

## Sample Scope & Sequence for Grades K-5: Integrating Asian American Experiences into Reading and Social Studies

### What Teachers Should Know

The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is very diverse. Asian Americans trace their roots to 28 different countries and Pacific Islander Americans trace their roots to 22 different countries<sup>1</sup> within which dozens of languages are spoken. It's important not to describe Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as a monolith and, instead, strive to be as inclusive as possible of the diverse perspectives. In this guide, the 4 regional groupings included are:

- **East Asia** (China, Japan, Korea, and more)
- **South Asia** (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and more)
- **Southeast Asia** (Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, and more)
- **Pacific Islands** (Hawaii, Tonga, Guam, and more)

### How to Use this Teaching Tool

This sample scope and sequence is intended to be a starting point. It is not a comprehensive guide to teaching Asian American history. It offers excerpts from a more extensive, grade-specific resource guide that aligns with Illinois Learning Standards. Visit the [K-8 Asian American History Resource Guide](#) for in-depth support weaving Asian American voices, experiences, and perspectives into existing Social Studies themes.

Theme	K-2: Sample Resources for Incorporating Asian American History	3-5: Sample Resources for Incorporating Asian American History
Identity	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Always Anjali</i> by Sheetal Sheth (South Asian / Indian)</li> <li>• <i>Beautifully Me</i> by Nabeela Noor (South Asian / Bangladeshi)</li> <li>• <i>Eyes that Kiss in the Corners</i> by Joanna Ho (East Asian/Taiwanese)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Sikh Cultural Identity: Patka Youth Head Covering</u></b> (South Asian/Indian, Sikh)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ho'onani: Hula Warrior</i> by Heather Gale and Mika Song (Pacific Islander/Hawaiian)</li> <li>• <i>Front Desk</i> by Kelly Yu (East Asian/Chinese)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Redefine American: Asian American Immigration and the American Dream</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>A Place in the Middle: Gender System of Early Hawaiians and Its Impact Today</u></b> (Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> from the UN designation of East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Oceania. Countries in Central Asia and Western Asia were excluded, as they often are categorized as part of the Middle East. Additionally, members of those communities in the U.S. often do not self-identify as Asian American. **Source: United Nations**

Theme	K-2: Sample Resources for Incorporating Asian American History	3-5: Sample Resources for Incorporating Asian American History
<b>Culture: Families and Friends</b>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cora Cooks Pancit</i> by Dorina Lazo Gilmore and Kristi Valiant (Southeast Asian/Filipino)</li> <li>• <i>Festival of Colors</i> by Kabir Sehgal (South Asian/Indian)</li> <li>• <i>The Most Beautiful Thing</i> by Kao Kalia Yang (Southeast Asian/Hmong)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Grandfather's Journey: A Story of Immigration from Japan</u></b> (East Asian / Japanese)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese)</li> <li>• <i>A Place at the Table</i> by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan (South Asian/Pakistani)</li> <li>• <i>Save Me a Seat</i> by Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks (South Asian/Indian)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Min Jee's Lunch: Friends as Cultural Allies</u></b> (East Asian / Korean)</li> </ul>
<b>Geography, Labor, and Economics</b>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Coolies</i> by Yin (East Asian/Chinese)</li> <li>• <i>Ohana Means Family</i> by Ilima Loomis (Pacific Islander/Hawaiian)</li> <li>• <i>Wishes</i> by Muon Thi Van (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Japanese Immigrants in Early 1900s Plantation Society Hawaii</u></b> (East Asian/Japanese)</li> <li>• Instructional Text: <b><u>Pacific Coral Reef Coloring Book</u></b> by Katherine Orr, Nancy Daschbach, and Allen Tom (Pacific Islander)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong</i> by Dawn B. Mabalon, Gayle Romasanta, and Andre Sibayan (Southeast Asian/Filipino)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Chinese Laborers and the Mid-1800s Transcontinental Railroad</u></b> (East Asian/Chinese)</li> <li>• <b><u>1960s Filipino American Farmworkers Fight for Their Rights</u></b> (Southeast Asian/ Filipino)</li> <li>• <b><u>The Impact of Climate Change on the Marshall Islands</u></b> (ELA Poetry Lesson; Pacific Islander/Marshallese)</li> </ul>
<b>Civics and Community</b>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Asian-Americans Who Inspire Us</i> by Analiza Quiroz Wolf (Pan-Asian)</li> <li>• <i>Tammy Duckworth</i> by Katlin Sarantu <b><u>(E-Book)</u></b> (Southeast Asian)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Women Advancing Equality: Patsy Mink</u></b> (East Asian/Japanese)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A Different Pond</i> by Bao Phi (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese)</li> <li>• <i>Muslim Girls Rise: Inspirational Champions of Our Time</i> by Saira Mir and Aaliya Jaleel</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Building Community and Standing Against AAPI Hatred</u></b> (Pan-Asian)</li> </ul>
<b>History</b>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fish for Jimmy: Inspired by One Family's Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp</i> by Katie Yamasaki (East Asian/Japanese)</li> <li>• <i>Landed</i> by Milly Lee (East Asian/Chinese)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Baseball Saved Us: 1940s Japanese American Internment</u></b> (East Asian/Japanese)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese)</li> <li>• <i>Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story</i> by Nora Raleigh Baskin (South/Central Asian/Iranian &amp; Muslim)</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and Early 1900s Angel Island</u></b> (East Asian/Chinese)</li> <li>• <b><u>Japanese American Incarceration in the 1940s</u></b> (East Asian/Japanese)</li> <li>• <b><u>9/11/2001, South Asian Americans, and Islamophobia</u></b> (South Asian)</li> </ul>

## Get Started Book List

The titles below offer opportunities to build a more culturally inclusive literacy experience for elementary students. Explore the list for fiction and non-fiction books to provide students with a more comprehensive view of American history that includes Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions, perspectives, and experiences.

This list strives to represent the broad diversity of the Asian American community, yet has room for growth over time. Please contact [teach@advancingjustice-chicago.org](mailto:teach@advancingjustice-chicago.org) with title suggestions. Thank you for your support.

For additional teaching tools, visit: [bit.ly/AAPIResources4Children](https://bit.ly/AAPIResources4Children)

Picture Books		
Region	Title / Author / Illustrator	Ethnicity Represented
Multiethnic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Our Folktales: The All-Time Favourite Folktales of Asia</i> by Ruth Wan-Lau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiethnic</li> </ul>
Pacific Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A is for Aloha: A Hawai'i Alphabet</i> by U'ilani Goldsberry and Tammy Yee</li> <li>• <i>Danny's Hawaiian Journey</i> by Patrick Landeza</li> <li>• <i>The Good Song: A Story Inspired by "Somewhere Over the Rainbow / What a Wonderful World"</i> by Penelope Dullaghan and Alexandria Giardino</li> <li>• <i>Ohana Means Family</i> by Ilima Loomis</li> <li>• <i>Sumāhi and the Karabao</i> by Michael Lujan Bevacqua and Jack Lujan Bevacqua</li> <li>• <i>Turtle Songs: A Tale for Mothers and Daughters</i> by Margaret Wolfson and Karla Sachi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> <li>• Guamanian</li> <li>• Fijian</li> </ul>
Southeast Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cora Cooks Pancit</i> by Dorina Lazo Gilmore and Kristi Valiant</li> <li>• <i>A Different Pond</i> by Bao Phi and Thi Bui</li> <li>• <i>Drawn Together</i> by Minh Le</li> <li>• <i>Ladder to the Moon</i> by Maya Soetoro-Ng and Yuyi Morales</li> <li>• <i>Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home</i> by Youme Landowne</li> <li>• <i>A Map Into the World</i> by Kao Kalia Yang</li> <li>• <i>Mommy Sayang</i> by Rosana Sullivan</li> <li>• <i>The Most Beautiful Thing</i> by Kao Kalia Yang</li> <li>• <i>A Path of Stars</i> by Anne Sibley O'Brien</li> <li>• <i>Willie Wins</i> by Almira Astudillo Gilles and Carl Angel</li> <li>• <i>Wishes</i> by Mượn Thị Vãn, Illustrated by Victo Ngai</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filipino</li> <li>• Vietnamese</li> <li>• Thai</li> <li>• Indonesian</li> <li>• Laotian</li> <li>• Hmong</li> <li>• Malaysian</li> <li>• Hmong</li> <li>• Cambodian</li> <li>• Filipino</li> <li>• Vietnamese</li> </ul>
South Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Always Anjali</i> by Sheetal Sheth</li> <li>• <i>Beautifully Me</i> by Nabeela Noor</li> <li>• <i>Bilal Cooks Daal</i> by Aisha Saeed and Anoosha Syed</li> <li>• <i>Bindu's Bindis</i> by Supriya Kelkar and Parvati Pillai</li> <li>• <i>Crane Boy</i> by Diana Cohn and Youme Landowne</li> <li>• <i>A Dog Named Haku</i> by Margarita Engle, Amish Karanjit, Nicole Karanjit and Ruth Jeyaveeran</li> <li>• <i>I Am Brown</i> by Ashok K. Banker</li> <li>• <i>Kamala and Maya's Big Idea</i> by Meena Harris and Ana Ramirez Gonzalez</li> <li>• <i>Laxmi's Mooch</i> by Shelly Anand</li> <li>• <i>Like the Moon Loves the Sky</i> by Hena Khan and Safa Khan</li> <li>• <i>Nadia's Hands</i> by Karen English</li> <li>• <i>Ritu Weds Chandni</i> by Ameya Narvankar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Bangladeshi</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Bhutanese</li> <li>• Nepali</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Indian</li> </ul>

## Picture Books (continued)

Region	Title / Author / Illustrator	Ethnicity Represented
East Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Danbi Leads the School Parade</i> by Anna Kim</li> <li>• <i>Dim Sum for Everyone</i> by Grace Lin</li> <li>• <i>Eyes that Kiss in the Corners</i> by Joanna Ho and Dung Ho</li> <li>• <i>Fish for Jimmy: Inspired by One Family's Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp</i> by Katie Yamasaki</li> <li>• <i>Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas</i> by Natasha Yim</li> <li>• <i>Grandfather's Journey</i> by Allen Say</li> <li>• <i>Grandpa Grumps</i> by Katrina Moore and Xindi Yan</li> <li>• <i>Hot Pot Night!</i> by Vincent Chen</li> <li>• <i>The Name Jar</i> by Yangsook Choi</li> <li>• <i>Suki's Kimono</i> by Chieri Uegaki and Stephane Jorisch</li> <li>• <i>The Twins' Blanket</i> by Hyewon Yum</li> <li>• <i>The Year of the Sheep: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac (series)</i> by Oliver Chin and Alina Chau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Taiwanese</li> <li>• Taiwanese</li> <li>• Japanese</li>   <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Taiwanese</li> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Chinese</li> </ul>

## Biographies

Region	Title / Author / Illustrator	Ethnicity Represented
Multiethnic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Asian-Americans Who Inspire Us</i> by Analiza Quiroz Wolf</li> <li>• <i>Awesome Asian Americans: 20 Stars Who Made America Amazing</i> by Philip Amara</li> <li>• <i>Dream Drum Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music</i> by Margarita Engle and Rafael Lopez</li> <li>• <i>We are Inspiring: The Stories of 32 Inspirational Asian American Women</i> by Angel Trazo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiethnic</li> <li>• Multiethnic</li> <li>• Multiethnic</li>   <li>• Multiethnic</li> </ul>
Pacific Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ho'onani: Hula Warrior</i> by Heather Gale and Mika Song</li> <li>• <i>Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku</i> by Ellie Crowe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> <li>• Native Hawaiian</li> </ul>
Southeast Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Groundbreaking Women in Politics: Tammy Duckworth</i> by Kelsey Jopp</li> <li>• <i>Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong</i> by Dawn B. Mabalon, Gayle Romasanta, and Andre Sibayan</li> <li>• <i>Suni Lee</i> by Jon M. Fishman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai</li> <li>• Filipino</li>   <li>• Hmong</li> </ul>
South Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon</i> by Simran Jeet Singh</li> <li>• <i>Gandhi</i> by Demi</li> <li>• <i>I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Change in the World</i> by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick</li> <li>• <i>Little People, Big Dreams: Mahatma Gandhi</i> by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara</li> <li>• <i>Malala's Magic Pencil</i> by Malala Yousafzai and Kerascoet</li> <li>• <i>Muslim Girls Rise: Inspirational Champions of Our Time</i> by Saira Mir and Aaliya Jaleel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian</li>   <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li>   <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Indian</li> </ul>
East Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An Astronaut's Legacy: The Story of Ellison S. Onizuka</i> by Lisa Nikaido Arakaki</li> <li>• <i>The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee</i> by Julie Leung</li> <li>• <i>Fred Korematsu Speaks Up</i> by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi</li> <li>• <i>It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way</i> by Kyo Maclear</li> <li>• <i>Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom</i> by Teresa Robeson and Rebecca Huang</li> <li>• <i>Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story</i> by Paula Yoo and Dom Lee</li> <li>• <i>While I Was Away</i> by Waka T. Brown (memoir)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Chinese</li>   <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Japanese</li> </ul>

Chapter Books (3-5)		
Region	Title / Author / Illustrator	Ethnicity Represented
Multiethnic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bamboo People: A Novel</i> by Mitali Perkins</li> <li>• <i>The Night Diary</i> by Veera Hiranandani</li> <li>• <i>Step Up to the Plate</i> by Uma Krishnaswami</li> <li>• <i>Sylvia and Aki</i> by Winifred Conkling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiethnic</li> <li>• Multiethnic</li> <li>• Multiethnic</li> <li>• Multiethnic</li> </ul>
Pacific Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cook Island Heroes</i> by David Riley</li> <li>• <i>Samoan Heroes</i> by David Riley</li> <li>• <i>Tongan Heroes</i> by David Riley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook Islander</li> <li>• Samoan</li> <li>• Tongan</li> </ul>
Southeast Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All Thirteen</i> by Christina Soontornvat</li> <li>• <i>The Clay Marble</i> by Minfong Ho</li> <li>• <i>The House that Lou Built</i> by Mae Respicio</li> <li>• <i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai</li> <li>• <i>The Magic Fish (Graphic Novel)</i> by Trung Le Nguyen</li> <li>• <i>Vatsana's Lucky New Year</i> by Sara Gogol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai</li> <li>• Cambodian</li> <li>• Filipino</li> <li>• Vietnamese</li> <li>• Vietnamese</li> <li>• Laotian</li> </ul>
South Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>American as Paneer Pie</i> by Supriya Kelkar</li> <li>• <i>Aru Shah and the End of Time</i> by Roshani Chokshi</li> <li>• <i>Meet Yasmin! (Series)</i> by Saadia Faruqi</li> <li>• <i>Outside In</i> by Jennifer Bradbury</li> <li>• <i>A Place at the Table</i> by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan</li> <li>• <i>Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet</i> by Zanib Mian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> </ul>
East Asian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Luen Yang (Graphic Novel)</li> <li>• <i>Brother's Keeper</i> by Julie Lee</li> <li>• <i>Front Desk</i> by Kelly Yang</li> <li>• <i>The Great Wall of Lucy Wu</i> by Wendy Wan-Long Shang</li> <li>• <i>Mindy Kim (series)</i> by Lyla Lee</li> <li>• <i>Pippa Park Raises Her Game</i> by Erin Yun</li> <li>• <i>Prairie Lotus</i> by Linda Sue Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• North Korean</li> <li>• Hongkonger</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Korean</li> <li>• Chinese</li> </ul>

## Acknowledgments

We are incredibly grateful to all of the individuals who devoted their time and expertise to creating these resources. Our team consisted of a wide range of Asian American identities, backgrounds, and experiences -- including current or former K-12 teachers, librarians, professors, education equity advocates, former Illinois public school students, and leaders from Asian American cultural institutions. Everyone shared a passion to ensure that Asian American history is not only represented, but also depicted in a thoughtful, nuanced, and inclusive way. The goal of the Curricular Resource Development team was to create an accessible resource guide that makes it easy for teachers to include Asian American history into their curricula. We hope these resources build greater understanding and empathy within our communities.

Visit our website to see our [Curricular Resource Development Team](#).



Please contact [teach@advancingjustice-chicago.org](mailto:teach@advancingjustice-chicago.org) with questions or title suggestions. Thank you for your support.