

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Resource Guide

Note: For an accessible version of this resource, visit the word file of this [Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Resource Guide](#).

The story of the United States is filled with contributions by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In exploring documents related to the 1763 [Filipino settlement in present day Louisiana](#), the development of [Bengali communities in Harlem](#) at the turn of the 20th century, or the many stories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who fought for the expansion of a more just and democratic nation, students can begin to understand the significant and long term role that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played in our collective history. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides an opportunity for educators to reflect on this history, however, it should not be the only time the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is taught. This robust and diverse history should be integrated into the entire curriculum of knowledge to which students are introduced. We hope that this resource is an invitation to further develop the study of this history at all levels and across all subjects.

Family Facing Resources

Resource	Summary
NYCDOE School Library System, Asian American/Pacific Islanders Collection	<p>A collection of 499 ebooks and 126 audiobooks for young people that honors and reflects on the significant contributions Asian Americans & Pacific Islander Americans have made to the lives and culture of the United States. Available to NYCDOE students and teachers by logging into the Sora app with their NYCDOE credentials. Some of the books the NYCDOE Libraries Team suggests for read aloud are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilal Cooks Daal • Ho'onani: Hula Warrior • I'm New Here • A Map into the World • Mommy's Hometown • Mommy's Khimar • Niki Nakayama--A Chef's Tale in 13 Bites • The Star Festival • Watercress • When the Cousins Came <p>For more on SORA and the Citywide Digital Library see the Get Started guides.</p>

Resource	Summary
Asia Society, <i>Spotlight on Asian Pacific Americans: A Biography Series for Children and Families</i>	Part of Asia Society's new initiative, <i>Asian Americans Building America</i> , The Center for Global Education will spotlight inspiring Asian Pacific Americans and explore their specific contributions to life in America. These weekly mini-lessons will aim to spark the curiosity of young learners by helping them to build a more inclusive understanding of American history.
National Park Service, <i>Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage</i>	A collection of itineraries from The National Park Service and other places listed in the National Register of Historic Places that bring alive Asian American and Pacific Islander peoples' stories and how they enriched our nation. Resources also include articles, individual stories, and essays. A <i>Teach It!</i> section is included for both educators and parents with additional resources to engage both children and young adults.
New York Public Library, <i>AAPI Heritage Month Resources</i>	A collection of free online events and resources, as well as a book list for adults, kids, and teens that spotlight a range of experiences within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Teacher Facing Resources

Resource	Summary
NYCDOE School Library System, <i>They Called Us Enemy Collection</i>	A collection of George Takei's graphic memoir about Japanese Incarceration during WWII from the Citywide Digital Library on SORA. This collection hosts hundreds of ebook copies of <i>They Called Us Enemy</i> , including the Spanish translation. Teachers can use this collection to assign the book or to host book clubs. For background information on the book and author, the NYCDOE Social Studies and Civics team recently hosted Graphic Texts in the Classroom: A Conversation with George Takei .
Asian American Education Project	A series of K-12 lesson plans and activities, organized by theme and chronologically, to inspire a deeper understanding of the history, current experience, and future trajectory of our nation's fastest-growing demographic group. Lessons include a module teaching anti-hate, Stand Against Hatred .

Resource	Summary
<u>Asian Americans Advancing Justice, <i>Untold Civil Rights Stories</i></u>	A guide and accompanying lesson plans that identify and honor those individuals of Asian descent who were, and are, heroes in the struggle for civil rights and social justice.
<u>Asia Society, <i>Education for Equity</i></u>	A collection of educator resources from the Education for Equity initiative of The Center for Global Education. A primary focus of the initiative is the development of materials for teachers, parents, and youth themselves that enable all students to understand and act on racism as an interpersonal and structural malignancy.
<u>DPLA, <i>Early Chinese Immigration the US</i></u>	A primary source collection of resources including photos, documents, and oral histories that help tell the story of the early period of Chinese immigration to the United States.
<u>Emy Madeline Chen, <i>Asian American and Pacific Islander Contributions</i></u>	A collection of 31 individuals (with a new figure added each day during the month of May), compiled by 13 year old Emy Madeline Chen, that presents the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States in the present and past. This collection highlights the work of people who have helped to create a “fairer, more just society.”
<u>Learning for Justice, <i>Teachers, Check Your Texts</i></u>	An article providing tips for teachers making text selections to amplify Asian and Pacific Islander experiences in their classrooms.
<u>Learning for Justice, <i>Teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage</i></u>	A professional learning webinar grounded in unpacking the origins, meaning, and contemporary impact of the term “Asian American Pacific Islander.” This webinar also breaks down the model minority myth and provides educators with resources to effectively teach AAPI history.
<u>Library of Congress, <i>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</i></u>	A web portal that is a collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This site includes a section for teachers with lesson plans, student activities, collection guides, and research aids related to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Resource	Summary
National Archives, <i>Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month</i>	A collection of primary and secondary sources from the National Archives and Records Administration documenting the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience.
National Parks, <i>Sites of Resistance to Imperialism</i>	An essay by Davianna Pômaika'i McGregor on the history and meaning of resistance to the annexation of Indigenous land in the Pacific.
NYCDOE Social Studies and Civics for All, <i>Highlighting Asian and Asian American History</i>	A resource identifying some of the places where Asian and Asian American history can be found in resources created by the NYCDOE Department of Social Studies and Civics.
Newsela, AAPI Month Text Set and Persevering AAPI Activism	The AAPI Heritage Month text set includes three lessons: Exploring AAPI Culture and Communities, Cultural Influences of AAPI Communities, and AAPI Folktales and Stories for use at different grade levels. Preserving AAPI Activism also includes three lessons on historical and contemporary examples of activism in the AAPI community. Newsela also provides slides with AAPI Month Resources. NYCDOE teachers can access Newsela via TeachHub/Clever (login instructions) and they can register to attend citywide professional learning.
New-York Historical Society, <i>Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion</i>	The companion website to the landmark 2015 New-York Historical Society exhibition <i>Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion</i> . Resources chronicle the complex history of the Chinese in America; the challenges of immigration, citizenship, and belonging that shaped both the Chinese American experience and the development of the United States as a nation. Contains digital resources and a full curriculum guide for classroom use.
PBS, <i>Asian Americans</i>	A three-part series telling the history of identity, contributions, and challenges experienced by Asian Americans. Additional resources connected to the documentary are available here .
Stanford University, <i>Polynesians, Native Americans Made Contact before European Arrival, Genetic Study Finds</i>	An article detailing the deep-genome analyses conducted by Stanford Medicine researchers and their collaborators that have settled a long-brewing controversy about whether ancient Polynesians and Native Americans had contact.
Time, <i>A 'History of Exclusion, of Erasure, of Invisibility.' Why the Asian-American Story Is Missing From Many U.S. Classrooms</i>	An article exploring how Asian and Asian American history has, and has not, been included in America's classrooms.

Resource	Summary
University of Minnesota. <i>Immigrant Stories</i>	A collection of digital stories from recent immigrants and refugees including brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience. The IHRC shares and preserves these digital stories for future generations through the IHRC Archives, the University Libraries, and the Digital Public Library of America. The included videos tell the stories of immigrants from around the world, many of them from Asia and the Pacific Islands.
WNET, <i>Mission US: Prisoner in My Homeland</i>	An immersive history simulation that allows students to explore the challenges faced by a Japanese American teenager forced to move to a prison camp during World War II. Yuri , a group dedicated to producing educational materials through an Asian American lens, created supporting resources to use in conjunction with the game.

Student Facing Resources (with supporting focus and discussion questions)

[ABC News, *Life Stories: Graphic Novelist Gene Luen Yang*](#)

Description: Comic creator Gene Luen Yang tells about his life and how it influenced his work in comics. Yang can also be seen discussing his new Superman graphic novel, [Superman Smashes the Klan](#).

Focus Question for Life Stories: Graphic Novelist Gene Luen Yang: How did experiences in Gene Luen Yang's life influence his award winning comics?

Discussion Questions:

- What were some of Gene Luen Yang's experiences as a young person that may have shaped the creation of his comics?
- Yang states that stories should be mirrors and windows, what does he mean by this metaphor?
- Why is it important for more and more Asian Americans to tell stories that others can read and watch?
- Why was Yang's book *American Born Chinese* a turning point in his life?

[PBS, *Asian Americans, Women Advancing Equality*](#)

Description: A video about Asian American Congresswoman Patsy Mink, who supported civil rights legislation and co-authored Title IX, a law to ensure that no one will be discriminated against in education and federally-funded activities based on gender.

Focus Question for Women Advancing Equality: How did Patsy Mink fight to advance equality for everyone in the United States?

Discussion Questions:

- Who was Patsy Mink? What obstacles did Patsy Mink face in running for Congress?
- How did Patsy Mink advocate for the passage of civil rights legislation?
- What was Patsy Mink's impact on advancing equality for all Americans?

[TedX Minneapolis, Xenophobia: How We Got Here and What's at Stake](#)

Description: A video of a short talk by Professor Erika Lee, one of the nation's leading immigration and Asian American historians, discussing the history of the relationship between immigration and xenophobia. Includes an explanation of the University of Minnesota *Immigration Stories* project.

Focus Question for Xenophobia: How We Got Here and What's at Stake: How is the United States a nation of immigrants AND a nation of xenophobia?

Discussion Questions:

- According to Erika Lee, what is the relationship between immigration and xenophobia?
- What is the relationship between xenophobia and racism?
- How is the response to Asian immigration similar to and different from the response to other immigrant groups historically?
- How can we respond to xenophobia? How can we do more to challenge hate and racism against immigrants?

[Time, 11 Moments From Asian American History That You Should Know](#)

Description: This article provides a collection of eleven events from the long history of Asians and Asian Americans in the land that is now known as the United States of America. The authors illustrate that Asians and Asian Americans have shaped the history of this country from the time before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Focus Question for 11 Moments From Asian American History That You Should Know: How does learning about these events deepen your understanding of the history of the United States?

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways do the events detailed in this article show that the history of Asians and Asian Americans does not reflect a monolithic or universal experience?
- Were you surprised by any of the events? Why or why not?
- How do any of the events detailed in the article connect directly to your lived experiences today?
- Do any of the events identified in the article challenge your existing understanding of US history? Explain.

[Time, How One Woman's Story Led to the Creation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)

Description: An article about the history of the creation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and how one voice can change the way history is remembered.

Focus Question for How One Woman's Story Led to the Creation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: What is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and how did it develop?

Discussion Questions:

- Who was Jeanie Jew and why is she important to the history of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month?

- Why did Jeanie Jew want people in the United States to commemorate and celebrate Asian Pacific Americans? What personal story influenced her actions?
- Why was the month of May selected for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month?
- When was Asian Pacific American Heritage Week expanded into Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month?
- The article quotes former Ohio Rep. Thomas Sayer, calling for an annual designation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month saying, "The United States truly continues to be a nation of immigrants, and the diversity of the population continues to contribute to the strength and progress of the Nation." What do you think that means? Why is it important to teach Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month?