

# **Zoot Suit Riots (1942): PBS *The American Experience***

*Video Notes (60 minute film)*

1. What caused the conflict at Sleepy Lagoon?
2. What was the outcome of the fight?
3. What impact did this fight have in Los Angeles? Why?
4. How were Mexican-Americans treated during WWII?
5. Describe the Mexican-American neighborhoods in L.A. in the WWII era?
6. How did Mexican-American teenagers fit into this culture and society during the WWII era? Give Specific Examples.
7. Describe the fashion styles of Mexican-American youth during the WWII era?
8. What were "Pachucos?" Who would have used that term and who would have disliked the term?
9. What was the relationship between Military servicemen and the Mexican-American youth?
10. How did the L.A.P.D. respond to the Zoot Suitors and to the Sleepy Lagoon defendants?
11. How were the defendants treated in the Sleepy Lagoon Trial?
12. What did the defendants testify about the death of Jose Diaz?
13. How were the 38<sup>th</sup> street girls involved in the Sleepy Lagoon fight and how did the media view them?
14. What was the verdict and sentence for the males in the Sleepy Lagoon case?
15. What was the outcome for the women? Explain their situation.
16. Who was involved with the Sleepy Lagoon case following the trial?
17. How did they get involved?

18. What was the outcome of their involvement?

19. What happened on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1943? Why?

20. How did the Zoot Suit Riot progress?

21. List at least 10 words that describe the riots?



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

22. How did the Mexican American and Caucasian Community in Los Angeles get involved in the conflict?

23. How were Mexican Americans and Servicemen treated differently by law enforcement?

24. *What happened on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1943?*

25. What did the City council of L.A. ban in their resolution as a response to the riots?

26. What happened in November of 1943?

27. What was the outcome of the appeal?

28. Why did Lorraina Encinas refuse to cooperate in the Sleepy Lagoon trial and name Jose Diaz' killer?

29. What was the outcome on the investigation by the citizens committee ?

30. What was the outcome for the 38<sup>th</sup> street girls?

31. What happened to Hank Leyvas and the other defendants in the 38<sup>th</sup> street group following the Sleepy Lagoon incident?

### **Post-Viewing Questions**



32. What does this event reveal about American society during the WWII era?

33. What was the lasting impact of the sleepy lagoon trial?

34. How did this event shape the Los Angeles Area and how is it relevant today?