



## Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School Blog post – the Homefront WWII Internment camps & music

By Miwako and Saya

We chose the topics Propaganda, Internment camps, music, movies, and fashion. Although, we have not been able to get deep into all of these topics, we have been able to research things about Internment camps and the music there.

### Internment Camps

During World War II, Japanese people who lived in Australia were sent to Internment camps. There were three reasons behind this. To prevent residents from assisting Australia's enemies, to appease public opinion, and to house overseas internees sent to Australia for the duration of the war. It was to isolate the Japanese people so that they do not spill any information about the Australian government. These are the same reasons why the USA also had the Internment camps. But in reality, the Japanese did not have any top-secret information about both governments.

We have interviewed a friend of Saya's, Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto, whose family member had to live in those camps until the war had ended. She had said that at the camps in America, California, they did not get enough education on what was going on in Japan, so they couldn't learn the basic skills that every Japanese should know. But they still wanted to keep their identity as Japanese. That is when they decided to spread the traditional Japanese culture.

### Music

When we interviewed Shirley, she told us about her mother who was one of the people spreading the Japanese culture by playing Koto at the camp. She gathered a group of people to help her spread the culture, and help people remind them of their identity and their spirit as Japanese. Now Shirley is taking her mother's place, and is the leader of that group. We did not have enough time to interview her for a long time, but we are planning to talk with her longer later.

We are also planning to interview an Australian resident, Roger Earnshaw, who had lived during the war, to find out what it was like in those days.

