







We Are Because They Were

# How do Asian American experiences reflect the story of the United States?

# WONG KIM ARK IS A CITIZEN.

Supreme Court Decision in Case of Chinese Born in America.

The case of the United States against Wong Kim Ark was decided in the United States Supreme Court yesterday, Justice Gray handing down the opinion of the court. The case was appealed by the United States from the District Court for the Northern District of California, and it involved the citizenship of a person born in this country of Chinese parents, which had never hitherto been decided by the Supreme Court. Yesterday's decision will have the effect of confirming the citizenship of such persons.

## **Supporting Questions**

1. What was the experience of Asian-Americans in the French Colonies of the Gulf Coast and as citizens of the United States?

#### C3 TEACHERS

- 2. How did Asian-Americans reinforce their identity and rights as citizens of the United States?
- 3. How do Asian Americans continue to shape the cultural geography of the United States by addressing contemporary issues?

### We Are Because They Were

## How does the Asian American experience reflect the story of the United States?

D2. Civ. 3.3.-5. Examine the origins and purposes of rules, laws, and key U.S. constitutional provisions.

D2. Civ. 14.3-5. Illustrate historical and contemporary means of changing society.

D2. His.1.6-8. Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.

#### **Standards and Content**

D2. His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.

D2. His.2.3-5. Compare life in specific historical time periods to life today.

D2. His.14.6-8. Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.

D2. His.14.9-12. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past.

D2. His.16.3-5. Use evidence to develop a claim about the past.

# Staging the Compelling Question

To begin the inquiry, students will brainstorm the frameworks of the story of the United States. What is the beginning of the story of the U.S.? What is the middle? What is the story of the U.S. now? The teacher will guide students through this thought process (possible conclusions could include: the U.S. started out with many different groups of people trying to find a space to belong in a new country; then those demographics had to grapple to find a space/place/voice within that country that was becoming more established; now-different groups still continue to strive for voice and representation not only for themselves, but for causes they care about) to situate today's inquiry.

#### **Supporting Question 1**

What was the experience of Asian-Americans in the French Colonies of the Gulf Coast and as citizens of the United States?

#### **Formative Performance Task**

Students will read the following sources, looking for examples of how Asian American citizens experienced 1) immigration and assimilation, 2) civic participation, and 3) identity building in the United States.

#### **Supporting Question 2**

How did Asian-Americans reinforce their identity and rights as citizens of the United States?

#### **Formative Performance Task**

Students will divide into groups to become experts on either the Anti-American boycott (and the counter, the American anti-boycott association), the Supreme Court case the United States v. Wong Kim Ark, or the Delano Grape strike and boycott. Then students will discuss how these

#### **Supporting Question 3**

How do Asian Americans continue to shape the cultural geography of the United States by addressing contemporary issues?

#### **Formative Performance Task**

Students will engage in an investigation of the following narratives to determine how Asian Americans continue to influence their communities including contributions to the United States and our collective future.







#### C3 TEACHERS

#### **Featured Sources**

#### Source A:

https://www.history.com/news/firstasian-american-settlement-filipino-stmalo

#### Source B:

https://www2.latech.edu/~bmagee/louisiana\_anthology/texts/hearn/hearn-st\_malo.html

#### Source C:

https://apasnola.com/page-1353228

#### Source D:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinat own,\_New\_Orleans#cite\_note-1 events reinforced Asian American identity as citizens of U.S.

#### **Featured Sources**

#### Source A:

https://immigrationhistory.org/item/anti-american-boycott/

#### Source B:

https://lccn.loc.gov/17010570

#### Source C:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\_States\_v.\_Wong\_Kim\_Ark#cite\_note-121

#### Source D:

https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delanogrape-strike-boycott/

#### Source E:

https://www.loc.gov/item/2016646 403/

#### **Featured Sources**

#### Source A:

https://grist.org/food/2011-12-09-seachange-asian-americans-and-seafoodin-the-gulf/

#### Source B:

https://www.nrdc.org/stories/whyenvironmental-movement-shouldstop-ignoring-asian-americans

#### Source C:

https://www.edf.org/blog/2021/05/26/im-asian-american-environmentalist-my-story-familiar-

one#:~:text=My%20story%20is%20a%2 Ofamiliar%20one%3A%20Asian%20Am ericans%20are%20overwhelmingly,to% 20address%20the%20climate%20crisis

#### Source D:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X uDN9wM12hI

#### Source E:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6 ywg RE4Ko4

## Summative Performance Task

**ARGUMENT:** How do Asian American experiences reflect the story of the United States? Students will construct an artifact (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that creates and supports a stance answering this question using specific and relevant evidence from the sources to support their argument.

**EXTENSION**. Contact local museums and/or libraries to address providing more resources on the ways in which Asian Americans have contributed to and helped shape the cultural tapestry of the United States or even the community you live in.

## Taking Informed Action

**UNDERSTAND** Students will express understanding that Asian Americans have had a spectrum of experiences in the United States.

**ASSESS** the ways in which we as students of the social studies should discuss the experiences and contributions groups of Asian immigrants.

**ACT(ivate)** On social media by discussing what you have learned about the Asian American experience and how others can find more information to bring to their own awareness and communities.





