

Migration

Art Behind the Wire - Activity Sheet

What's it like to be behind the wire?

This material supports studies in the Humanities domain –History- Level 6/ Upper Primary.

This exhibition tells the story of what life was like for the Duldig family when they were put in an internment camp in country Victoria during the Second World War and after, when they went to live in Melbourne. There were 60 families living together in the camp. Karl, Slawa and Eva Duldig were there for 18 months. Eva was only 2 years old when she arrived.

Questions you could ask and things to think about:

- What can we see here?
- What does that remind you of?
- How would you have felt if this had happened to you?

1. Drawings (Walls 1 and 2)

These drawings were done when Karl first came to the camp. Some are on toilet paper because he didn't have any other drawing materials.

- ❖ *Find the drawing of Eva and her mother in the camp hut – what makes you think she's scared?*
- ❖ *What else can we find out about life in the camp from Karl's drawings?*

2. Photographs and documents (Walls and Cabinets)

There are many photos and documents in the exhibition. The large photo (Wall 2) is from a newspaper and was taken when the families first arrived in Sydney from Singapore. Some photos were taken in the camp and others when Karl was in the Army. Some are of Eva, and others are of friends who helped them when they came to Melbourne.

- ❖ *Find a photo which shows a sculpture which is in the exhibition. Do you think this is a good likeness of this person? Why?*
- ❖ *Look at the photos and documents and say how you think life may have been different once the family left the camp.*

3. **Sculptures** (Centre)

The wooden sculpture *Fragment* was carved while in the camp from red gum wood. The plaster casts are of sculptures carved when Karl was in the Army and were originally made from potatoes!

- ❖ *Look at 'Fragment'. How do you think Karl carved this sculpture?*
- ❖ *What problems might you face if you tried to carve a figure from a potato?*

4. **Pram** (Wall 2) and **Doll** (Cabinet 1)

The pram was made from bits and pieces by a father Otto Gottlieb for his daughter Ruth's 6th birthday while they were in the camp. The family had also come from Singapore. The doll was the only toy Eva had when she was in the camp.

- ❖ *What favourite possessions would you miss if you were in a place like this?*