



Lesson Guide

Exclusion: the shared Asian American Experience

Vocabulary List

1. **Alien:** residents of a country who is not a citizen
2. **Assimilation:** the process by which immigrants take on the dominant culture of the host society and start to resemble other members of the host society
3. **Asylum:** a form of protection for individual who face persecution and human rights violation in their home country to stay in the United States
4. **Benevolent society:** an organization with the goal of enhancing the wellbeing of others such as through charitable aid
5. **Birthright citizenship:** individuals born within the United States or its territories are granted citizenship and have rights associated with this citizenship
6. **Colonization:** the practice by which European nations conquered, established foreign rule over another nation, and exploited its people for purposes of profiting from its resources and economy
7. **Discrimination:** negative behavior toward or unfair treatment of others based on their social group membership (e.g., race, gender)
8. **Evacuation:** removal of people from an area
9. **Exclusion:** the act of separating and marginalizing a group of people from society
10. **Immigration:** the movement of people from their home country to another country
11. **Incarceration:** the state of being confined in prison
12. **Internment:** legal confinement of enemy aliens
13. **Naturalization:** the process through which permanent resident who were born outside of the United States become U.S. citizen
14. **Refugee:** a person who fled their country due to war, persecution, or human rights violations
15. **Sojourner:** a person who resides in a country temporarily
16. **Unification:** the process by which two or more countries become united

Suggested Discussion Topics

1. How does Wong Kim Ark's flagship case contribute to the citizenship rights of all racial and ethnic groups? What are other lawsuits brought by Asian Americans that have important consequences for civil rights?

2. The incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II forcibly removed them from their homes to incarceration camps. What does reparation look like and what do you think is needed to address the harm that has been done by the past government?
3. Asian Americans have continuously faced stereotypes and discrimination such as the yellow peril and are perceived as perpetual foreigners. How are these stereotypes linked to hate crimes against Asian Americans? How can the narratives be changed so that Asian Americans feel included in their home country?
4. The Chinese Exclusion Act is one example of systemic racism. What are other examples of inequalities embedded within our social structures that continue to lead to the unfair and unjust treatment of Asian Americans and other marginalized group members?

Suggested Activities

1. In addition to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, research other examples in U.S. history where Asian Americans were excluded and taken away their rights.
2. Throughout history, ethnic outgroups including Asian immigrants were perceived to be associated with the disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has similarly increased discrimination against people of Asian descent. Explore ways that you can take action against racism such as taking [bystander intervention training](#).
3. To understand the lived experiences of Asian Americans who are immigrants, conduct an interview (this can be an informal talk) with an Asian American immigrant and write a reflection on how this experience has impacted your perspective of Asian American identity.
4. Conduct a case study on the grape strike led by Larry Itliong and other Filipino farmworkers. Compare and contrast this with strikes that were led by Cesar Chavez and other Mexican workers. Examine the strategies used by both groups to fight for civil rights and how the two groups joined forces to become the United Farm Workers (UFW).