

# 6-12

# Planning Guide

## Integrating AAPI History in Secondary Classrooms

This guide is designed as a practical planning tool to help you identify high-leverage moments to integrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history and expand what's included in secondary history instruction over time.



## About this guide



This planning guide supports educators in integrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history into secondary classrooms. It highlights key moments, themes, and entry points that connect to commonly taught topics across U.S. history, ethnic studies, world history, civics, and other subject areas, including ELA, math, the arts, and interdisciplinary projects.

Rather than a fixed curriculum, this guide is designed to be flexible and adaptable. Use it to identify where AAPI histories can deepen your existing units, build connections across the school year, and bring more inclusive perspectives into your teaching.

You can use this guide to:

- Plan across the school year
- Identify high-leverage moments to integrate AAPI history
- Connect to classroom-ready resources from the AAPI History Hub

Theme	What this theme covers	Natural integration moments in a typical year (examples)	AAPI History Hub Resources
<b>Foundations &amp; Early Encounters in Atlantic and Pacific Worlds</b>	Indigenous societies and sovereignty; early exploration and contact; geography and mapping; Colonial regions and economies; transatlantic slavery; mercantilism and trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course launch: “What is history?”, historical thinking skills</li> <li>• Geography &amp; mapping, trade networks</li> <li>• Intro to “who counts” and who is excluded in law</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Manilamen: The First Asian American Settlement</a> <a href="#">Early Asian American History - Unit Plan</a>
<b>Founding Ideals, Citizenship &amp; Expansion</b>	Revolution and independence; Constitution and new federal government; westward expansion; Market Revolution; domestic and international migration and movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution and “founding ideals” lessons</li> <li>• Westward expansion/ Manifest Destiny units</li> <li>• Gold Rush</li> <li>• Economic change and migration lessons</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Asian American History Timeline</a> <a href="#">Histories of Westward Expansion</a>
<b>Civil War &amp; Reconstruction</b>	Civil War causes and consequences; Reconstruction; 13th–15th Amendments; contested citizenship and rights; federal-state conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil War impact</li> <li>• Reconstruction Amendments</li> <li>• Units on citizenship, civil rights, and federal power</li> </ul>	<a href="#">The Civil War &amp; Citizenship for AAPI Folks</a> <a href="#">Chinese Immigrants during Reconstruction in Georgia</a>
<b>Gilded Age &amp; Industrialization: Immigration, Labor &amp; Exclusion</b>	Industrialization and urbanization; mass migration; labor and capital; nativism; the rise of federal immigration policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration and industrialization units</li> <li>• Labor movement lessons</li> <li>• Federal power and rights in the late 1800s</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Chinese Exclusion Act and the Exclusion of Asians, Pacific Islanders &amp; Chinese Women</a> <a href="#">Bengali Muslim Merchants (6-8)</a>
<b>Progressive Era &amp; U.S. Empire in the Pacific</b>	Progressivism; regulation and reform; U.S. overseas expansion; annexation and war; changing immigration and land policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imperialism units</li> <li>• Progressive reforms and citizenship</li> <li>• Early 1900s immigration restriction lessons</li> </ul>	<a href="#">The Maka‘āinana v. the United States</a> <a href="#">Indigenous and Women of Color Suffrage Activism</a>
<b>World War I, Nativism, and Economic Crisis</b>	WWI causes and consequences; wartime nationalism; 1920s culture and politics; immigration restriction; Great Depression; New Deal programs; labor organizing; culture and media of the 1930s.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWI home front and civil liberties lessons</li> <li>• Immigration restriction units</li> <li>• Units on labor and economic rights</li> <li>• New Deal programs</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Stockton, California: The Story of Sikh Immigration</a> <a href="#">Asian American Labor Stories</a>
<b>World War II &amp; the Home Front</b>	U.S. entry into WWII; Pearl Harbor; home front mobilization; wartime civil liberties; global outcomes; postwar transitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil liberties in wartime lessons</li> <li>• Home front and total war units</li> <li>• Court case analysis around WWII era</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Asian Americans in Military Service during WWII</a> <a href="#">Asian Immigrants and Asian Americans in the Latter Half of the 19th Century</a>
<b>Cold War Abroad, Civil Rights at Home</b>	Cold War containment; Korea and Vietnam; social movements; 1960s–70s social change; Immigration Act and policy shifts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold War and Vietnam units</li> <li>• Civil Rights and social movements units</li> <li>• Education rights and civic participation</li> </ul>	<a href="#">South Asian Influence on the Civil Rights Movement</a> <a href="#">Cross-Racial Solidarity Movements &amp; the Formation of the Asian American Identity</a>
<b>Contemporary U.S.: Immigration, Globalization &amp; Power</b>	Post-1975 migration and refugee resettlement; globalization; political shifts; civil rights and backlash; recent activism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Units on modern immigration and globalization</li> <li>• Media literacy and representation</li> <li>• Civic action/contemporary issues projects</li> </ul>	<a href="#">How Much is 1/32?: Using Math Skills to Talk About Preserving The History and Culture of Hawaii Resources</a> <a href="#">Teaching Beyond September 11th</a>



# AAPI History Hub

**We believe  
belonging starts in  
the classroom.**

The AAPI History Hub is a free collection of classroom-ready resources designed to help educators bring Asian American and Pacific Islander history into their existing curriculum.

Explore the full Hub at [aapihistoryhub.org](https://aapihistoryhub.org).

## Acknowledgements

This Planning Guide builds on the Sample Scope & Sequence for Grades 6-12 developed by [Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago](#) as part of their groundbreaking TEAACH Act implementation work, which made Illinois the first state to require Asian American history in public schools. We are grateful to Advancing Justice-Chicago for sharing their work and partnering with us to bring these resources to a wider audience through the AAPI History Hub.

We also want to recognize the members of the Advancing Justice-Chicago Curricular Resource Development Team, whose time, expertise, and care shaped the original Scope & Sequence:

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Special thanks to the editing team (denoted with asterisks above) who put in tremendous time and effort to review and streamline all materials, and to Sylvia Tamashiro for designing the final resources.