

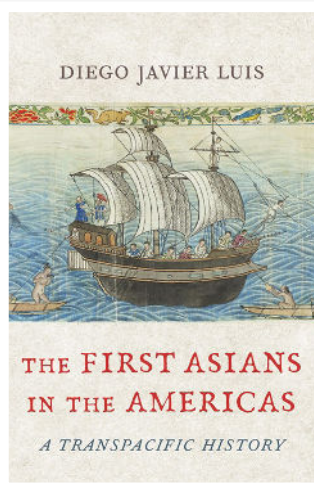
Sixth Grade Lesson on Asian Migration to Latin America

GA Social Studies Standards

SS6H1 Explain conflict and change in Latin America.

b. Describe the influence of the Spanish and the Portuguese on the language and religions of Latin America.

A study on Latin America typically focuses on the interactions of Indigenous people, Europeans, and Africans—the Natives, the invaders, and the kidnapped. Asians barely get included in the study. However, Asians are not strangers to Latin American history. Columbus, after all, was seeking a new route to Asia. He hoped he'd arrived in Las Indias, the Indies, hence the confusion ever since over the European naming of Indigenous people of the Caribbean, and then North and South America, as Indians.

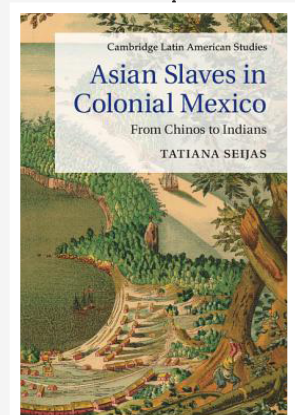


When Spain colonized the Americas, it also made the Philippines and some others in Asia and the Pacific as its colony. Therefore, many Filipinos and other Asians came to the Americas in the 16th century as sailors, soldiers, indentured servants, or enslaved laborers along with the Spanish conquistadors.

Manila Galleons were the Spanish trading ships that linked the Viceroyalty of New Spain (today Mexico) with Spain's colonies in Asia. The galleons made yearly round trips between Acapulco in Mexico and Manila in the Philippines for 250 years (1565 to 1815), carrying people and commodities on board in both directions. An estimated 20,000 to as high as 100,000 Asians arrived in Acapulco in the late sixteenth through the eighteenth century.



From the 19th century following the abolition of slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean, Chinese and South Asians were highly demanded as replacements for enslaved labor. Anti-Asian immigration policies and discrimination in the United States also spurred Asian migration to Latin America.





A long history of Asian migration to Latin America is reflected in popular culture and everyday life on the continent and the Caribbean islands. Food, music, language, literature, and art have all been influenced and intermixed. The terms like Afro-Asian, Chino Latino, Hispanic Asian, Chino-Cubano, Indo-Caribbean show the global migration and cultural fusion. Here are some:

- Havana in Cuba has its own Chinatown
- Peru has one of the world's largest Japanese communities outside of Japan.
- Alberto Fujimori, child of Japanese immigrants, became president of Peru in 1990.
- The Caribbean roti—a wrap-style sandwich—has its roots in the flatbreads of India.
- The Cuban trompeta china was originally a Chinese woodwind musical instrument.
- In Mexico, a traditional type of women's clothing called china poblana is inspired by Catarina de San Juan, a slave brought from India.
- Mexicans enjoy their pan chino with coffee for breakfast.

Use QR code for a complete article and teaching suggestions.

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
Web: 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. Luis, Diego Javier. *The First Asians in the Americas : A Transpacific History*. Harvard University Press 2023.
2. Seijas, Tatiana. *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico : From Chinos to Indians*. Cambridge University Press 2014.
3. *Chinese Historical and Cultural Project* <https://chcp.org/Barrio-Chino>. Chinatown in the Caribbean, Havana, Cuba [graphic]. 2010 [January]
4. Highsmith, Carol M., 1946-photographer. *Barrio Chino: Chinatown in the Caribbean, Havana, Cuba* [graphic]. 2010.

