



History at Home

ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



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Education Resource Guide

The materials and lesson plans included in this resource guide will help supplement the digital content the Education Department has created on the National Museum of the Marine Corps website.

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Education Resource Guide

Age Range:

Our Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps activities are ideally suited for grades 4-8. We have provided topic worksheets at the end of this document for our younger learners.

Student Objectives:

- I can explore the ways in which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to the storied history of the United States Marine Corps.
- I can analyze how the events in Asian American and Pacific Islander history run with and against the common Marine Corps timeline.
- I can summarize the role of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps in writing.

Procedure:

1. Fill in the first two columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet.
2. While watching the video, [Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States Marine Corps](#), fill in the blank timeline on page 5.
3. After you have finished watching the video, fill in the last remaining columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet. Think about how their timeline varies or is similar to other events in Marine Corps history. Talk about it with your friends, family, or classmates.
4. For our younger viewers, our topic worksheet on the final two pages will provide a general understanding of the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience in the Marine Corps. Read the profiles of prominent Asian American and Pacific Islander Marines and reflect on their service and sacrifice.

Materials:

- *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps* [[LINK](#)]
- *KWLW Comprehension Sheet and Timeline*
- *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps Topic Sheet and Profiles*



KWLW Comprehension Chart

Topic: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps

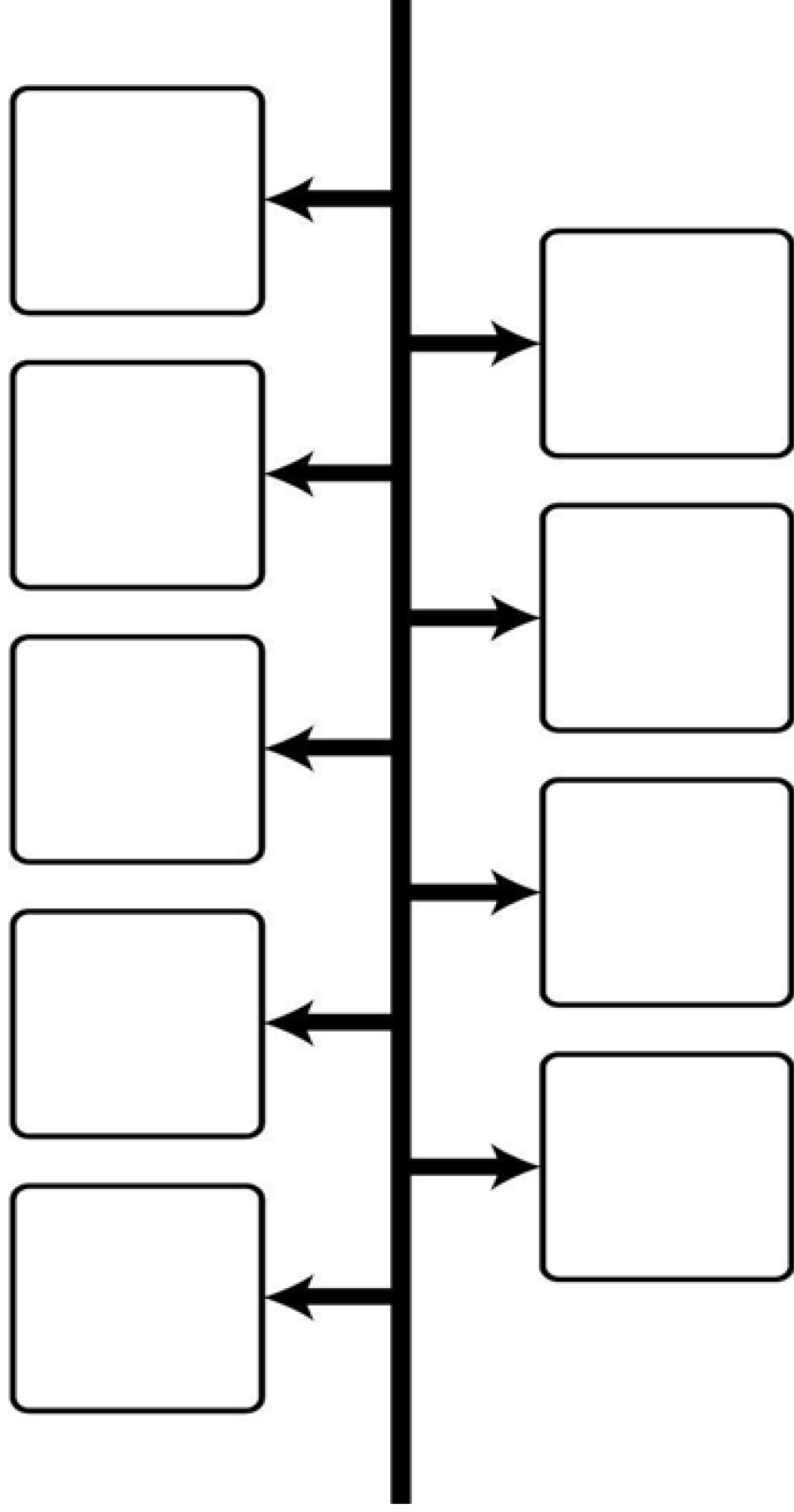
Directions: Fill out the first two columns (K and W) below before watching the [Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps video](#). Once you have finished watching the video, fill out the last two columns (L and W) with the new information you learned and any questions you still have.

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know/Learn	L What I Learned	W What Questions Do I Still Have

Asian Americans in the Marine Corps Timeline

Topic: African Americans in the Marine Corps

Directions: While watching the **video series** on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Marine Corps, fill in the timeline below with events that you believe changed the way they were able to participate in the Marine Corps.





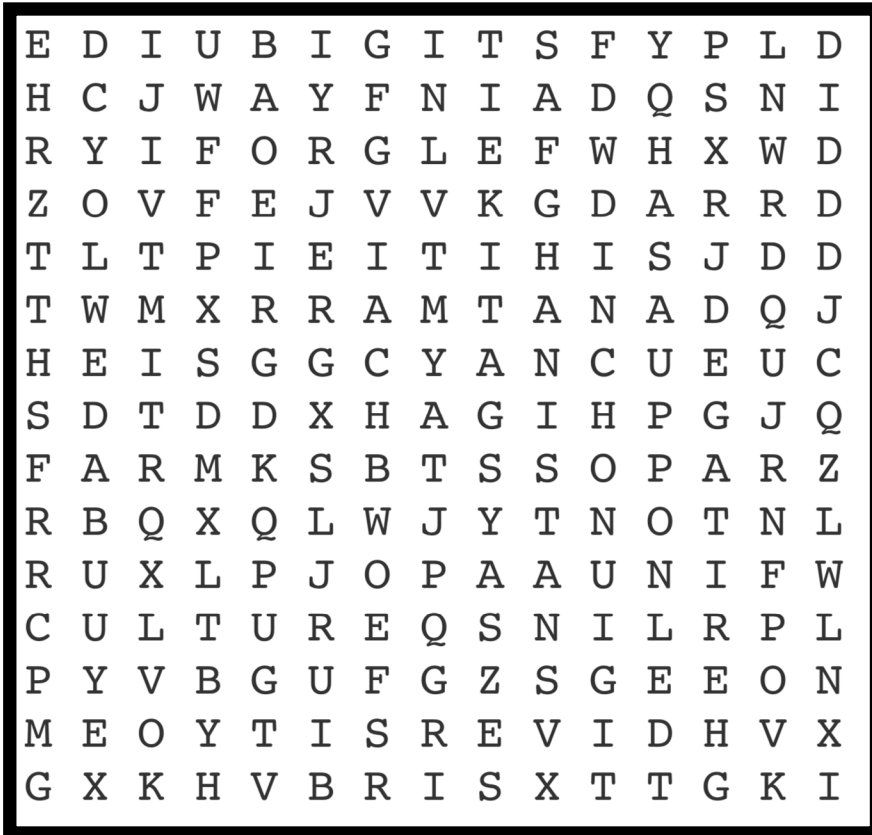
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The month of May is designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the U.S. This month-long observance celebrates the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. and recognizes the hardships and challenges they endured. Diversity, once viewed as a weakness, is now one of the Marine Corps' greatest strengths. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have used their personal heritages, traditions, and unique ways of thinking to strengthen the Corps since World War II.



Nisei Language Team with Marines at Iwo Jima, 1945

Asian American and Pacific Islander Marines Word Search



Word Bank

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Culture | Diversity |
| Inchon | Sacrifice |
| Nisei | Semper Fi |
| Silver Star | Iwo Jima |
| Heritage | Afghanistan |

"I think as a corpsman, it's always in the back of your head. You're trained, and you're so ready to do this, and you think about that moment all the time."
- HM3 Jonathan Kong

TIMELINE



1941
Japanese Empire attacks U.S. base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii

1943
First Chinese American officer in U.S. Marine Corps, Wilbur Carl Sze, commissioned as second lieutenant.



1942
President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, detaining everyone with Japanese ancestry living in the U.S. More than 110,000 Japanese Americans were interned during the war.

1944
U.S. War Department ends internment of Japanese Americans.

1945
Nisei, or ethnically Japanese individuals born in the U.S., served alongside Marines at Iwo Jima with the Military Intelligence Service



1951
Sgt. Manuel Hirata receives Silver Star for gallantry in combat during the Korean War

2001
Asian American Marines were part of the first conventional units to enter into Afghanistan

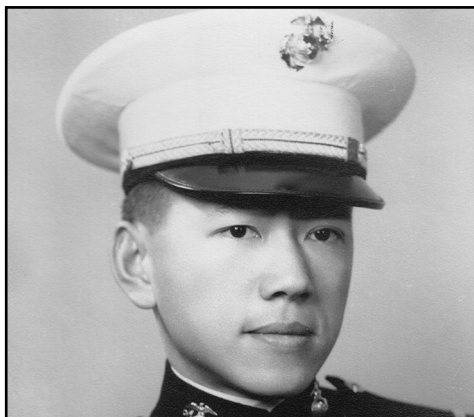
1992
Congress permanently designated May as AAPI Heritage Month



2011
Navy Corpsman Jonathan Kong receives Silver Star for saving Marine Cpl Michael Dawers during a battle in the village of Kotozay, Afghanistan

PROFILES

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States Marine Corps



Kurt Chew-Een Lee

- Kurt Chew-Een Lee was born in San Francisco from native Chinese parents (Canton, China)
- Lee joined the Marine Corps at age 18 in 1944 during World War II, but was assigned to a stateside Japanese language school. When the war ended, he was accepted into officer training school.
- He graduated from The Basic School as the first Asian American to serve as an officer in the regular Marine Corps.
- During the Korean War, 1stLt Lee received the Navy Cross during the battle of Chosin Reservoir.
- Lee retired from the Marine Corps in 1968 as a major.



Daniel D. Yoo

- Daniel Yoo received a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University before commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1985 after Officer Candidate School.
- As a career infantry officer, he has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion, regimental, brigade, division and Marine Expeditionary Force levels.
- He is the first Korean-American general in the United States Marine Corps
- Yoo assumed command of Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) on 10 August 2018 with the rank of major general.



Max Galeai

- Max Galeai graduated from Oregon State University in 1988 before joining the Marine Corps. He served in Virginia, California, Okinawa, Hawaii, and Iraq.
- He commanded the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, before his final deployment to Iraq as a lieutenant colonel.
- He was killed on 26 June 2008, becoming the highest ranking Samoan killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom.
- His service awards include two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, and five Meritorious Service Medals.