

# Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



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## What is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month)?

An annual celebration recognizing the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States.

The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent, and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Efforts to recognize AAPI contributions began in the 1970's. In 1978, Congress established AAPI Heritage Week and in 1990, Congress expanded it to a month long celebration and May was officially designated as AAPI Month.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

In the Cobblestones community there are students from China, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam.

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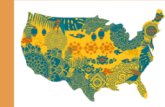
### PCSD

There are currently 144 students in Penfield Schools who identify as Asian American or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

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### TODAY

24 million people identify as Asian American in the US. And 1.6 million people identify as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.



### LEARN MORE

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly to American culture and society. Many rich and unique cultures are encompassed by "AAPI". Below are some links to learn more about a few of these cultures.

#### KOREA:

Korean Cultural Center  
<https://www.koreanculture.org/>

#### CHINA:

New York Chinese Cultural Center  
[www.nychineseculturalcenter.org](http://www.nychineseculturalcenter.org)

#### JAPAN:

Japan Cultural Center of Western New York  
<https://japanwny.org/>

#### VIETNAM:

The Vietnamese Heritage Center  
<https://vhcnyc.org/>

#### INDIA:

Indian Counsel for Cultural Relations  
<https://www.iccr.gov.in/>

#### PAKISTAN:

Pakistani American Community Center  
<http://www.pacc-ca.org/>

## Why May?

AAPI Heritage Month was chosen to be in the month of May as a way to honor the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843.

May is also the month in which the transcontinental railroad was finished, which was built with significant contributions from Chinese workers.

## Stop AAPI Hate

In recent years in the US hate speech and a violence against the AAPI community has greatly increased.

Many community organizations in Rochester have come together to help fight against racism that AAPI individuals may experience. Check out the links below to get involved.

### Levine Center Monroe Community College:

<https://www.endhateroc.org/asian-matters>

### Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association of Rochester:

<http://www.apaaroc.org/>

### The Asian American Alliance and University of Rochester:

<https://ccc.rochester.edu/aaa/home/>



A Hawaiian Plate with poi, laulau, mac salad, rice, kalua pig and poke.

[www.hawaiimagazine.com](http://www.hawaiimagazine.com)

## Ways to Celebrate with Kids

AAPI Heritage month is a great chance to learn about a variety of cultures and the important impact they have had on our nation's story.

1. Explore Geography - look at maps or a globe, or go online to identify and explore the wide array of countries and historic locations that are part of the AAPI culture.
2. Read books or watch TV/Movies with Asian characters, written by Asian authors, or illustrated by Asian Artists.
3. Learn about traditional Asian and Pacific Island music and instruments.
4. Research and try some Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander recipes. Cook at home or try a new restaurant.

## DIG DEEPER



Visit: Memorial Art Gallery Celebration Series: Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration May 15, 12-4pm



Visit: Strong Museum of Play Asian American Heritage Month Presentations May 21, 11-3pm



Read: 70 Children's Books for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



Watch: Movies to Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month



Visit: Rochester City Hall: AAPI Month Exhibition highlighting local AAPI artists

