

# Teaching history from **DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES:**

## Third Grade Lesson on Patsy Mink

### GA Social Studies Standards

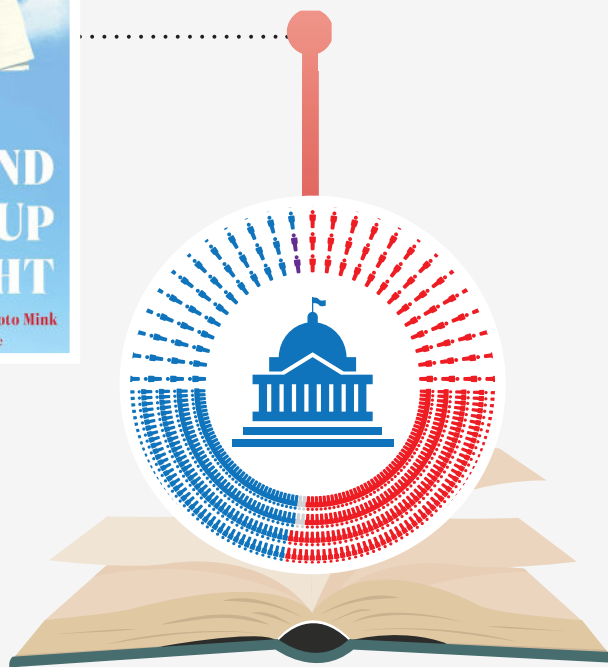
**SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States.**  
**a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States).**  
**c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).**

How do you teach about Congress/Legislative? How about teaching it through a story of an amazing member of Congress such as Patsy Mink?

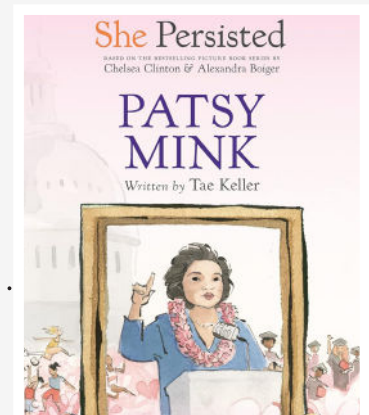


Patsy Mink (1927-2002) was a distinguished and dedicated legislator who served in the United States Congress. Mink was the first woman of Color and first Asian American woman elected to Congress?

Mink was born in 1927 in Hawai'i. In spite of the discrimination Japanese Americans faced during WWII, Mink ran for student government in high school and successfully won the position of student president. After college, she applied to medical schools but was denied admissions because she was a woman. Then, she shifted her ambitions and graduated from law school. Again, she had difficulty getting a job at top law firms because she was a mother.



These experiences shaped her work as a member of Congress. After she was elected to the US Congress in 1964, she worked tirelessly for women's rights and other civil rights .





For example, she was one of the main authors and sponsors of Title IX, which states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” After Mink’s death in 2002, Title IX was officially renamed the “Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity Education Act.”

She also supported bilingual education and affordable childcare. She advocated for ending the Vietnam War and diverting those financial resources into social programs. Throughout her career, she prioritized what she believed to be right for as many people as possible, rather than make political decisions that would get her re-elected.

There are many children’s books, primary sources, and video clips about Patsy Minks. Use QR code for a complete article and teaching activities.

Do you want to include more stories of Asian America into your lessons? Check out this fabulous book, *Teaching Asian America in Elementary Classrooms* by Noreen Naseem Rodríguez, Sohyun An, & Ester June Kim.

**Complete Article and Lesson Plan**



Ready to implement multi-perspectives in your classroom?

Contact us - [info@aaved.org](mailto:info@aaved.org)  
Web: [www.aaved.org](http://www.aaved.org)



instagram  
[@aaved\\_org](https://www.instagram.com/aaved_org)



facebook  
[@aaved.org](https://www.facebook.com/aaved.org)

**Written by Sohyun An**  
**Design by Justine Chung**

**Photo credit:**

**(Top to Bottom, Left to Right)**

1. Bryant, Jen and Toshiki Nakamura. *Fall Down Seven Times Stand Up Eight : Patsy Takemoto Mink and the Fight for Title IX.* First ed. Quill Tree Books an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers 2022.
2. Keller, Tae and Gillian Flint. *Patsy Mink.* Philomel Books an Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC 2022.
3. *Patsy Mink Quarter design, official U.S. mint imprint (part of the American Women Quarters collection) designed by Beth Zaiken*

