

The AAPI community is the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the United States. It is also one of the most diverse groups with close to 50 different races, ethnicities, or nationalities, and over 40 different languages and dialects spoken. These resources are presented in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which celebrates the histories of Americans hailing from across the Asian continent and from the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. While the resources in this issue of Natural Resources are not exhaustive, they could begin to help build awareness about the AAPI children and families, and provide some ideas and strategies for practitioners to support AAPI children and families in their programs and community.

## Resources About the Diversity of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

### What is the Model Minority Myth?

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/what-is-the-model-minority-myth>

The model minority myth that paints Asian Americans as inherently successful and problem-free, particularly in contrast to other minority groups, has masked an appreciation that young AAPI children and their families are as diverse as any other group. This article shares some of the facts on this topic.

### Appreciating the Diversity Among Asians

<https://www.teachforamerica.org/one-day/policy-and-advocacy/students-labeled-asian-are-not-a-monolith-why-are-schools-treating-them>

This is a brief article that highlights the diversity among Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

### Language, Race, and Ethnic Diversity Among Asian Americans

<https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/language-race-and-ethnic-diversity-among-asian-and-pacific-islander-english-learners/>

This report highlights the diversity among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and details the need for better data collection and reporting of AAPI English learners.

### Asian Pacific Americans with Disabilities: Our Stories, Our Lives

<https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2016/03/20/apa/>

This summary of an informal survey highlights issues of intersectionality among race, disability, and other aspects of identity, with many insights provided in the words of the survey participants.

### Learning About the Contributions and Challenges of Asian Americans

<https://www.pbs.org/video/breaking-ground-ibdgiq/>

*Asian Americans* is a five-hour film series that chronicles the contributions and challenges of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing ethnic group in America. Personal histories and research provide a fresh lens on U.S. history and the role Asian Americans have played in it.

## Resources for Children and Families

### Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Children's Books

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/asian-americans/#early>

Teaching for Change, the project that produced this list, carefully selects the best multicultural and social justice books for early childhood families and educators.

### Curated STEM Book List: Asian and Pacific Islanders

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/storybook-conversations-celebrating-asian-pacific-heritage>

The STEMIE staff has curated this list of books that embrace and celebrate Asian Pacific heritage in STEM and have lots of engaging illustrations and photos to talk about with young children.

### **Storybook Conversations: Luna's Yum Yum Dim Sum**

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/storybook-conversations-luna%E2%80%99s-yum-yum-dim-sum>

In this book written by Natasha Yim and illustrated by Violet Kim, Luna is having Dim Sum on her birthday. She and her brothers are talking about how to share buns fairly. Click on the Storybook Conversations link to access ideas for how use this story to build understanding of STEM concepts. The link will also give you access to ways in which to support the use of this book with children with disabilities. Another Storybook Conversation to explore is *Up to My Knees* by Grace Lin (<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/storybook-conversations-my-knees>).

### **Helping Your Kids Understand and Cope with Anti-Asian Racism**

<https://answers.childrenshospital.org/anti-asian-racism/>

Recently there has been an alarming increase in anti-Asian sentiment and discrimination in the United States. This article offers ideas for talking with children about racism and identity, as well as the importance of speaking up about hate incidents they may encounter.

### **Additional Resources for Early Childhood Educators**

#### **What I Wish My Teachers Understood About Me: A Fact Sheet on Asian/Asian American Racial & Cultural Identity** <https://www.mghstudentwellness.org/resources-1/wish-my-teachers-understood>

This set of resources responds to the tendency to group all Asian and Asian American students together under a singular stereotype or narrative. The set includes a recorded webinar, a fact sheet, and a video with the answers of students to “What I wish my teachers understood about me.”

#### **Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/4036-celebrating-asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month>

A highlight of this collection of resources from ZERO TO THREE is video segments featuring early childhood professionals who share how their racial identities intersect with their work and interactions. There are also resources for family members and professionals.

#### **Asian American and Pacific Islander Teaching Resources**

<https://www.uft.org/teaching/classroom-resources/asian-american-and-pacific-islander-teaching-resources>

This collection of resources from the American Federation of Teachers offers examples that are suitable for both young and older children.

#### **Anti-Asian Bias Tools and Resources**

<https://aarcc.uic.edu/anti-asian-bias-tools-and-resources/>

The purpose of this resource collection is to self-empower individuals to investigate, unlearn, and relearn and use new information or knowledge to address anti-Asian bias.

#### **A Gumdrop for AAPI Heritage Month: *Min Jee's Lunch***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ydEPIrluIA>

*Min Jee's Lunch* is a Learning for Justice original children's story written by author and educator Elizabeth Kleinrock. In this video, narrated by Kleinrock and beautifully illustrated by Janice Chang, a classmate announces that Min Jee's Korean lunch is “how everyone got sick.” Min Jee and her friends must decide how to respond. Find the story and accompanying reader questions at [https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/fall-2020/min-jees-lunch?utm\\_source=Learning+for+Justice&utm\\_campaign=0c919f1691-Newsletter+5-18-2021&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a8cea027c3-0c919f1691-83000183](https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/fall-2020/min-jees-lunch?utm_source=Learning+for+Justice&utm_campaign=0c919f1691-Newsletter+5-18-2021&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a8cea027c3-0c919f1691-83000183)

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