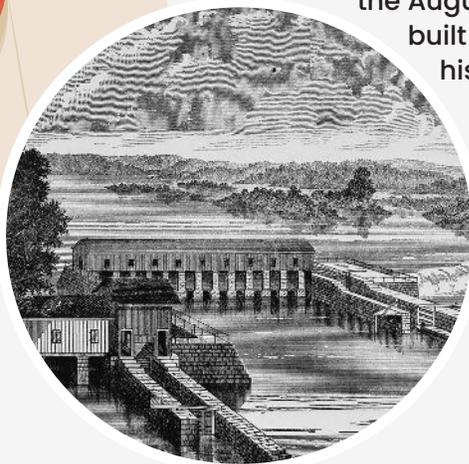


8th Grade Lesson on The Augusta Chinese: Chinese Immigrants during Reconstruction in GA

GA Social Studies Standards

SS8H6 Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia.

Did you know that Chinese workers came to Georgia as early as 1873 and built the Augusta Canal? Did you know that some of them remained and built a Chinese American community in Georgia? Here are some historical facts:



In 1873, Chinese workers from Indianapolis were recruited to deepen and widen the Augusta Canal in Augusta, Georgia. By 1875, 165 Chinese laborers resided in Augusta.

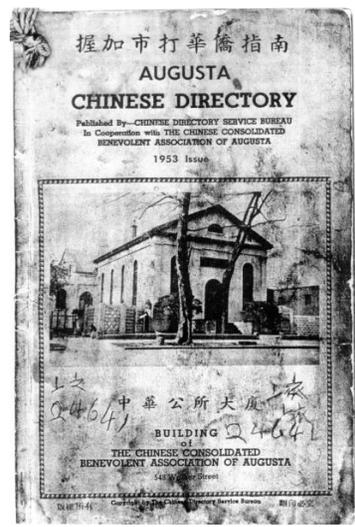
When the canal project was completed 2 years later, most Chinese left to work elsewhere. But some remained and opened grocery stores or hand laundries in Augusta.

The 1940 Census reported a Chinese population of 224 and 63 grocery stores. Although small, the Chinese American community in Augusta was the largest Chinese population in Georgia until the 1960s.

Because of the small number, Chinese immigrants were not seen as a threat to the social order and allowed some privileges that Asian Americans in GA and Asian Americans in other states couldn't, such as attending white schools, riding in the white sections of railroad cars, being classified as white on state issued driver's licenses.

But that does not mean that they were treated equally. There was violence and discrimination against them as soon as they crossed the racial line such as a Chinese man marrying a white woman or being too successful in business.

In May 2023, the Georgia Historical Society dedicated a historical marker recognizing the Augusta Chinese and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the oldest Chinese organization in Georgia.



Trivia: Did you know a girl from China named Soong Mei-ling studied at Wesleyan University in Macon, Georgia in 1912 and later became Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the First Lady of the Republic of China?



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)

Use QR code for the complete article, lesson plan, and primary sources!

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



Written by Sohyun An
Design by Justine Chung

Photo credit:

(Top to Bottom, Left to Right)

1. Image courtesy of Historic American Engineering Record/Library of Congress
2. Courtesy of CCBA of Augusta
Sourced from Atlanta Journal-Constitution
3. Directory Cover 1953 – The inside forward listed 70 grocery stores, four restaurants and two laundries in the Chinese community with around 500 Chinese people in Augusta. The building at 548 Walker St. was purchased in 1939. Photo courtesy the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Augusta

