

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Month Celebrated Every May

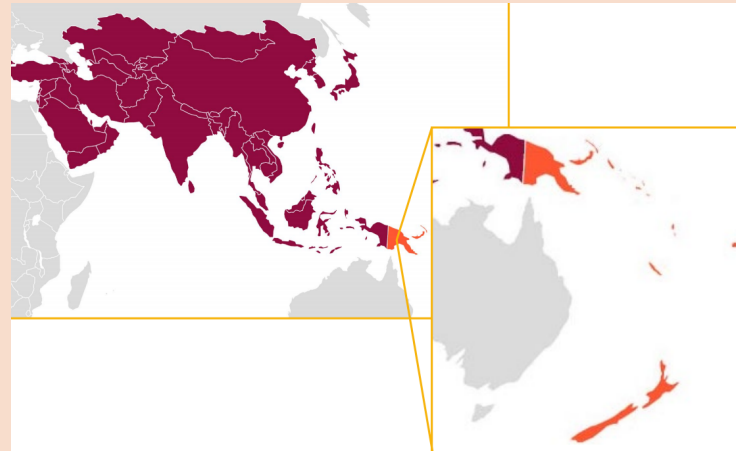


Some Background on the Month

From starting out as only a week long observance in 1978 to finally being recognized by congress as a month long celebration in 1990, Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is recognized every May in the U.S. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843; and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, built primarily by Chinese immigrants on May 10, 1869.

Who is Asian American or Pacific Islander?

- In 2020, over **24 million Americans**, identified as Asian & **1.6 million Americans** identified as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.
- The Census defines **Asian Americans** as those with origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, and **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)** as those within the U.S. jurisdictions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.



Some More AAPI | API Facts & Stats

1. Depending on who you ask, some folks prefer not to identify with the generalized term AAPI/API. Specifically, NHOPI may prefer to be distinguished from Asian Americans. This can allow for the separation and individualization of culture, language, and more.
2. There were approximately 2,800 acts of hate and bias targeting Asian Americans since the national emergence of COVID-19 in March 2020.
3. Lei Day is celebrated on May 1st & is a Hawaiian celebration of making, giving, and wearing leis.



Resources

- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (<https://tinyurl.com/2p8748by>)
- History - Transcontinental Railroad (<https://tinyurl.com/yjrk62yw>)
- United States Census (<https://tinyurl.com/46s298p2>)
- API Identities & Diversity Factsheet (<https://tinyurl.com/4vfd4hk7>)
- Stop AAPI Hate (<https://stopaapihate.org/>)

