

## AAPI Heritage Month Project-Based Lesson Plan (Grades 7-12)

**Objective:** The objective of this interdisciplinary lesson plan is to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month by exploring the diverse cultures, histories, innovations, and contributions of AANHPI communities. Through a STREAMSS (Science, Technology, Reading-to-Research, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies) approach, students will engage in comprehensive interdisciplinary learning experiences that promote cultural understanding, critical thinking, empathy, collaboration, and research skills.

Suitable for grades 7–12, this project-based lesson plan encourages students to explore the historical experiences, environmental stewardship, scientific achievements, artistic traditions, technological innovations, and civic contributions of AANHPI communities while strengthening Reading-to-Research skills through inquiry, analysis, and reflection.

### Round Table

#### Opening Question:

- ❖ Why is it important to celebrate and preserve cultural heritage?
- ❖ How have Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities contributed to science, technology, arts, environmental stewardship, and civic society?
- ❖ How can understanding diverse histories and experiences strengthen empathy and collaboration within communities?
- ❖ What role do research, storytelling, and education play in preserving cultural identity?
- ❖ **Purpose:** Introduce students to the histories, cultures, innovations, stewardship practices, and societal contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. Through STREAMSS interdisciplinary discussion, students explore how cultural understanding, collaboration, inquiry, and research strengthen communities while promoting empathy, inclusivity, and critical thinking.

## Reflection Point

### ❖ Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn about AANHPI communities that expanded your understanding of culture or history?
- Why is representation important within education, media, leadership, and historical narratives?
- How can interdisciplinary learning help us better understand the experiences and contributions of diverse communities?
- In what ways can cultural appreciation strengthen local and global communities?

## Key Components

### **Science (S): Scientific Discoveries, Environmental Stewardship, and AANHPI Innovations**

#### Topics:

- ❖ Objective: Understand the scientific contributions, environmental stewardship practices, and innovations developed by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in fields such as biology, medicine, chemistry, environmental science, and sustainability.
- ❖ Activity: Research scientific discoveries and environmental practices connected to AANHPI scientists and communities.

### **Technology (T): Technological Innovations and AANHPI Contributions**

#### Topics:

- ❖ Activity: Understand technological advancements and innovations influenced or developed by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander inventors, engineers, and technology leaders.
- ❖ Project: Investigate technological contributions in areas such as

	<p>medicine, transportation, engineering, communications, and digital media. Analyze how technology can support cultural preservation, education, and innovation within diverse communities.</p>
<p><b>Reading-to-Research (T): Historical Narratives and Cultural Research</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Activity: Understand literacy, inquiry, and analytical skills through the exploration of AANHPI histories, literature, oral traditions, biographies, and cultural narratives.</li> <li>❖ Project: Analyze biographies, speeches, articles, oral histories, poetry, and historical accounts connected to AANHPI experiences. Conduct interdisciplinary research projects using credible sources and reflective analysis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Engineering (E): Engineering Challenges and Solutions in AAPI Communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Activity: Study engineering achievements and challenges faced by AAPI (including West and Southeast Asian) communities, such as infrastructure development and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>❖ Project: Develop proposals for engineering projects that address the needs and challenges of AAPI communities, integrating principles of sustainability and social responsibility.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Arts (A): Artistic Expression and AAPI Identity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Activity: Examine artistic expressions of AAPI (including West and Southeast Asian communities) identity through visual arts, music, literature, and performing arts.</li> <li>❖ Project: Create original artworks, performances, or literary works inspired by AAPI themes and experiences, fostering creativity and self-expression.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Math (M): Mathematical Applications and AAPI Contributions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Activity: Analyze mathematical concepts and applications in AAPI (including West and Southeast Asian communities) achievements, such as architecture, economics, and data science.</li> <li>❖ Project: Solve mathematical problems or create mathematical models inspired by AAPI mathematicians, engineers, and scientists, emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Studies (SS): Cultural Diversity and Historical Context of AAPI Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Activity: Explore the history of Asian American (including West and Southeast Asian communities) and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Research immigration patterns, cultural traditions, and contributions to American society.</li> <li>❖ Project: Research and create multimedia presentations or exhibits highlighting significant figures, events, and landmarks in AAPI history and culture.</li> </ul>

## Project

### Progress Map for Project Delivery

- ❖ **Week 1: Project Proposal**
  - Students create a written proposal outlining the focus of their project and community benefit.
- ❖ **Week 2: Project Approval and Community Engagement Plan**
  - Students submit their proposals and outline how their work will positively impact the community, ensuring alignment with the project's learning objectives and addressing real-world needs.
- ❖ **Week 3: Research Progress Update**
  - Students conduct research and gather data related to their chosen focus area.
- ❖ **Week 4: Draft of Final Project**
  - Students compile their findings into a draft report or presentation.
- ❖ **Week 5: Final Project Refinement and Approval for Implementation**
  - Final feedback is provided, and the projects are presented at a community event involving local leaders and stakeholders.

<p><b>Science (S): Scientific Discoveries, Environmental Stewardship, and AANHPI Innovations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local environmental organization, science museum, aquarium, cultural center, or sustainability agency to research Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander environmental stewardship practices and develop a community sustainability initiative, conservation awareness campaign, or environmental education workshop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technology (T): Technological Innovations and Cultural Preservation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local technology company to create educational technology tool highlighting innovations and contributions made by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander inventors, scientists, and engineers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research (R) : Historical Narratives and Cultural Research</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local university, historical society, library, cultural organization, or oral history project to conduct interdisciplinary research on AANHPI immigration experiences, cultural traditions, influential leaders, or historical events. Develop a research publication that promotes historical awareness, cultural understanding, and intergenerational learning within the community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Engineering (E): Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Community Design</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a city planning office, engineering organization, architecture firm, environmental agency, or community development group to design sustainable infrastructure concepts inspired by Asian American, Native</li> </ul>

	<p>Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.</p>
<p><b>Arts (A): Artistic Expression and Cultural Identity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local arts organization to create a public awareness campaign inspired by AANHPI traditions, storytelling, and cultural identity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics (M): Data Analysis and Community Applications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local university, research organization, business association, or community advocacy group to analyze demographic trends, migration patterns, environmental statistics, or educational data connected to AANHPI communities for local support while supporting informed decision-making and public awareness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Studies (SS): Cultural Diversity, History, and Civic Leadership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Project Example:</b> Partner with a local government office, nonprofit organization, museum, cultural advocacy group, or civic engagement organization to create an interactive campaign exploring the historical experiences, leadership, activism, and societal contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.</li> </ul>

## Community Involvement

- ❖ **Objective:** Partner with local orgs and community leaders to connect STREAMSS classroom learning with cultural awareness, historical preservation, environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and interdisciplinary community impact.
- ❖ **Activity:** Invite community partners to participate in a cultural heritage showcase where students display interdisciplinary STREAMSS projects highlighting the histories, innovations, artistic traditions, environmental practices, and societal contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. Encourage collaborative discussions on how cultural understanding, representation, and community engagement can strengthen communities and preserve cultural heritage.

## Assessment

- ❖ **Objective:** Evaluate projects based on interdisciplinary research, creativity, collaboration, communication, cultural understanding, historical analysis, and community impact.
- ❖ **Methods:** Projects will be assessed through teacher, peer, and community evaluations, including participation in a cultural heritage display where students set up completed projects, research findings, artistic works, sustainability proposals, multimedia exhibits, or civic awareness campaigns connected to AANHPI communities and experiences.

## Feedback Loop

- ❖ **Activity:** Facilitate reflection on how interdisciplinary learning, cultural understanding, historical awareness, and community engagement can strengthen empathy, representation, inclusion, and collaboration within local and global communities.
- ❖ **Journal Prompt:** *“How can learning about the histories, innovations, traditions, and contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities strengthen cultural understanding, representation, and positive change within society?”*

## Resume Integration

- ❖ Students can list their project experience under:
  - interdisciplinary research and analysis
  - cultural competency and community engagement
  - collaboration with community partners
  - public speaking and presentations
  - historical and cultural research
  - multimedia communication and storytelling
  - critical thinking and problem-solving
  - STREAMSS project-based learning experiences

For more 8-Step Project-Based Lesson Plans check out our website at [www.steamscentral.org](http://www.steamscentral.org)

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