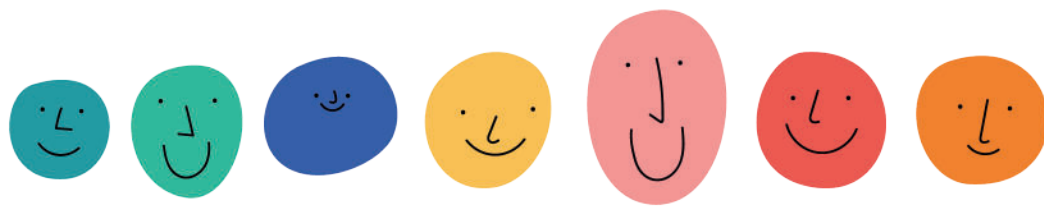




Hello there!



2025 Heritage Month Kit Guide Pre-K & Kindergarten

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.

May is the federally recognized Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. At Asian American Voices for Education, we see history as more than the past. It is a critical tool for Georgia's students from various heritages to understand how our stories are connected so that they can become change-makers in their local and global communities.

2025 is our third Heritage Month Kit, and this year, our Georgia preK-5 students will see how shared experiences and stories can lead to communities **working together**. Designed for Georgia classrooms, you will find:

1. A book for your classroom
2. Discussion prompts for some deep-thinking conversations
3. A lesson guide aligned with GA Standards of Excellence with an example of different communities **working together/having a shared experience**.
4. A postcard for each student who can write a letter to the main character
5. Classroom poster activity designed by local artist, Jenny Zhou
6. Educator Resource Guide to help our teachers explore Asian American Studies
7. "Did You Know?" sheet on Asian American history

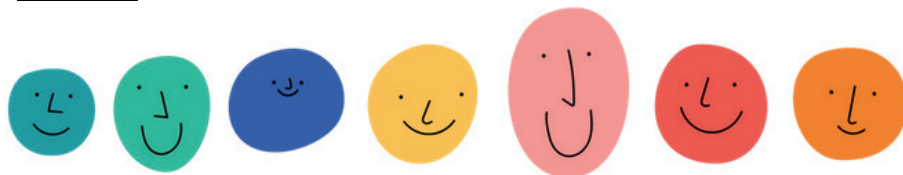
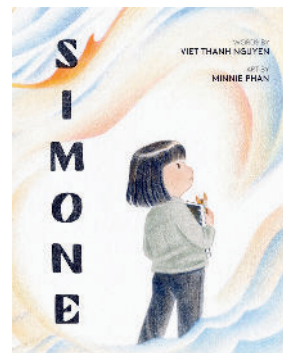
Big Idea

Shared experiences or understanding one another's stories can lead to communities **working together**.

Books

Each kit contains one of the following books:

- *The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh*
- *Simone*



AANHPI Heritage Month Kit

Discussion Prompts

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh

Before Reading:

1. Look at the cover—What do you see?
What do you think the story will be about?
2. Look at Harpreet's head-covering—Does anyone know what it's called? This is a patka (say: put-ka). It's a type of turban that many Sikh boys wear. Sikh Americans are people who follow Sikhism, a religion. Let's read the book to learn about Harpreet, his patka, and what it means to be a Sikh American.
3. This story is also about friendship! What makes someone a good friend? Let's find out together!

After Reading:

1. Harpreet wears a patka every day because it's part of his faith. Why do you think it's important to be kind and respect things that are special to people?
2. Harpreet changes the color of his patka to show how he feels. What colors do you like to wear? Can colors show how we feel?
3. Why do you think Harpreet stopped wearing his bright colors?
4. How did Harpreet feel at the end of the story? What helped him feel better?
5. What can we do to be nice to someone who is new or feeling sad? What does it mean to be a good friend?

Simone

Before Reading:

1. Look at the cover—what do you see?
What do you think the story might be about?
2. What do you think it means to be a hero? Can anyone be a hero?
3. Have you ever helped someone or had someone help you? How did it feel?
4. Do you know anyone who is Vietnamese American? They or their grown-up may be from a country called Vietnam. We will learn more about them as we read!

After Reading:

1. Simone is Vietnamese American, and her mom is a Vietnamese refugee. Do you know what a refugee is? (Explain: A refugee is someone who moves to a new country because it isn't safe in their old home.)
2. Why did Simone's mom come to the United States? (Explain: Many Vietnamese people came to the U.S. because of the Vietnam War, when it was dangerous in their country.)
3. How was Simone a hero in the story? What did she do to help others?
4. What can we do to be kind and helpful to our friends like Simone did?



AANHPI Heritage Month Kit

Post Card Activity

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh

Write (or draw) a letter to Harpreet Singh and tell him what you liked about his story. You can talk about friendship, being proud of who you are, and your favorite color!

Simone

Write (or draw) a letter to Simone and tell her what you liked about her story. You can talk about how she helped others, ask her a question, or share how her bravery made you feel.

Poster Activity

As a class, students include a picture/drawing of themselves/character on the poster (draw on the provided sticker paper, cut out the figure, and paste it on the poster). **Work together** to create a classroom masterpiece!

About the Art

Title: "Community Gathers Around White Lily Amidst the Plum Blossom Grove."

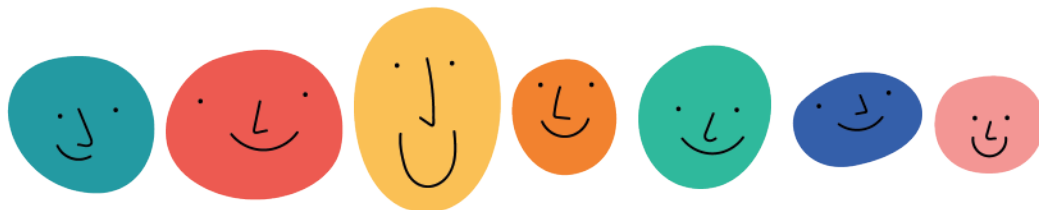
White lilies in Chinese tradition represent unity, harmony, and solidarity (the characters also mean "100 together"), while plum blossoms represent resilience and hope.

Meet the Artist

Jenny Zhou is an illustrator, project coordinator, and frontend software developer based in Atlanta, driven by a passion for **visual storytelling**. They studied Computational Media at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where they explored the intersection of **technology, media, and visual design**.

Drawing inspiration from traditional Chinese mythology, impressionism, nature, and sustainable practices, Jenny aims to create products that are both visually compelling and culturally meaningful. They believe that by incorporating diverse cultural perspectives, even the most fantastical worlds can feel rich, authentic, and grounded.

View more of Jenny's work on their [website](https://www.jenquanzen.com) and social media at [@jenquanzen!](https://www.instagram.com/jenquanzen)




AANHPI Heritage Month Kit

Thoughtful Tips

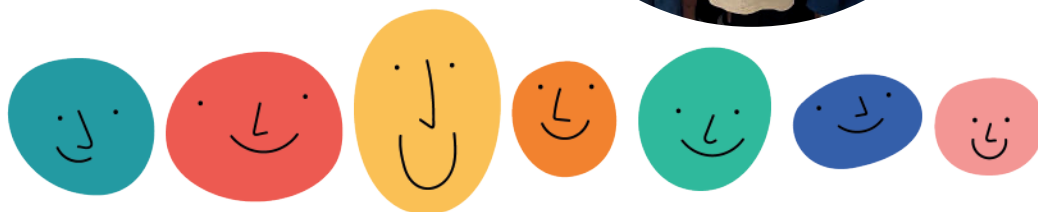
- Be sure to talk about how vast Asian American communities are. They are people of **Asian descent from 48 countries and over 60% of the world's population**. Asian Americans come from many different backgrounds and can be first-generation immigrants or have roots in America since the 1700s.
- Most of us in the US have roots in other countries. Discuss what **your student population's roots may be**.
- Celebrate **more than food, fun, and festivals**. Give space for students to **explore deep thinking skills** by relating the books to personal experiences.

Enter
to Win

Take a photo of your class using/with
the kit and tag us [@aaved_org](https://www.aaved.org) 

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

The post with the most likes by
May 20 will win books for your
classroom library!



Teaching history from **DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES:**

Kindergarten Lesson on Labor Day and Larry Itliong

GA Social Studies Standards

**SSKHI Identify the national holidays and describe the people and/or events celebrated.
e. Labor Day**

In Asian American communities, there is a long history of labor activism. For a lesson on Labor Day, you can introduce students to Larry Itliong, a Filipino migrant worker who initiated the Delano Grape Strike and co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez.

Larry Itliong was born in the Philippines in 1913 when the country was under the U.S. colonial rule after the Spanish-American War. At school, he learned that the U.S. was a place where anyone who worked hard would be rewarded. With the American Dream, he came to the U.S. in 1929 to go to college and become a lawyer.

However, he realized the American Dream was not for everyone. He worked very hard, moving up and down from California farms to Alaska canneries to save money for his education. But, the pay was not enough. He had to give up his dreams of pursuing higher education.

While working as a farmworker, he experienced how badly laborers were treated. So, he became an activist and organizer.



He joined the **Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC)** and recruited members throughout California in 1959. When Filipino and other workers in AWOC went on strike for better working conditions, owners brought in Mexican workers. Itliong knew that the two groups would keep fighting each other while white owners continued to grow rich by exploiting both groups.





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He approached Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta of the largely Latinx National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) with the understanding that if the two largest ethnic groups in agricultural work united, their chances for success would increase.

The two groups went on strike from vineyards around Delano, California from 1965 until 1970. During the strike, AWOC and NFWA merged to become the United Farm Workers (UFW) and finally won concessions from the grape growers, such as higher pay and medical insurance.

You can bring the story of Larry Itliong and farmworkers movement through a picturebook, video clips, and photos. Use QR code for the complete article and teaching resources!

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. Mabalon, Dawn Bohulano et al. *Journey for Justice : The Life of Larry Itliong*. Bridge and Delta Publishing 2018.
2. Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Image Galleries, Labor Movements and Organizations, United Farm Workers
3. Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Image Galleries, Labor Movements and Organizations, United Farm Workers

