



Asian Pacific American (APA) or Asian/Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month (May 1-31) Resources

During Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month FCS is recognizing the brilliance, strength and love this history represents and teaching the many ways in which Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to, inspired and created American culture.

The Georgia Standards of Excellence integrates the history and work of Asian Pacific Americans throughout the school year, K-12. However, we know that there is always room for improvement. As part of [FCS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan](#), we are collecting information on school diversity activities and plan to provide additional diversity resources for national commemorative months and all school days beyond the one month. APA history is American history. Acknowledging all our dimensions of diversity, even if it's a small gesture, gives us a chance to be intentional about learning that history.

This list below highlights Asian Pacific Americans in a variety of areas and occupations. Some of the names will be known to most who read this list; other names are less well known. Regardless of their fame, we celebrate the efforts of all and look forward to adding more in the future. Have recommendations? Contact jcaracciolo@forsyth.k12.ga.us



Week 1: (5/4-8)

Jeannie Jew: Today we recognize Jeannie Jew, who first proposed the idea of recognizing the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans nationally in the 1970s. This commemorative week was later extended to #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth in 1990. Ms. Jew's work honors her great-grandfather who came to the U.S. from China in the 1800s and helped build the first transcontinental railroad <https://apaheritage.org/about/#what>

Maya Lin: Artist, designer and environmentalist, Maya Lin designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Civil Rights Memorial (AL) and the Women's Table at Yale. Learn more about her outstanding work at <http://www.mayalin.com/> #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Dalip Singh Saund: Dalip Singh Saund made history in 1956 when he became the first Asian American elected to Congress. Born in India in 1899, Dr. Saund came to the United States in 1920. He earned a doctorate degree in mathematics and fought discriminatory laws against Indians. https://www.pbs.org/rootsinthesand/i_dalip1.html
#AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Duke Kahanamoku: Hawaiian native **Duke Kahanamoku**, the father of international surfing, set multiple world records and won gold and silver medals over a 20-year Olympic swimming career <https://www.dukeswaikiki.com/> #forsythathletics #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Yo-Yo Ma: Born in Paris, Yo-Yo Ma was a child prodigy and spent his schooling years in New York City. He graduated from The Juilliard School and Harvard University, and has performed around the world. He is an acclaimed cellist and songwriter, with a discography of more than 100 albums and 18 Grammy Awards. <https://www.yo-yoma.com/> #forsythfinearts
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Week 2: (5/11-15)

Ellison Onizuka: As the first Asian American in space, Colonel Ellison Onizuka had a distinguished career with the Air Force, where he served as a flight test engineer and as a test pilot. Born in Hawaii, he served on both the Discovery and Challenger space shuttles. <https://onizukamemorial.org/> #forsythscience #forsythsalute
#AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Mabel Ping-Hua Lee: Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee and her family settled in New York City's Chinatown in 1905. By the age of 16, she was a known suffragist who mobilized the Chinese community in America to support women's right to vote. Dr. Lee earned her PhD in economics from Columbia University, becoming the first Chinese woman to do so. <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mabel-ping-hua-lee>
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Yuji Ichioka: Yuji Ichioka was a Japanese historian, civil rights activist, and is considered to have created the term "Asian American." During part of his childhood, he and his family were forced into the Topaz WWII internment camp (<https://www.topazmuseum.org/>). In 1969, Ichioka co-founded the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and became the first person to teach Asian American studies. #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Victoria Manalo Draves: Victoria Manalo Draves was the first Asian American Olympic gold medalist in 1948. Born in San Francisco, she was also the first woman in Olympic history to win both springboard and platform diving crowns in the same game. [https://ishof.org/victoria-vicki-manalo-draves-\(usa\).html](https://ishof.org/victoria-vicki-manalo-draves-(usa).html) #forsythathletics #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Anna May Wong: Anna May Wong, a third-generation American, was the first Asian American female movie star. Her career spanned silent and sound film, stage, radio, and television, where she was the first Asian American to land a leading role in a U.S. TV series. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0938923/> #forsythfinearts #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Week 3: (5/18-22)

David Ho: World-renowned researcher Dr. David Ho was voted Time magazine's 1996 "Man of the Year" and received the Presidential Medal for his groundbreaking AIDS research on the effects of protease inhibitors and other antiviral drugs on HIV. He continues to work to eradicate HIV at http://www.adarc.org/david_ho_424.html #forsythscience #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Patsy Takemoto Mink: Patsy Takemoto Mink was the first Asian American woman and first Hawaiian woman elected to Congress. Serving for nearly 20 years, she made great strides toward peace, women's rights, civil rights, equality and justice particularly with the passing of Title IX. <https://history.house.gov/People/detail/18329> #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Connie Chung: American journalist and news anchor Connie Chung became the first woman to co-anchor CBS Evening News, as well as the first Asian American and the second woman to anchor one of America's major network newscasts. The Emmy and Peabody award winner has worked at CBS, ABC, NBC and CNN <https://www.biography.com/media-figure/connie-chung> #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Marcus Mariota: Marcus Mariota in 2014 became the first Pacific Islander to win the Heisman Trophy. The Hawaii native quarterbacked Oregon to the inaugural College Football Playoff championship game and was the second pick in the 2015 NFL draft https://www.espn.com/nfl/player/_id/2576980/marcus-mariota #forsythathletics #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Frank Wong: Self-taught artist Frank Wong's three-dimensional miniature dioramas use fabric, paper, wood, and other materials to honor and preserve the history of San Francisco's Chinatown from the 1940s and '50s <https://www.foreverchinatown.com/> #forsythfinearts #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Week 4: (5/26-29, no post on Memorial Day)

Kalpana Chawla: Kalpana Chawla was an American astronaut, engineer, and the first woman of Indian origin to go to space. She and the six other astronauts that lost their lives in the Columbia shuttle disaster, have peaks on a chain of hills on Mars named in their honor.

<https://history.nasa.gov/columbia/Troxell/Columbia%20Web%20Site/Biographies/Crew%20Profile%20Information/Crew%20Biographies/ASTRON~1.HTM> #forsythscience

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Daniel K. Inouye: Senator and decorated WW II veteran Daniel K. Inouye was the second longest serving member of the U.S. Senate prior to his death, with a distinguished tenure of more than 49 years. As president pro tempore from 2010-2012—third in line of presidential succession—he was the highest-ranking public official of Asian descent in US history.

<https://dkii.org/> #forsythsalute #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Amy Tan: Amy Tan is a Chinese American writer and novelist. Among her many works, she wrote The Joy Luck Club in 1989, which became the longest-running New York Times bestseller for that year <http://www.amytan.net/> #forsythELA #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth

Men of Steel: Our last post for #AsianPacificAmericanHeritageMonth honors the “Men of Steel”. These 15,000 to 20,000 Chinese railroad workers performed dangerous work to construct the Central Pacific line, helping America become the first continent to have a coast-to-coast railroad <https://www.history.com/news/transcontinental-railroad-chinese-immigrants>