



Student Worksheet: *Call It What It Is: Racism Against Asian Americans*

This worksheet for the [Call It What It Is: Racism against Asian Americans](#) is organized by chapters. Each chapter can be used as a unit by itself and contain vocabulary and suggested questions and projects unique to that chapter. They can easily be customized for your classroom by broadening the discussion to include other ethnicities and by adding or deleting elements.

Introduction: (Video Timecode 0:00)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Racism
Deep-seated racism
Implicit bias
Explicit bias
Systemic racial bias
Ideology
Inscrutable
Pandemic
Civil Society

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What are some examples of racism you are familiar with?
2. Have you heard of recent news reports of racism against Asian Americans?
3. What causes deep-seated racism? Has the U.S. historically been a racist country?
4. What does it mean to be Asian American? African American? Hispanic American or other?
5. Where did you get your current knowledge of Asian Americans? Can you name any famous Asian Americans?
6. What are your current perceptions of Asian Americans? Where might you have gotten these perceptions?

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Ask someone who you feel influences your opinions/actions about how they feel towards Asian Americans (or any other ethnicity). What experiences have they had to make them feel this way? Who are their influencers? Or do the above as a class, or in groups, to take a survey.



CHAPTER 1: BIAS (Video Timecode 1:49)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Mass media
White decision makers
Perceptions
Algorithm
Echo chamber
Stereotype
Prejudice
Rhetoric
Xenophobia

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between implicit/unconscious bias and explicit/conscious bias?
2. What are some examples of implicit bias? How might implicit bias manifest as racism?
3. What are some examples of explicit bias? How might explicit bias manifest as racism?
4. Biases can be positive or negative. What are the sources of implicit and explicit bias?
1. Have you, or has someone you known, been a victim of racism in some way? How did it affect you?

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Take an "[Implicit Association Test](#)". Are you surprised by the results? Why or why not?
2. Tests are developed by people. What are some biases that may sneak into, or be embedded in, the tests themselves? They could be skewed towards females, sports enthusiasts, a particular ethnicity due to language, jargon, etc
3. Choose an opinion you feel strongly about that other may not agree with. Lead a discussion with an open mind and open dialogue to discuss divergent opinions. What was the conclusion? How did you navigate the conversation?
4. What is your reaction when you meet someone who looks different from you or speaks with an accent?
5. Compare the Producers Cut of this video with this Educators Cut. Find and discuss why the changes were made.



CHAPTER 2: THE HISTORY OF ANTI-ASIAN RACISM (Video Timecode 3:20)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Immigrant
Exploit
Transcontinental Railroad
Vilify
Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
Pearl Harbor
Internment Camp
Liberty
Red-baiting
Joseph McCarthy
McCarthyism
Demagogue
Communism
Yellow Peril
Existential threat
Nebulous

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. [Why were the Chinese at first welcomed?](#) What role did they play in society?
2. What caused the economy to turn sour in the 1870's and 1880's and why did White Americans vilify Chinese immigrants?
3. What 3 massacres resulted in the deaths of Chinese immigrants? Compare this to the treatment of other minorities.
4. What fears led to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882? When was it repealed and why?
5. Why did the US send those of Japanese ancestry to internment camps? Were there other ethnicities that also experienced internment? Why were they interned?
6. How did McCarthyism contribute to the discrimination of Chinese? What did the Chinese feel they had to do to avoid being discriminated against during this period?
7. There are many reasons why Asians and others continue to immigrate to America. What are these reasons? Discuss the challenges and advantages of each type of immigrant.

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. What caused the economy to turn sour in the 1870's and 1880's and why did white Americans vilify Chinese immigrants? How are current events shaping racism?
2. [Make a timeline of historical events](#) leading up to the Chinese Exclusion Act.
3. Summarize a landmark legal case such as U.S. vs Wong Kim Ark and Yick Wo vs. Hopkins case.



4. While wars are fought due to economic and ideological reasons, racism is often associated with these conflicts. How might this be true of the Vietnam or Korean wars?



CHAPTER 3: CIVIL RIGHTS & THE MODEL MINORITY (Video Timecode 5:16)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Oppression
Civil Rights Movement
Institutional Racism
Model Minority
Deceptively
Discrimination
Divisive weapon
Demographic
Perpetuate

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What was the first law to favor a specific race?
2. How did the Civil Rights Movement bring attention to the Asian American community? What term emerged from this attention?
3. What does the term “Model Minority” refer to? What are the positive aspects of the term “Model Minority” and what challenges does the term create?
4. Most races are discriminated against in some way. What are some similar challenges they face and what are some differences? How does this compare to your lived experience? (Don’t forget “white” as a race in your discussion.)

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Discuss laws that have seemed to favor/disfavor a certain race.
2. What was the relationship between Blacks and Asian Americans preceding and during the Civil Rights Movement? What is this relationship like now (cite news articles, sources to support your discussion?) Or choose two other ethnicities to discuss. During segregation, many Asians in the South catered to both the white and black communities with grocery stores
3. What are some contributions that have been made by Asian Americans? What have they done that may have influenced your life?
4. What are the relationships between different ethnic & racial groups in your school and community? Reflect on what you may be subconsciously observing.



CHAPTER 4: ANTI-ASIAN RACISM TODAY - HISTORY REPEATED (Video Timecode 6:34)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Policy
Profile
Demonize
Racialize
Scapegoating
US Department of Homeland Security
White Supremacy Group
Proxy

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What policies (eg., the China Initiative), have caused the profiling of Asians? What policies have caused the profiling of other races?
2. What are the different types of hate incidents? What is the [difference between a hate crime and a hate incident](#)?
3. What events/circumstances contributed to the idea of “Yellow Peril”?
4. What are some examples of systemic bias?

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Many use Critical Race Theory as a lens with which to examine the effects of systemic racism and its current impact on minority groups. What is Critical Race Theory? What is an opposing view to this theory?
2. Ethnic Studies is a study of race and ethnicity in the United States through a study of the experiences and history of different underrepresented racial groups. Do you think that ethnic studies should be part of the school curriculum. How well do you think your history classes have covered the different regional, ethnic or racial groups?
3. In what ways does our competition with China contribute to discrimination against Asian Americans? What can be done so geo-political discontent will not spill over to affect the daily well-being of Asian Americans?



CHAPTER 5: HEALING OUR AMERICA (Video Timecode 7:34)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Innovation
Moral compass
Ethnic group
Equitable
Foundations of American Democracy
Mosaic

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between “equality” and “equity”? Is one more fair than the other?
2. What are the foundations of Democracy?
3. Are all Asians in America citizens of the US? Why are Asians continually considered the perpetual or forever foreigners?
4. Suggest ways to better the understanding of Asian American communities in the US.
5. Starting with the most important, list what you feel are the priorities in people’s lives today. Would you reorder them to promote a more harmonious society?

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Name 19 Asian American Ethnic groups in the US. Different Asian ethnicities immigrated for very different reasons. What are some of these reasons?
Seek work, better education, reunite with families, better living conditions, flee homeland as refugees and asylees,
2. Meet someone in school whose ethnicity differs from you and spend a week with them, learn something about their family history and culture, teach them about yours and share it in class.
3. Choose an Asian American content creator and learn about their background.



CALL TO ACTION: (Video Timecode 8:49)

VOCABULARY/LIST OF TERMS:

Dispel
Bystander
Social justice
Systemic Racism

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. What are the four suggested ways to promote unity and make America stronger? Which do you think is most important and why?
2. What is an example of an activity you could do for each of the four suggested actions?

PROJECT/SHARE:

1. Devise a method to challenge yourself/your group to engage in one of the four suggested paths towards unity. (Or create your own method.) What did you choose to do and why? Did the result surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Many people do not wish to discriminate against others, what might be some reasons they inadvertently do? What ideas/actions can you suggest that would lessen the likelihood of future discriminatory acts?
3. If you have been discriminated against and you could speak to the offender, what would you explain about yourself to them? What would you ask them? What would you do if you saw someone being discriminated against?
4. Come up with a "Do's and Don'ts" list to outline actionable items based on the four suggested paths. What may be one simple suggestion you may give to your classmates or family members that can help to undercut racism and discriminations?