




# CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS (AAPI) HERITAGE

NAF celebrates diversity across the network and invites you to honor the 23 million Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast, and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Since culture is vibrant year-round, NAF encourages the network to expand their learning about the AAPI community beyond May.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**   
HOW DOES CELEBRATING AAPI HERITAGE MONTH ADVANCE CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING?

Throughout this Expedition, you will **LEAD YOUR LEARNING** by fully engaging with the resources and activities. You will be asked to -



- **REFLECT** about your skills, learning goals, and purpose
- **STRETCH** your knowledge and skills through active learning
- **INNOVATE** and iterate solutions for real-world challenges
- **SHOWCASE** your innovations and learning in a dynamic way

We encourage you to utilize our [Expeditions Idea Book](#) as you navigate this Expedition as a resource and space to get your creativity flowing, organize your ideas and research, and share your innovations and reflections.

## REFLECT

*Think deeply about your skill sets, learning goals, and purpose.*

Ask yourself and reflect on the following questions; consider your responses before continuing.

- What are the local initiatives celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month, and what will be their impact? Are there new and exciting initiatives you identified that will have a long-term impact on this community?
- How do AAPI communities express their identity, and why does it matter?
- What would be the impact if more Asian Americans [moved into leadership roles in the corporate world?](#)



Expand your knowledge and Future Ready skills through active learning.

- Learn about high schoolers' petition to [add more Asian American and Pacific Islander history](#) to the College Board's U.S. History curriculum.
- Review the history of [AAPI Heritage Month](#).
- Consider: [Are Indians also Asian American?](#)
- Analyze [data](#) about Asian-American demographics. What can you infer from this data?
- Consider the fallacy that [Asians are perpetual foreigners in America](#), then investigate:
  1. [How the Filipinos came to North America](#)
  2. [The California Gold Rush in the 1850s](#)
  3. [The Chinese Exclusion Act](#)

## CELEBRATING CHANGE MAKERS: PAST & PRESENT

### [Kalpana Chawla](#)

*an Indian-born astronaut and mechanical engineer who was the first woman of Indian origin to go to space.*



### [Neil DeGuia](#)

*the Complex General Manager - Canopy / Hilton Garden Inn Chicago Central Loop at Aimbridge Hospitality*



### [Katrina Lake](#)

*founder and former CEO of Stitch Fix, a fashion-based subscription service.*



### [Navya Prakash](#)

*has worked as software engineer, computer science instructor and now works for Microsoft.*



### [Vivien Chen](#)

*founder & CEO of Rise, a company that connects women and diverse candidates to top companies and careers.*





## INNOVATE

Create solutions for problems you're passionate about. Choose one of the options below:

Choice 1: Design a campaign to elevate Asian American and Pacific Islanders contributions to society.

Choice 2: Identify a related research topic. You may want to collect first hand data. Design a way to share your the topic and your findings such as a video, flyer or social media post.



*Steven Shih Chen, a Taiwanese & American entrepreneur, was one of the founders of the YouTube.com domain, a now multi-billion-dollar video-sharing platform.*

Choice 3: Discuss your choice of a project dealing with AAPI issues with your educator, get approval and innovate!



## SHOWCASE

Share your learning with the world in one (or more) of these ways:

Choice 1: Create, code, or build a simple webpage to highlight your innovation, project, and learning journey. Consider bulb digital portfolios, Replit, GitHub, Google Sites, or Wix. Once it's developed, present it to an audience, and solicit feedback.

Choice 2: Create a blog, vlog, or social media campaign (LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.) to highlight your innovation, project, and learning journey. Feel free to tag @nafcarreracads



*Jen Rubio, Co-Founder and Chief Brand Officer of Away developed her company after an embarrassing experience when her luggage broke and all her clothing spilled out. Jen says, "my passions lie in the intersection of commerce and emerging technology and creating meaningful, integrated experiences between people and brands."*

Choice 3: Pretend your audience is a group of investors. Pitch your innovation to them, sharing what you learned in the process. Allow for a Q&A, then solicit feedback on the quality of your project and/or pitch.