

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

MAY

In the United States, the month of May is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Americans.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing minority segments and make up approximately 8%* of the US population. This diverse group enriches the American culture greatly.

HISTORY

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month originated in 1977 when Congress declared the beginning of May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. This was signed into law in 1978 and was expanded to a month in the early 1990s.

The month of May commemorates the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was largely worked on by Chinese immigrants. It also commemorates the first Japanese immigrants' arrival in the United States on May 7, 1843.

KEY EVENTS AND FIGURES

To do justice to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it's helpful to be familiar with this rich history. Click [here](#) to learn more.

*Source: 2020 US Census Bureau

While this fact sheet is meant to provide a high-level overview, there are many different perspectives and ways to celebrate each holiday or heritage month.



ACTIVATION SUGGESTIONS

1. Showcase music from famous AAPI artists.
2. Host an AAPI history trivia event.
3. Create a word search or crossword puzzle about AAPI history, for kids' menus.
4. Support local AAPI-owned businesses as retail suppliers.
5. Recognize AAPI leaders within corporate leadership teams.
6. Incorporate quotes from prominent AAPI leaders.
7. Partner with the local chapter of one of these [AAPI organizations](#).
8. Consider a donation to an AAPI charity of restaurant's choice.
9. Create a Customer Engagement Board with "My Favorite Thing about AAPI Heritage Month" (bulletin board at entrance with customer notes).



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