



May – Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

History and Background:

Like most commemorative months, this heritage month originated with Congress. In 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week. The following month, Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Spark Matsunaga from Hawaii introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both passed and were signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the bill creating a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Interesting Firsts & Facts:

- You'll often see Asian American Pacific Islanders shortened to the acronym AAPI
- In 1763, the first recorded settlement of Asians in the United States were Filipino sailors in the then territory of Louisiana. 1790 - First recorded immigrant from India, 1820 - First recorded immigrant from China, 1869 - First Japanese settlers arrive on the U.S. mainland, in California, 1885 - First recorded Korean immigrants
- The gold rush in 1848 brought about the first large-scale AAPI immigration to the U.S. when many gold-seekers came from Asia, especially China
- Many AAPI women served as interpreters and translators during World War II
- In 2017 a historic three AAPI women sat on the senate: Kamala Harris (CA) (now America's first AAPI Vice President), Tammy Duckworth (IL) and Mazie Hirono (HI)
- Victoria Manalo Graves was the first AAPI Olympic champion, winning gold medals in springboard and platform diving at the 1948 London Games.





Suggested App Resources:



Education Content

Dictionary Searches

- Race
- Stereotypes
- Underrepresented Group/Underrepresented Minority
- Xenophobia



Action Content

- Making Social/Cultural Activities Inclusive:
 - Workspaces and Life Events: Social Cultural
- Interviews:
 - Feel Included, Ailia: Filipina
 - Do Not Ask, Nate: Korean
 - Indian, Language and Accent: Poornima



Inspiration Content

- Quotes:
 - Gender - Mazie Hirono
 - Race - Yuri Kochiyama
 - Race - I.M. Pei
 - Race - Kalpana Chawla

Suggested Team Discussion Questions:

1. Who are some Asian American Pacific Islanders who have done or are doing interesting work in our industry?
2. What are some aspects of AAPI heritage you'd like to find out more about? Or something you'd like to share if you identify as AAPI?
3. Do you have any recommendations for how we might celebrate/acknowledge AAPI Heritage Month here at work?
4. What insights have you had as you explored this month's content?

