

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Officially, May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia.

Asian Pacific and Asian Americans of all ethnicities and languages come together to celebrate their heritage through many activities such as dancing, sharing traditional meals, observing, and appreciating their rich history.

Many more diverse beliefs and practices come with the already diversified Asian American community. Although there are so many different religions, traditions, and practices, all Asian Americans share the same idea of helping one another adjust to living in the U.S. and all the problems and affairs that come along with it. From everyday tasks, like asking for directions and ordering food, to more difficult situations like financial advice or finding housing; Asian Americans have a tough time adjusting to American lifestyle, especially if they were not born here, learning the language.

As a federal law, APA Heritage Month is observed throughout the country. Many federal departments and agencies host official observances during the month of May. Such events host important speakers, cultural performances, traditional foods, etc. Across the nation, local Asian Pacific American organizations host their own events to celebrate the month. But the true celebration begins with the individual.

### Did you know?

The majority of the workers who laid the transcontinental railroad tracks were Chinese immigrants.

18.9 million is the estimated number of U.S. residents in 2011 who said they were Asian or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised 5.6 percent of the total population.

1.5 million is the number of businesses owned by Asian-Americans in 2007, up 40 percent from 2002.

50.5% is the percentage of Asians, age 25 and older, who have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the country and this compares with 28 percent for all Americans 25 and older.

The Missouri History Museum has an event to explore the history of Asian Pacific Americans on May 04, 2017

### Sources:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. From May 04, 2017. <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

Asian Nations Org. May 04, 2017  
<http://www.asian-nation.org/14-statistics.shtml>

Asian Nations Org. May 04, 2017  
<http://www.asian-nation.org/heritage.shtml>

DiversityInc Best Practices. May 05, 2017  
<http://bestpractices.diversityinc.com/>

