

MAY IS

# ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
**Office of Education**

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION #20-20/21

Recognition of Asian Pacific Heritage Month  
May 2021

**WHEREAS**, the State of California is home to more than 600,000 students of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, kindergarten through grade twelve; and

**WHEREAS**, these students reflect the great diversity of culture and heritage of the many countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, Whereas, despite the hardships and barriers of the past, the people of Asia and the Pacific Islands who come to this country, and their descendants, make substantial contributions to California's economic growth and development and weave clear distinct threads into the state's social fabric; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Board of Education recognizes in its Policy Statement on Multicultural Education that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people; to develop pride in his or her own identity and heritage; and to understand, respect, and accept the identity and heritage of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the *History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* states that the history curriculum of community, state, region, nation, and world reflect the experiences of men and women of different racial, religious, and ethnic groups and must be integrated at every level; and

**WHEREAS**, *Asian Pacific Heritage Month* is celebrated annually at the local, state, and national levels;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Contra Costa County Board of Education proclaims the month of May 2021 as Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Contra Costa County Board of Education on April 21, 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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President, Board of Education



## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

# ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with elementary grade students about Asian American - Pacific Islander culture and history and the contributions made to our state and country.

## GUIDING QUESTION

Who is Asian American and Pacific Islander? How have these individuals contributed to the history and culture of California and the U.S.?



## EXPLORE

- **Who is Asian American?** Read to learn about the term 'Asian American' and how it came to be. *Please note: Lexile level of text can be adjusted to meet the needs of the reader.* [https://newsela.com/read/asian-american-term-identity/id/51885/?search\\_id=1701980b-e525-42f0-baba-1b073612e92c](https://newsela.com/read/asian-american-term-identity/id/51885/?search_id=1701980b-e525-42f0-baba-1b073612e92c)
- Visit this site to find **12 ways** you can explore the **history, arts, and culture** of Asian-Pacific heritage. <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/12-ways-to-celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/6AWxHzPoMnUTnw?hl=en>
- Watch and learn about **Norman Y. Mineta**, a politician who went from being **mayor of San Jose, CA** to serving in Congress and as a **secretary on two presidential cabinets**. Appreciate how his childhood impacted his service. [https://youtu.be/K\\_tkItr1Wp](https://youtu.be/K_tkItr1Wp)
- Watch to discover the **contributions Chinese workers** made to the **Transcontinental Railroad** and the **hardships** they faced as early immigrants in California. <https://youtu.be/YTXvoxUcryg>
- Watch one or more of these **music videos** featuring **singers, musicians, and school children** from across the Pacific Islands. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIkRcTKt1hMclxtaUcP3kj1t8wzfaZCc>
- Virtually visit a **national park/place** preserving **Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage**. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/asianpacificislanderfeaturedplaces.htm>



## EXPLAIN

- As you explored Asian American - Pacific Islander history and culture, what did you discover about how these individuals are similar yet different from each other and you? (*Social Justice Standard DI.3-5.7; JU.3-5.11*)
- Despite hardships, how have Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders contributed to the history of our state and country?



## ENGAGE FURTHER

- Watch this video about **March Fong Eu**, the **first Asian American assembly member and California Secretary of State**, and learn how she fought for voting rights. <https://youtu.be/mWWLXMt6ZrU>
- Watch to learn about the role **Angel Island** in the San Francisco Bay played as an **immigration station** on the west coast and the challenges new immigrants faced when arriving. <https://youtu.be/kvqtCo--Prs>
- Meet **Dr. Sammy Lee**, the **first male Asian-American to win an Olympic gold medal**, and learn about his pride in his Korean-American heritage. <https://youtu.be/rntQeLcihe8>



## SECONDARY LEVEL

# ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with secondary grade students about Asian American - Pacific Islander culture and history and the contributions made to our state and country.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Who is Asian American and Pacific Islander? How have these individuals contributed to the history and culture of California and the U.S.?



## EXPLORE

- **Who is Asian American?** Read to learn about the term 'Asian American' and how it came to be. *Please note: Lexile level of text can be adjusted to meet the needs of the reader.* [https://newsela.com/read/asian-american-term-identity/id/51885/?search\\_id=1701980b-e525-42f0-baba-1b073612e92c](https://newsela.com/read/asian-american-term-identity/id/51885/?search_id=1701980b-e525-42f0-baba-1b073612e92c)
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- Watch to discover the **contributions Chinese workers** made to the **Transcontinental Railroad** and the **hardships** they faced as early immigrants in California. <https://youtu.be/YTXvoxUcryg>
- Watch one or more of these **music videos** featuring **singers, musicians,** and **school children** from across the **Pacific Islands.** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIkCTkT1hMclxtaUcP3kj1t8wzfaZCc>
- Virtually visit a **national park/place** preserving **Asian American** and **Pacific Islander heritage.** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/asianpacificislanderfeaturedplaces.htm>
- Learn about the **Asian American influence** on the tech boom that grew **Silicon Valley**, including both those at the top and bottom. <https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/success-silicon-valley-video/asian-americans/>



## EXPLAIN

- As you explored Asian American - Pacific Islander history and culture, what did you discover about how these individuals are similar yet different from each other and you? How about some common stereotypes? (*Social Justice Standard DI.6-8.7; JU.6-8.11*)
- Despite hardships, how have Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders contributed to the history of our state and country?



## ENGAGE FURTHER

- Watch this video about **March Fong Eu, the first Asian American assembly member and California Secretary of State,** and learn how she fought for voting rights. <https://youtu.be/mWWLXMt6ZrU>
- Watch to learn about the role **Angel Island** in the San Francisco Bay played as an **immigration station** on the west coast and the challenges new immigrants faced when arriving. <https://youtu.be/kvqtCo--Prs>
- Meet **Dr. Sammy Lee**, the **first male Asian-American** to win an **Olympic gold medal.** <https://youtu.be/rntQeLcihe>. Read a **tribute** to his life's accomplishments. <https://www.teamusa.org/News/2016/December/03/Sammy-Lee-First-Asian-American-Man-To-Win-Olympic-Gold-Dies-At-96>
- In this TED Talk, **I Am Not Your Asian Stereotype, Carmen Xu** shares her Asian American story. [https://youtu.be/\\_pUtz75INaw](https://youtu.be/_pUtz75INaw)



