

**The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia  
Program for Teaching East Asia  
University of Colorado Boulder**



**Resources and Strategies for Teaching about Asian America and  
Responding to Anti-Asian Racism**

**Prepared for NCTA at the Program for Teaching East Asia  
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In the face of continued hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, NCTA at TEA offers educators this resource guide on the Asian American experience. Organized into four sections, the list is not exhaustive, but is intended to provide a selection of resources for immediate use and reflection.

Section I, “Contemporary Context: Understanding the Asian American Experience and Standing up for Asian America,” offers a primer to help teachers make sense of what is happening now and why teaching about Asian America matters.

Section II highlights curriculum and resources for teaching about Asian American histories, experiences, and activist icons.

Section III considers what it means to be an anti-racist educator and offers resources providing tools and strategies for moving towards becoming anti-racist. Resources included address institutional and personal change and highlight community organizations leading this work.

Recognizing the importance of supporting the whole person, Section IV, “Mental Health and Emotional Wellness Support,” includes links to webinars and resources for Asian and Asian American students, parents, educators, and allies facing anti-Asian racism. These resources are provided by the MGH (Massachusetts General Hospital) Center for Cross-Cultural Student Emotional Wellness.

*Note regarding naming convention:* Readers will notice variation in naming conventions and style (e.g., Asian American v. Asian-American). The preferred convention is without a hyphen, but if an author has included a hyphen, we have maintained that style. To understand why the preferred convention is without a hyphen, and why this matters, see the following articles:

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- Liu, Eric. "[Why I Don't Hyphenate Chinese American.](#)" CNN. July 11, 2014.
- Randall. "[Farewell to the Controversial Hyphen in Asian American.](#)" *AsAmNews*. April 1, 2019.

## I. Contemporary Context: Understanding the Asian American Experience and Standing up for Asian America

- Au, Wayne, and Moé Yonamine. "[Dear Educators, It Is Time to Fight for Asian America.](#)" *Rethinking Schools*. March 23, 2021. Educator activists Wayne Au and Moé Yonamine respond to hate crimes and provide resources to address the complex history and issues facing Asian American communities, past and present.
- Chang, Ailsa. "[For Asian American Women, Misogyny and Racism Are Inseparable, Sociologist Says.](#)" NPR. March 19, 2021. Following the mass shooting at massage spas in Atlanta, Ailsa Chang interviewed Dr. Nancy Wang Yuen, Sociology Professor at Biola University. Dr. Yuen specializes in race and ethnicity in the media; the interview covers the history of hypersexualization and fetishization of Asian women in the United States.
- Chow, Kat. "['Model Minority' Myth Again Used as a Racial Wedge between Asians and Blacks.](#)" *Code Switch*, NPR. April 19, 2017. Chow takes an historical look at how the "model minority" myth has been used and continues to be used to divide Asian and African Americans.
- Ho, Jennifer. "[To Be an Asian Woman in America.](#)" CNN. March 17, 2021. In the wake of the murder of six Asian women in Atlanta, Dr. Jennifer Ho reflects on what it means to be an Asian woman in the United States. Dr. Ho is director of the University of Colorado's Center for Humanities & the Arts and Professor of Ethnic Studies.
- Hsu, Andrea. "[In Response to Anti-Asian Hate Incidents, Groups Step Up Trainings for Bystanders.](#)" NPR. April 3, 2021. In this interview, Hollaback! Senior trainer Dax Valdes shares strategies for how to respond if you witness a hate incident.
- Kamenetz, Anya. "[Why So Many Asian Americans Are Learning Remotely.](#)" NPR. April 9, 2021. Targeted by hate crimes, more Asian Americans are opting out of returning to school in-person than members of any other racial or ethnic group.
- Waxman, Olivia B. "[A 'History of Exclusion, of Erasure, of Invisibility.' Why the Asian-American Story Is Missing from Many U.S. Classrooms.](#)" *Time*. March 30, 2021. This article provides an overview of key moments in the history of Asian America with embedded links for additional historical context and resources.

## II. Historical Context, Civil Rights Icons, and Related Curriculum

- [Asian Americans](#). PBS. 2020. This highly acclaimed PBS project includes a five-hour film series, divided into five episodes ([episode guide](#)), an [interactive gallery](#), and more than 30 classroom lessons. Each lesson includes a short film clip (2 to 8 minutes in length),

teacher procedure, background readings, activities, and additional information to download. Lessons are listed below in chronological order.

- [“The Chinese Transcontinental Railroad Workers”](#) (1863-1869)
- [“Chinese Exclusion Act”](#) (signed May 6, 1882)
- [“Redefine American”](#) (1885, *Tape v. Hurley*)
- [“The Fight Against School Segregation”](#) (1885, *Tape v. Hurley*)
- [“Early South Asian Immigration”](#) (1880s immigration of Bengali Muslim man, Moksad Ali)
- [“1904 World’s Fair: Exhibition of the Igorot People”](#)
- [“Hawaii Statehood”](#) (1898 annexed, 1959 becomes 50<sup>th</sup> state)
- [“Angel Island and the Chinese Exclusion Act”](#) (1910, Angel Island Immigration Station opened)
- [“Racial Identity and American Citizenship in the Court”](#) (1923 case of Bhagat Singh Thind)
- [“Asian Americans in Military Service during WWII”](#)
- [“Japanese American Incarceration During World War II”](#)
- [“Who Defines Loyalty?: Japanese Americans during World War II”](#)
- [“Constitutional Rights of American Citizens”](#) (1942-46)
- [“Constitutional Violations during the Japanese American Incarceration”](#)
- [“McCarthyism”](#) (1950s)
- [“Asian Americans Serving and Fighting in the Vietnam War”](#) (1955-1975)
- [“Filipino American Farmworkers Fight for Their Rights”](#) (1960s)
- [“Filipino American Farmworkers”](#) (1965, Larry Itliong, AWOC, and UFW)
- [“The Model Minority Myth”](#) (1960s)
- [“The Fight for Ethnic Studies”](#) (1969, San Francisco State University)
- [“Women Advancing Equality”](#) (1965, Patsy Mink, first woman of color elected to Congress)
- [“Asian American Voices in Politics”](#) (Patsy Mink)
- [“The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965”](#)
- [“Asian American Veterans and the Anti-War Movement”](#) (1971 Winter Soldier Investigation)
- [“Generation Rising: Asian Americans in the Arts”](#) (1970s)
- [“Southeast Asian Refugees”](#) (May 23, 1975, Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act signed)
- [“The Impact of the Vincent Chin Case”](#) (1982 and after)
- [“Civil Liberties Act of 1988”](#)
- [“Views from the Top and Bottom of Success in the Silicon Valley”](#) (1990s)
- [“The 1992 L.A. Riots and Civil Unrest”](#)
- [“Building Community Consciousness and Coalitions”](#) (1992)
- [“9/11, South Asian Americans & Islamophobia”](#) (2001)
- [“Tereza Lee and Undocumented Asian America”](#) (2001, DREAM Act first introduced)
- [“Asian Americans on the Big Screen: Responding to Stereotypes”](#)
- [“Our History, Our Future”](#)

- [“Know History, Know Yourself: The ROOTs Program at San Quentin State Prison”](#) (since 2013)
- [Denshō](#). Denshō is an organization dedicated to recording and telling the story and legacy of the Japanese American incarceration. Available resources include:
  - The Denshō [Resource Guide](#) is a directory for children’s books, literary works, films, videos, plays, curriculum guides, and other related media.
  - [Examining Racism and Discrimination through Oral History Curriculum Guide](#).
  - [Civil Liberties Curriculum](#).
- [Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education \(SPICE\)](#). Drawing on Stanford’s faculty, scholarship, and research, SPICE develops award-winning teaching resources, provides professional development programs for teachers, and offers online courses for high school students.
  - [“Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project.”](#) 2018. This project developed oral histories, resources, and lessons available for download:
    - [“Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project”](#)
    - [“Challenges to Chinese Immigration and Assimilation”](#)
    - [“Human/Environment Interaction”](#)
    - [“Images from the Railroad”](#)
    - [“San Francisco’s Chinatown”](#)
  - [“What Does it Mean to Be an American?”](#) 2020. This award-winning curriculum unit focuses on the central question of what it means to be an American. Teachers and high school students can use the interactive website to consider Immigration, Civil Liberties & Equity, Civic Engagement, Justice & Reconciliation, Leadership, and U.S.-Japan Relations. Students can contribute to the national discussion.
- *Untold Civil Rights Stories*. Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles. Lesson plans (listed below) based on the 2009, *Untold Civil Rights Stories* written by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern (APALC).
  - [“George Takei: Leading Man”](#)
  - [“AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories through Poetry”](#)
  - [“Freeing Ourselves from Prison Sweatshops: Thai Garment Workers Speak Out”](#)
  - [“United Farm Workers \(UFW\) Movement: Philip Vera Cruz, Unsung Hero”](#)
  - [“Vincent Chin – Lily Chin: The Courage to Speak Out”](#)
  - [“A Family Educates to Prevent Hate Crimes: The Case of Joseph Iletto”](#)
  - [“Breaking the Color Line in Hollywood: Beulah On Kwoh, Actor”](#)
  - [“Building Bridges between Races: Kyung Won Lee, Investigative Journalist”](#)
  - [“One Man Seeks Justice from a Nation: Korematsu v. United States”](#)
  - [“American Veteran in Exile: Manong Faustino “Peping” Baclig”](#)
  - [“After Words: September 11, 2001”](#)
  - [“Who Took the Rap? A Call to Action”](#)
  - [“Defending the Unpopular Immigrant”](#)
  - [“A Citizen Fights for His Civil Rights after 9/11: Amric Singh Rathour”](#)
  - [“Student to Student: The Rose that Grew from Concrete”](#)

### III. Anti-racism Resources, Related Curriculum, and Community Organizations

- [“The Asian American Racial Justice Toolkit.”](#) 2016. Includes 15 modules covering Asian American Identity, Model Minority Myth, Gender and Patriarchy, White Supremacy, Race and Working Class and Immigrant Struggles, For Black Lives, Colonialism, and Islamo-Racism.
- [APALA’s Resource Guide on Anti-Asian Violence.](#) A working community document from the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance of the AFL-CIO linking to actions for community safety, addressing anti-Asian violence, and related organizations.
- [“Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator.”](#) Wheaton College. Outlines practices to implement in becoming anti-racist and actions that can be taken as an educator.
- Pitts, Jamilah. [“What Anti-racism Really Means for Educators.”](#) *Learning for Justice*. September 11, 2020. Jamilah Pitts, educational consultant and equity and justice strategist, writes about the work that anti-racist educators do and how they approach their teaching and work with students.
- Puget Sound Educational Service District Equity in Education, 2020. The Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) has developed these resources in their “commitment to becoming an Anti-Racist, Multi-Cultural Organization.”
  - [“Racial Equity Tool: Worksheet.”](#)
  - [“Racial Equity Tool: Policy Review Worksheet.”](#)
  - [“Racial Equity Tool: Policy Review Guide.”](#)
- Singh, Anneliese A. [The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities to Help you Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism, and Engage in Collective Healing.](#) Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, 2019. Dr. Singh is a Professor in the College of Education and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Georgia. Her handbook provides an historical perspective and work that can begin now.
- [Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience.](#) The museum offers [workshops and summer programs](#), as well as [curriculum](#) about the Asian American experience.

### IV. Mental Health and Emotional Wellness Support

- [“Asian American Racism & Mental Health Resources.”](#) The MGH Center for Cross-Cultural Student Emotional Wellness, 2021. This center at Massachusetts General Hospital offers webinars and resources for Asian and Asian American students, parents, educators, and allies.
  - Resources for [educators](#), including a [fact sheet](#) and [webinar](#) (December 12, 2020) on “What I Wish My Teachers Understood About Me: A Conversation on Asian & Asian American Cultural Identity.”
  - Resources for [parents](#), including a [Guide for Parents of Asian/Asian American Adolescents](#) and a webinar on [“Talking to Teens about Anti-Asian Discrimination in the Era of COVID-19”](#) (February 28, 2021).

- Resources for [students](#).
- Resources for [allies](#).
- Resources for [therapists](#).