timeline comparing the key events in the lives of Korematsu and Murphy with the key events of the first half of the twentieth century.

Have students examine their matrices and timelines to respond to questions like the following.

- To what degree do the lives of the individuals compare and contrast with each other?
- What impact do their backgrounds have in determining their role in the internment and subsequent legal actions?
- How did the times in which the events occurred influence the lives of the individuals? Recall specific situations in which two historic figures from diverse backgrounds were united in an historic event.