



ASIAN AMERICANS



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month!

1. Asian Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in the USA in the 21st century.
2. There are currently 20 million people in the United States who identify as having ancestry from Asia.
3. The most common countries of origin are China, India, The Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan. These account for 85% of the Asian American population.
4. The term Asian American is actually considered too broad today as there are many diverse groups of people with their own culture and experiences, such as the Hmong, Thai, Laotian, and Bhutanese.
5. Asian Americans have shaped the United States since the first immigrants arrived from China in the 1800's to the west coast. They built many of the infrastructures and railroads we use today.
6. They faced discrimination and racism early on and were even banned from entering the country for many years.
7. Asian Americans have been some of our most celebrated scientists, political leaders, athletes, and artists. They make the United States great.



Ang Lee

(1954)

Ang Lee is an award winning Taiwanese American film director, producer, and screenwriter. He is best known for his films *Sense and Sensibility*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Brokeback Mountain*, and *Life of Pi*. He has won 3 Academy Awards for his work.



Anna May Wong

(1905 - 1961)

Anna May Wong was the first Chinese American movie star. Some of her notable films include *The Toll of the Sea* and *The Thief of Bagdad*. She spent her time in Europe and the USA starring in films and plays. She was also a fashion icon, popularizing the 'flapper' look.



Bruce Lee

(1940 - 1973)

Bruce Lee was a Chinese American martial artist, actor, director, instructor and philosopher. He is considered the most famous martial artist of all time, creating Jeet Kune Do and popularizing the movement by running several schools and starring in popular films.



Chien Shiung Wu

(1912 - 1997)

Chien Shiung Wu was a Chinese American scientist who made significant contributions in the fields of nuclear and particle physics. She worked on the Manhattan Project in the 1940's, which developed the first nuclear weapon. She is known as 'The First Lady of Physics' and 'Queen of Nuclear Research'.



Eddie Huang

(1982)

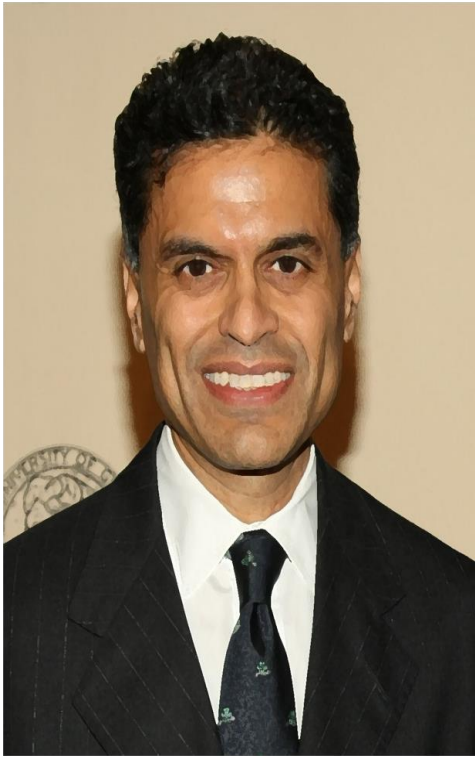
Eddie Huang is an American film director, author, chef, restaurateur, food personality, producer, and attorney. He has been on several TV shows and his memoir *Fresh off the Boat* was made into a sitcom about an Asian American family living in Orlando.



Connie Chung

(1946)

Connie Chung is an American journalist and news anchor on several major TV networks. She was only the second woman to co-anchor the evening news. Over the course of her decades long career she has interviewed some of the most powerful political leaders and celebrities.



Fareed Zakaria

(1964)

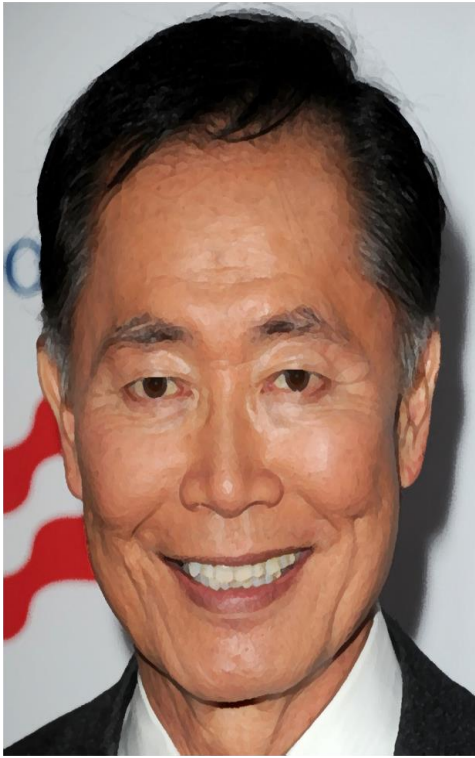
Fareed Zakaria is an Indian American journalist, political commentator, and author. He has his own show on *CNN* and has written for the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *Time Magazine*. He is also the author of several books.



Helen Zia

(1952)

Helen Zia is an American journalist and activist for Asian American and LGBTQ rights. She attended Princeton University where she helped found their Asian American Students Association. One of her most famous books is *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*.



George Takei

(1937)

George Takei is an American actor, author, and activist. He is best known for playing Sulu in the TV shows and movies of *Star Trek*. As a child he was sent to a Japanese internment camp in the USA. He has talked openly about his experience which was made into a Broadway musical called *Allegiance*.



Joyce Chen

(1917 - 1994)

Joyce Chen was a Chinese American chef, restaurateur, author, television personality, and entrepreneur. She is responsible for popularizing northern style Chinese food in the USA and opened several restaurants in the Boston area.



Hasan Minhaj

(1985)

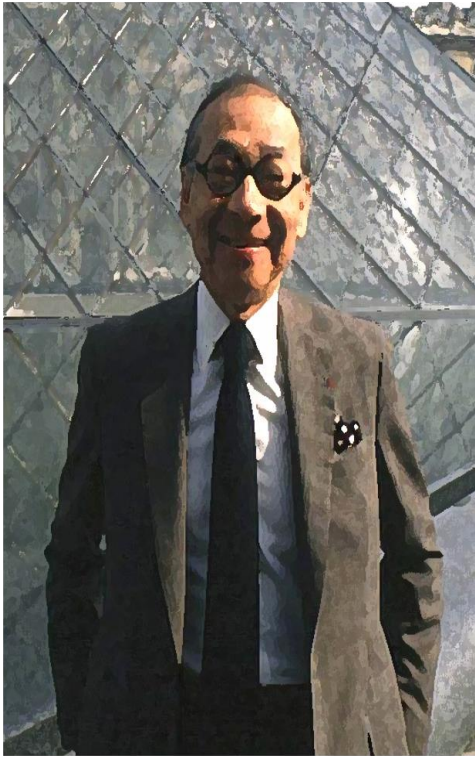
Hasan Minhaj is an American comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor, and television host. He is most famous for his Emmy award winning tv program called *Patriot Act*, which was a talk show centered on modern culture and politics. He has also won 2 Peabody awards.



Kalpana Chawla

(1962 - 2003)

Kalpana Chawla was an Indian American astronaut, engineer, and the first woman of Indian origin to go to space. She became an astronaut in 1995 and flew 2 missions aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Disaster struck when the space shuttle broke apart on re-entry in 2003.



I.M. Pei

(1917 - 2019)

I.M. Pei was a Chinese American architect. His buildings and structures are recognizable all over the world. Some of his most famous are the Mesa Laboratory, John F. Kennedy Library, Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong, Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar, and a glass-and-steel pyramid for the Louvre in Paris.



Kamala Harris

(1964)

Kamala Devi Harris is an American politician and attorney who is the 49th vice president of the United States. She is the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and first Asian American vice president.



Jeremy Lin

(1988)

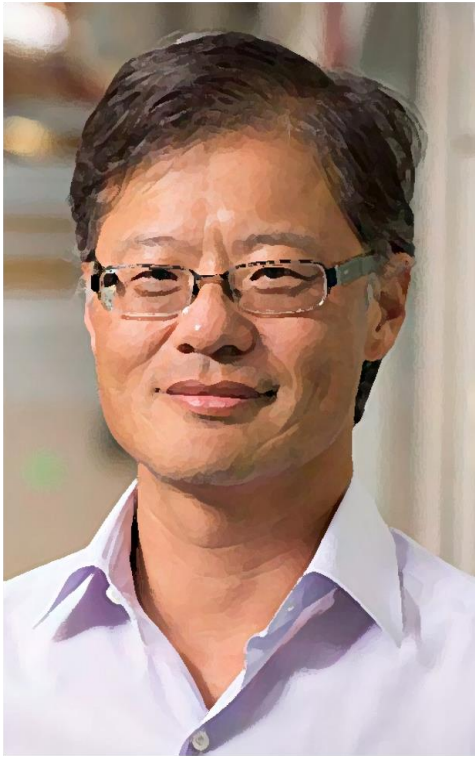
Jeremy Shu-How Lin is an American professional basketball player. He was the first American of Chinese descent to play in the NBA, and is one of the few Asian Americans to have played in the league. He was the first Asian American to win an NBA championship in 2019.



Margaret Cho

(1968)

Margaret Moran Cho is an American actress, musician, stand-up comedian, fashion designer and author. She is best known for her stand-up routines, through which she critiques social and political problems.



Jerry Yang

(1968)

Jerry Chih-Yuan Yang is a Taiwanese American billionaire, computer programmer, internet entrepreneur, and venture capitalist. As an early pioneer of the internet he co-founded the *Yahoo!* web service provider in 1994.



Michelle Kwan

(1980)

Michelle Wingshan Kwan is a retired American figure skater. She is a two-time Olympic medalist, a five-time World champion and a nine-time U.S. champion. She is tied for the all-time National Championship record.



Ming Tsai

(1964)

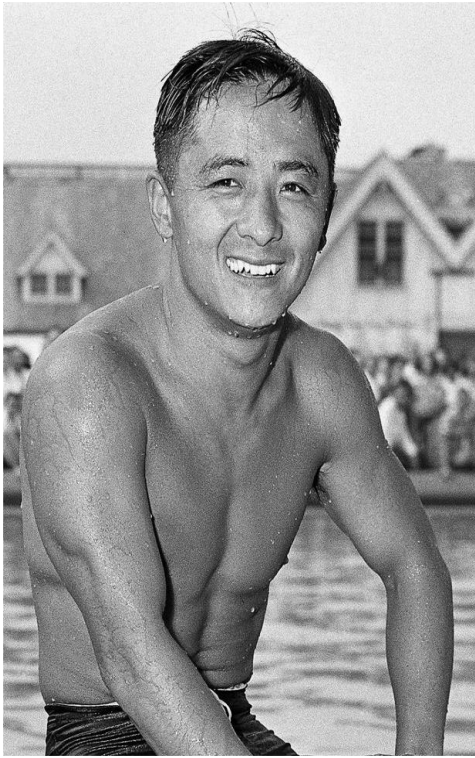
Ming Hao Tsai is an American restaurateur, television personality, and celebrity chef. Opening several well regarded restaurants, his unique style of cooking is a fusion of east meets west. He has written several cookbooks and hosts his own tv show called *Simply Ming*.



Mindy Kaling

(1979)

Vera Mindy Chokalingam, known professionally as Mindy Kaling, is an American actress, comedian, writer, producer, and director. She first gained recognition starring as Kelly Kapoor in the tv show *The Office*. She has created multiple series for television and won numerous awards.



Sammy Lee

(1920 - 2016)

Samuel Lee was an American physician and diver. He was the first Asian American man to win an Olympic gold medal for the United States in 1948 and the first man to win back-to-back gold medals in Olympic platform diving. He also served in the US Military and was a doctor for 35 years.



Patsy Mink

(1927 - 2002)

Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink was an American attorney and politician. She was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Asian-American woman to serve in Congress. During her 24 years in public service she was an advocate for women, minorities, immigrants, and children.



Yo-Yo Ma

(1955)

Yo-Yo Ma is an American cellist. Born in Paris to Chinese parents and educated in New York City, Ma was a child prodigy, performing from the age of four and a half. He graduated from The Juilliard School and Harvard University, and has performed as a soloist with orchestras around the world.



Tammy Duckworth

(1968)

Ladda Tammy Duckworth is a Thai American politician and retired Army National Guard lieutenant colonel serving as a US Senator from Illinois. She was a military helicopter pilot during the Iraq war and lost both her legs in combat. She is the first Thai American woman elected to Congress.

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These games are perfect for any occasion and can be printed out and laminated for continued use with your learners. These games include learning vocabulary such as themed bingo and word / picture matching. There are also board style games that can be customized to meet your learning objectives in class. Download our free template board game [here](#).



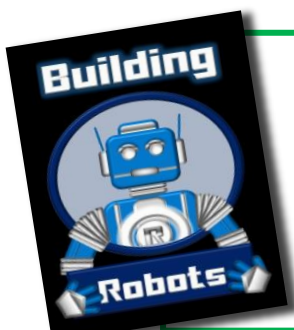
Flashcards and Fun Money



Large and small themed flashcard sets available to use in class to help students learn and identify vocabulary as well as word and letter recognition. These are best if printed out and laminated for use over and over again. Also, we have over 50 themed sets of [fun play money](#) you can print out and use in class as part of an activity or as a reward system.



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