

Activity Guide for Grades 4 - 5

This suggested guide can be modified as needed. It is provided to give context and assistance in using and facilitating the Heritage Month Kit materials.

Theme:

Asian American, Identity

Introduction to students:

"Did you know that May is Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month? Today, we're going to talk about how the term, "Asian American" was created. We are all different with different worries, hopes, and how we see ourselves. But we also have similarities."

Bring out the map.

"This is where we are, North America (point on the map), and here is the continent of Asia (point on map). Asia is almost TWICE as big as North America! Wow! There are about 8 billion people in the world, and more than half of them live in Asia. That's almost 7 times the number of people in North America. Asia is a HUGE continent! The people there have many different religions, cultures, skin color, and ways of life. What are some countries in Asia?"

Call on 2 or 3 students (make sure to mention countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia).

"In Georgia, people with Asian heritage are the fastest-growing group in our state! There are Filipino Americans, Pakistani Americans, Thai Americans, and many others with different Asian heritage. Although these groups are all different, they faced similar hardships and struggles in the US. Did you know that they could not become citizens, but other immigrants could? There were exclusion laws in place for over fifty years until 1965. There were other laws and bans about who Asians and Asian Americans could marry, where they could go to school, or what types of jobs they could have."

Show images of Civil Rights leaders (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges)

"Do you recognize any of these people? What are they known for doing?"

Call on 2 or 3 students.

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“What are some examples of people not having rights that you learned in school? What would you do if you and others didn’t have rights?”

Call on 2 or 3 students.

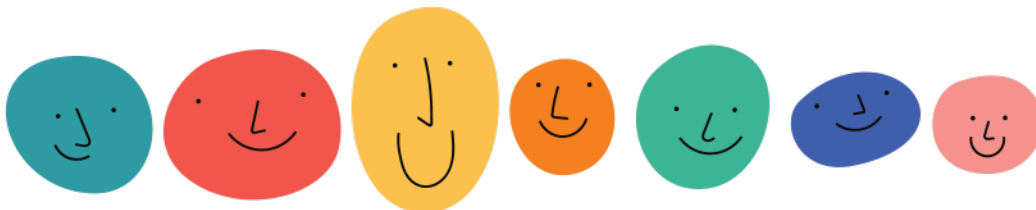
“In the 1960s, college students of Asian heritage were inspired by the African American Civil Rights Movement. These students joined other students of color to fight for their rights. Back then, Asian American groups were often called derogatory names so the students decided to choose a new name and identity – Asian American. They said, ‘*Although we are Chinese American, Japanese American, and Filipino American, let’s band together as Asian Americans and work together.*’ Calling themselves Asian American didn’t mean to forget their individual heritage but emphasized the importance of coming together as a bigger group and working towards a common goal.”

Show the book, A Child’s Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Islander History.

“We have this book for your classroom so that you can learn more about Asian American heroes in sports, science, TV, music, and technology. Let’s learn about some Asian American leaders from this book today!”

Read the names and descriptions of Lee Yick, Mitsuye Endo, and Vishavjit Singh individually. Additional info for each person is below (from A Child’s Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Islander History):

- Lee Yick
 - Page 40: In 1885, the city of San Francisco denied nearly 200 Chinese laundries their licenses to operate. Lee Yick felt this was unfair and so did the California Supreme Court, ruling that government must treat individuals the same way.
- Mitsuye Endo
 - Page 41: In World War II, the United States fought with Japan. The U.S. government was worried that anyone with a Japanese background would be a threat so Japanese Americans were imprisoned in concentration camps. When Mitsuye Endo won her court case, the concentration camps were closed and the Japanese American families could return home.
- Vishavjit Singh
 - Page 49: Vishavjit Singh found himself the target of racial attacks and has used his skills in drawing to create cartoons with Sikh characters to raise awareness about his community.



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Each kit contains ***A Child's Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Islander History*** by Naomi Hirahara, ***Paper Son*** by Julie Leung, and one of the following books:

- *Planet Omar* by Zanib Mian
- *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanini

Suggested Read Aloud - *Paper Son* by Julie Leung

- What did you think about the story?
- Why did Tyrus move to America? Was America Gum Saan (Gold Mountain) like he thought it would be? Why or why not?
- Tyrus changed his name from Geng Yeo. Why do you think he did? Would you change your name if you moved to another country?
- Tyrus was a gifted artist and he used art to express himself even when things were hard. What are some ways you enjoy expressing yourself?

Additional Craft Activity:

- "Tyrus Wong never gave up as an artist and '***always found new ways to leave his mark***'. Take one bookmark and one stylus, to show how you can 'leave' your artistic mark or masterpiece."
- A classroom coloring page is included in this kit.

"Parent/Caregiver Guide":

Students can take home a sheet and share what they learned with their families.

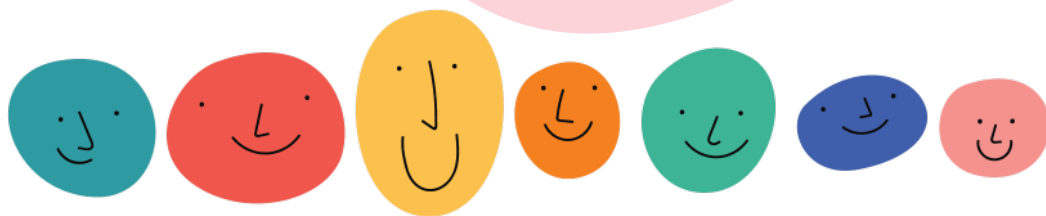
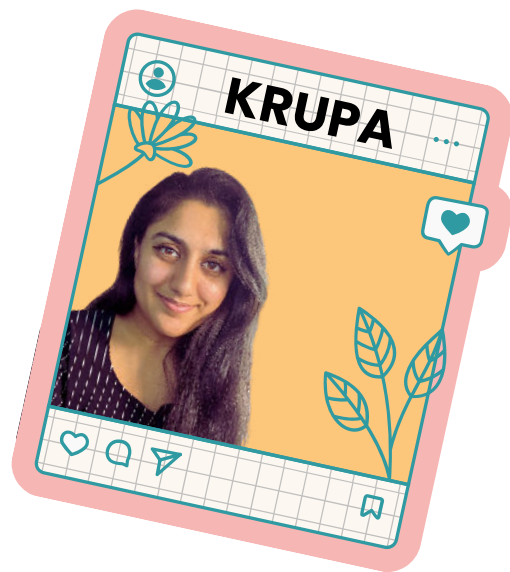
"Educator Resources":

Resources for the classroom teacher are included in this kit.

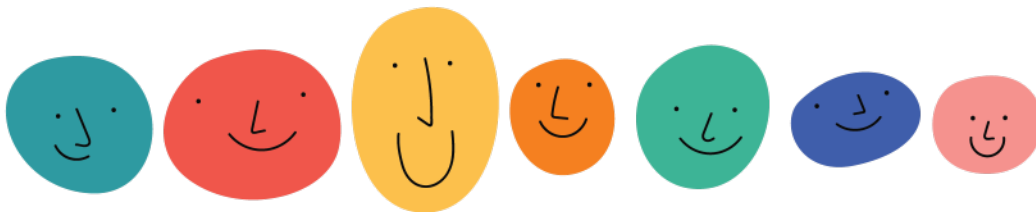
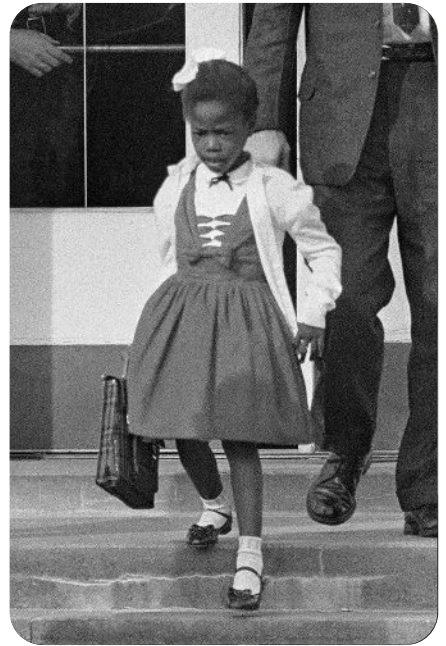
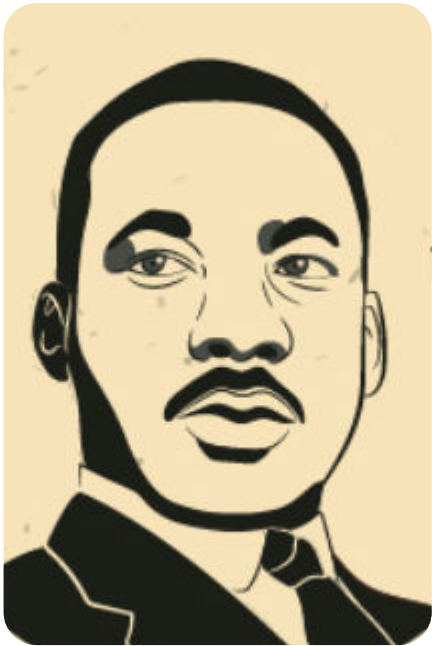
Enter
to Win

Take a photo of your class using/with the kit, [#heritagemonthkit](#), and automatically enter to win an illustrator visit from Krupa Kanaiya, a Georgia artist and our coloring page designer.

Email info@aaved.org for more info.



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Lee Yick

Laundry owner in San Francisco who won a court case in 1886 to keep running his business



Mitsuye Endo

Californian who challenged the presidential order for Japanese American incarceration in World War II



Vishavjit Singh

Computer programmer targeted for his faith who became a cartoonist to share what it means to be Sikh

