

Korematsu v. United States / Photograph Analysis—Answer Key



Oakland, California. A large sign reading "I am an American" placed in the window of a store, at Eighth and Franklin streets, on December 8, 1941.

Source: Dorothea Lange, photographer, "I am an American," Oakland, California, March 1942, Photograph, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004665381/>.

Observe

1. What do you notice first?
Student answers will vary but may include the "I AM AN AMERICAN" sign, an old car, the name of the store "Wanto Co.," and the "Fruits and Vegetables" sign on the window.
2. What people and objects are shown?
Student answers will vary but may include the "I AM AN AMERICAN" sign, an old car, the name of the store "Wanto Co.," the "Fruits and Vegetables" sign on the window, a mailbox, and can goods inside the store. There are no people visible.

3. What is the setting?

A city street. From the caption we learn it is in Oakland, California at Eighth and Franklin streets on December 8, 1941.

Reflect

4. What is happening in this image?

A store owner is displaying a “I AM AN AMERICAN” sign to encourage people to shop there and not boycott the Wanto Co. store.

5. What is significant about when this photo was taken?

This photo was taken on December 8, 1941 which was the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Question

6. What do you still wonder about?

Student answers will vary. Encourage students to find answers to their inquiries.

Caption

7. Write a caption for this image.

Student captions will vary.