

# AAPI Heritage Month

# BUILDING AMERICA



## READING COMPREHENSION

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SEARCH SERVICE

### BUILDING AMERICA

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have played a significant role in shaping the history and landscape of America. Their contributions date back to the 1700s, but many began immigrating to the United States after World War II from countries such as China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. Chinese immigrants built some of the first major infrastructure projects, including roads and the transcontinental railroad. Japanese immigrants worked in agriculture and fishing, while others became leaders in business and technology.

**BUILDING THE RAILROADS**  
One of the most notable contributions of Asian communities to American infrastructure was their involvement in building the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1800s. Thousands of Chinese immigrants faced dangerous conditions to lay tracks across the western United States connecting the East and West Coasts for the first time. Their hard work and determination were instrumental in completing this monumental engineering project, which facilitated cross-continent commerce in the country.

**FARMING AND AGRICULTURE**  
Asian American farmers, AAPIs, and agricultural contributions to agriculture, particularly in the West. Immigrants, for example, played a crucial role in the dairy industry in California, cultivating crops like rice. These migrant workers have made valuable contributions, particularly in rural areas of California, where

**AMERICA**  
What is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month?

**Chinese Immigrants**  
When did Chinese immigrants begin arriving in the United States?

READING COMPREHENSION  
MCQ'S  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWER KEY

## READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

# BUILDING AMERICA

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have played a significant role in shaping the history and landscape of America. Their contributions date back to the 17th century when immigrants from countries such as China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines arrived in search of new opportunities. Many of these early immigrants faced hardships and discrimination but persevered to build a better life for themselves and future generations.



### BUILDING THE RAILROADS

One of the most notable contributions of AAPI communities to America's development was their involvement in building the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s. Thousands of Chinese immigrants labored under harsh conditions to lay tracks across the western United States, connecting the East and West coasts for the first time. Their hard work and determination were instrumental in completing this monumental project, which transformed transportation and commerce in the country.

### FARMING AND AGRICULTURE

In addition to railroad construction, AAPI immigrants also made significant contributions to agriculture, particularly in the western states. Japanese immigrants, for example, played a crucial role in developing the agricultural industry in California, cultivating crops such as rice, fruits, and vegetables. Filipino migrant workers likewise made valuable contributions to the agricultural sector, particularly in Hawaii and California, where they worked on plantations and farms.

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### MILITARY SERVICE

Throughout American history, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have bravely served in the U.S. military, defending their country and fighting for freedom and justice. During World War II, despite facing discrimination and harassment, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in the armed forces, forming the renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team, one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history. Similarly, Filipino Americans played a crucial role in this war effort, serving in various capacities and making sacrifices for their adopted homeland.

### ADVANCEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In more recent times, AAPI individuals have made significant contributions to America's scientific and technological advancements. From pioneering research in fields such as medicine, engineering, and computer science to founding successful tech companies, AAPI professionals have left their mark on various industries. Their innovative ideas, hard work, and ingenuity have helped drive America's progress and competitiveness on the global stage.



### CONCLUSION

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made indelible contributions to the building and shaping of America throughout its history. From laboring on the railroads to serving in the military, from cultivating the land to driving innovation and entrepreneurship, AAPI communities have played a vital role in the country's growth and prosperity. As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, let us recognize and honor the enduring legacy of AAPI individuals in building America into the diverse and vibrant nation it is today.

## READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W  
VERSIONS INCLUDED

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What significant project did Chinese immigrants contribute to in the 1800's?
2. How did Japanese immigrants benefit from agriculture?
3. What was the role of Asian World War II?
4. In what fields have API's made contributions in recent years?
5. What is the main message of the passage?

**ANSWER KEY**

MCQ'S

1. (c) New century
2. (c) Labor movement
3. (b) Japanese immigrants
4. (b) World War II
5. (d) They volunteered to serve in the armed forces and played a crucial role in the war effort.
6. (c) Science and technology
7. (c) Pioneering research in medicine, engineering, and computer science
8. (d) API's contributions to science, technology and development
9. (c) API's cultural diversity and contributions
10. (d) API's immigrant culture helped to drive America's growth and prosperity

**SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Using the Transcontinental Railroad
2. They played a crucial role in developing the agricultural industry
3. They formed the renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team
4. Science and technology
5. API's contributions have played a vital role in America's growth and prosperity

6. In which fields have API's made significant contributions in recent years?
  - (a) Agriculture and farming
  - (b) Science and technology
  - (c) Politics and law

7. What is one notable example of API's contributing to technological advances?
  - (a) Developing the printing press
  - (b) Inventing the telephone
  - (c) Pioneering research in medicine, engineering, and computer science
  - (d) Designing the first computers

8. What is the main focus of the passage?
  - (a) API's cultural traditions
  - (b) API's political activism
  - (c) API's contributions to American society
  - (d) API's culture and history of service

9. According to the passage, what is one American American and Pacific Islander's contribution?
  - (a) American Independence
  - (b) API's economic independence
  - (c) API's culture, diversity and contributions
  - (d) Religious freedom of API's communities

10. What is the message conveyed in the passage?
  - (a) API's contributions are important in a country that has adopted a war economy.
  - (b) Chinese people are great people.
  - (c) API's contributions and contributions are often overlooked and undervalued.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# BUILDING AMERICA

**DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.**

1. Which century saw the arrival of Asian American and Pacific Islander Immigrants to America?

- (a) 17th century
- (b) 18th century
- (c) 19th century
- (d) 20th century

2. What monumental project did Chinese immigrants contribute to in the 1800's?

- (a) Building the Empire State Building
- (b) Constructing the Golden Gate Bridge
- (c) Laying the Transcontinental Railroad
- (d) Developing the Panama Canal

3. Which group of immigrants played a crucial role in developing the agricultural industry in California?

- (a) Chinese immigrants
- (b) Japanese immigrants
- (c) Korean immigrants
- (d) Filipino immigrants

4. During which war did Japanese Americans form the renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team?

- (a) World War I
- (b) World War II
- (c) Korean War
- (d) Vietnam War

5. What significant contributions did Filipino Americans make during World War II?

- (a) They served as nurses in military hospitals.
- (b) They worked as translators for the allied forces.
- (c) They formed the "Zapadores" Army.
- (d) They volunteered to serve in the armed forces and played a crucial role in the war effort.

**ANSWER KEY INCLUDED****10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS**

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**PowerPoint**