Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a commemoration of the culture, traditions and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. In 1978, Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to pay tribute to Asian Pacific American Heritage Week during the first week of May and in 1992, the month of May was permanently designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, communities celebrate the achievements and contributions of people who are Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) with community festivals, government-sponsored activities and educational activities for students.
In schools and classrooms, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is an excellent time to explore the rich history and culture of people who are AAPI as well as analyzing the bias and discrimination faced by them. As with other similarly themed months, it is important not to isolate exploration of AAPI history and culture into one month during the year. Asian American Pacific Islander history is American history and should be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year.

Below is a list of K-12 curriculum and other resources to bring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to your classrooms.

Lesson Plans

**Diverse Books Matter**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Through review and examination of videos, articles, data research and hashtag campaigns—#1000BlackGirlBooks and #WeNeedDiverseBooks, students learn about and discuss the importance of diverse literature.
This lesson plan helps elementary and middle school students define and understand identity-based bullying and explore potential solutions.

**Coronavirus and Infectious Racism**

Student-Facing Online Learning
MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

Student activities they can do at home to expand their understanding of how the Coronavirus pandemic is increasing racism against people who are of Chinese or Asian descent and how to take action.

LESSON PLAN

Huddled Mass or Second Class?: Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This K-12 curriculum unit helps students understand the experiences of immigrants and the negative effects of anti-immigrant bias, appreciate the integral role that immigrants have always played in U.S. life and what they can do to challenge discrimination on personal and institutional levels.
This lesson provides an opportunity for high school students to explore what microaggressions are, how they have experienced them and what can be done to counteract them.

Voices of Japanese-American Internees

Students Teaching About Racism in Society (STARS), Ohio University Athens, OH
Using video histories of Japanese-American internees during World War II, this curriculum unit provides an opportunity for high school students to use this dark period in U.S. history to reflect on the dangers of stereotyping, prejudice and racial and ethnic discrimination, so as not to repeat history.

LESSON PLAN

What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers?

In this lesson, high school students learn about the DREAM Act—its background, history, current status—and reflect on different perspectives about it as well as develop their own.
Students have an opportunity to learn about and develop empathy for the plight of the Rohingya people in Myanmar and explore what can be done about the crisis, which is being called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."
**A Map Into the World**

Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong girl, moves into a new home with her family. As the seasons change, so too does her world as she encounters both birth and death.

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**Front Desk**

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao and go for her dreams?
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Amina's Voice

While Amina, a Pakistani-American middle school student, grapples with questions of friendship and identity, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. This book highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Juna's Jar

Determined to find her friend Hector who unexpectedly moved away, Juna turns to her special kimchi jar for help each night, plunging into the depths of the ocean, swinging
on vines through the jungle and flying through the night sky in search of her friend.

The Year of the Rat

The Year of the Rat brings many changes for Pacy: her best friend moving away, dealing with the prejudice directed toward a new student from China and learning to face some of her own flaws.
Fish For Jimmy: Inspired by One Family’s Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp

For two brothers in a Japanese-American family, everything changed when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States went to war.

Books about People who are Asian, Asian-American, South Asian-American and Pacific Islander

Books about Race and Racism

Education Resources

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Challenging Biased Language

On a daily basis—in the lunchroom, at the grocery store, in school hallways and even at home—people hear and sometimes use words and phrases that demean or ridicule. Here are some strategies for responding.
Dos and Don’ts with Special Diversity Events

“Dos and Don’ts” to help schools host special diversity events that are thoughtful and create environments that are inclusive and safe for all multicultural students.

Love Has No Labels

The Ad Council’s Love Has No Labels is a public service advertising campaign that encourages people to examine and challenge their own implicit bias. View ADL’s discussion guides developed for two of the videos.