

ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURE



➤ **CULTURE:**

The attitudes, values, customs, and behavior patterns that characterize a social group.

➤ **ETHNICITY:**

A person's ancestry; the way individuals identify themselves with the nation from which they or their ancestors came.

**WHAT IS ASIAN AMERICAN
"CULTURE" OR "ETHNICITY"?**

Ethnicity

Who are Asian Americans?

East, Southeast, and South Asia as opposed to those of Southwest Asia such as Arabs, Turks, Iranians, and Kurds who are more usually designated *Middle or Near Easterners*. Indonesians and Filipinos are properly termed *Asian*, since their island groups are considered part of the Asian continent, but not the Melanesians, Micronesians, and Polynesians of the central and southern Pacific, who are now often referred to collectively as *Pacific Islanders*.

Who are Asian Americans?

ASIA



Who are Asian Americans?

❖ **North-East Asia**

Bhutan	Nepal
China	North Korea
Japan	South Korea
Korea	Taiwan
Mongolia	Vietnam



Who are Asian Americans?

❖ **South-East Asia**

Brunei	Indonesia
Burma	Laos
Cambodia	Malaysia
East Timor	Philippines
Hmong	Singapore
	Thailand



History

- Many worked on creating our Railroad System as well as, labored our agriculture and mining.
- The 1965 Immigration Act
 - Numerous of immigrants from Asia, Mexico, Latin America, and other non-western nationals entering the U.S. In the process, these new arrivals, particular from Asia, have transformed the demographic, economic, and cultural characteristics of many urban areas, the larger Asian American community, and mainstream American society in general.

History

- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
 - A U.S. federal law, which allowed the U.S. to suspend immigration, and Congress subsequently acted quickly to implement the suspension of Chinese immigration. The act excluded new immigration of Chinese laborers from immigrating to the U.S. for 10 years.
- Geary Act (1892)
 - It was an extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which added new requirements. All Chinese residents in the U.S. to carry a resident permit. Failure would be deportation or one (1) year of hard labor. In addition, they were not allowed to bear witness in court or receive bail in proceeding.

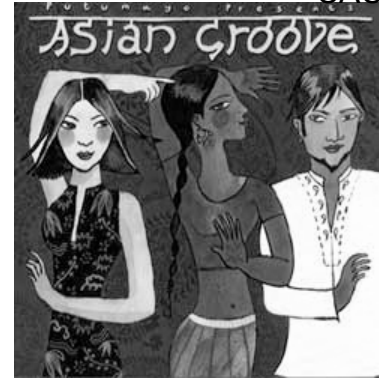
Culture

- **Language**

- Asia is home to several language families and many language isolates. Most Asian countries have more than one language that is natively spoken. For instance, according to Ethnologue, more than 600 languages are spoken in Indonesia, more than 415 languages spoken in India, and more than 100 are spoken in the Philippines. Korea, however, is home to only one language, albeit one with high dialectal diversity.

Culture

- **Music and Dance**



- In Southeast Asia, dance is an integral part of the culture; the styles of dance vary from island to island. There are courtly dances, found, for example, wherever there are Rajahs and princesses. There are also dances of celebration.
- Asian music actually is a vague, loose term that encompasses numerous different musical styles originating from just as numerous Asian cultures.
 - Asian Jazz
 - Buddhist Music
 - Bhangra

Culture

• **Fighting Style**



- China's martial art is known as *kung-fu*, which refers to the “hard work.” The proper term for Chinese martial arts is *wushu*.
- Budda monks create this technique of fighting for self protection.
- There are 2 types internal and external.
 - External Chinese martial arts use athletic force, combined with speed and strength to create power.
 - Internal martial arts employ slow, graceful movements and use what the Chinese call *chou jing*, or 'wise force', to conquer an adversary.

Culture

- **Writing Style**

- Alphabets are phonetic systems where the individual sounds of the language are represented with letters. Whereas, Chinese writing, on the other hand, developed as a system where the symbols represent concepts.
- Hanzi (hahn-tzuh) is Chinese for "Chinese (han) characters (zi)." Hanzi originated in China approximately 4000 years ago, and over 50,000 Hanzi have been used and cataloged. Currently, Chinese writing uses about 6000 of these characters.
- Three distinct forms or styles of hanzi exist: traditional, simplified, and handwriting style

Culture

- **Writing Style**

- Unlike English and Chinese, which use one character set each, written Japanese intermixes three different types of characters or symbols: *kanji*, *hiragana*, and *katakana*.
- Kanji are very close to the Chinese Hanzi and share many identical characters, although they are pronounced differently.
- Hiragana character represents a specific sound or combination of sounds used in Japanese.
- Katakana (kah-tah-kah-nah) is a separate phonetic syllabary somewhat analogous to italics in English

Culture

- **Writing Style**

Basic Hiragana Chart

w	r	y	h	m	n	t	s	k	-	
わ	ら	や	は	ま	な	た	さ	か	あ	- a
	り		ひ	み	に	ち	し	き	い	- i
	る	ゆ	ふ	む	ぬ	つ	す	く	う	- u
	れ		へ	め	ね	て	せ	け	え	- e
	を	ろ	よ	ほ	も	の	と	そ	こ	お - o

Culture

- **Writing Style**

Basic Katakana Chart

w	r	y	h	m	n	t	s	k	-	
ワ	ラ	ヤ	ハ	マ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア	- a
	リ		ヒ	ミ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ	- i
	ル	ユ	フ	ム	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ	- u
	レ		ヘ	メ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ	- e
	ヲ	ロ	ヨ	ホ	モ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ - o

Culture

- **Writing Style**



Culture

- **Mythology and Folklore**

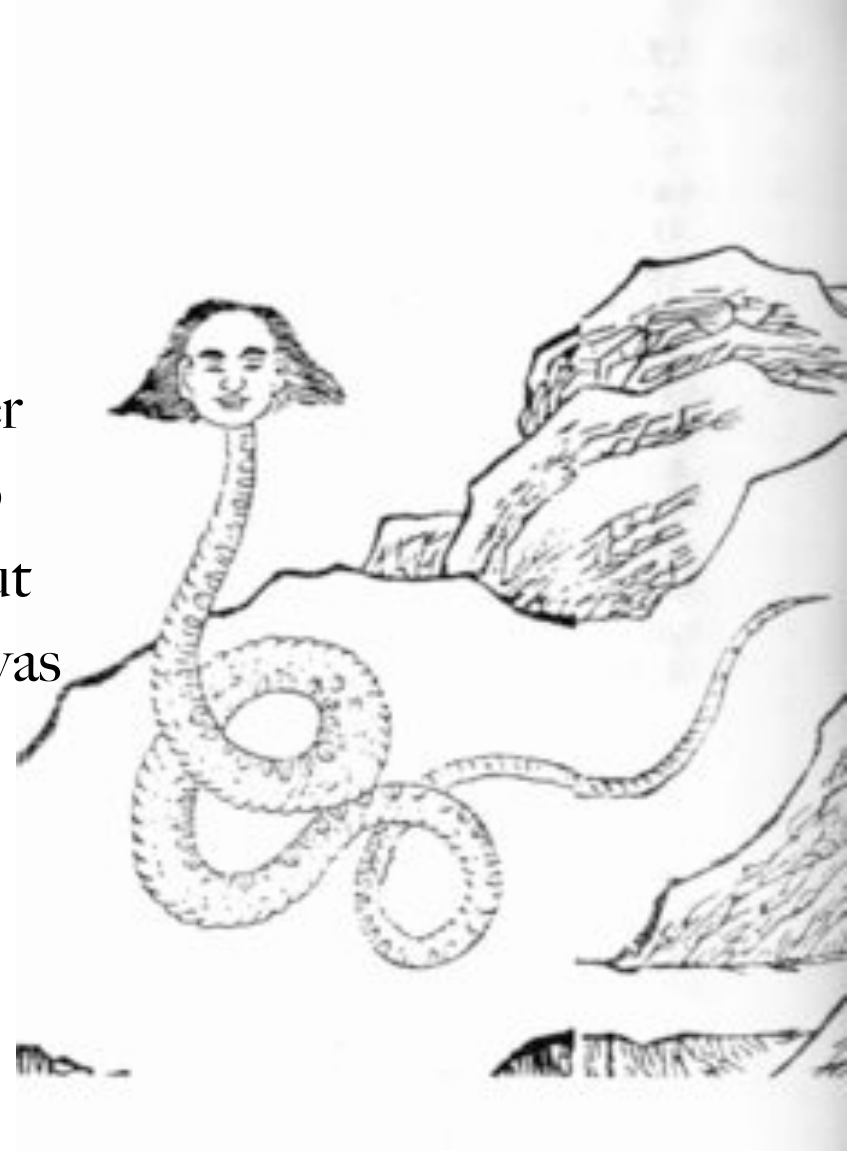
The Great Floods.
Hindu mythology tells about an avatar of *God Vishnu* in the form of a fish who warned *Manu* of a terrible flood.



Culture

- **Mythology and Folklore**

In ancient Chinese mythology *Shan Hai Jing*, the Chinese ruler Da Yu had to spend ten years to control a deluge which swept out most of the ancient China and was aided by the goddess Nuwawho literally "fixed" the "broken" sky through which huge rains were pouring.



Culture

- **Mythology and Folklore**

Japan has *Nekomatas*, cats with two tails and having magical powers.



Culture

- **Mythology and Folklore**

Balinese mythology
has child-eating
Rangdas.



Culture

- **Mythology and Folklore**

Hindu mythology have Pishachas haunting the cremation grounds to eat half-burnt human corpses, and Bhuts haunting the desolate places.

Family Values

- Family comes first.
- Incorporates extended family and forms basis for for social structure.
- Respect for age and authority - strong male tradition
- Confucianism - The study of early Chinese sage.
- Loyalty towards the family.
- Forgoing of personal freedom for the sake of society's stability and prosperity.
- The pursuit for academic and technological excellence
- Work ethic and thrift (cautious in spending) .

Rituals and Religion

- Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism originated in India (South Asia)
- Confucianism, Taoism, Zen Buddhism and Shinto came from mainly from China and Japan (East Asia)
- In the Philippines there are many who are Roman Catholic



Celebrations, Holidays and Traditions

- Asia has a variety of festivals and celebrations.
- In China:
 - Chinese New Year - Starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later.
 - Dragon Boat Festival - held on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendars.
- In Japan:
 - Japanese New Year - January 1st
 - The Emperor's Birthday - December 23rd

Celebrations, Holidays and Traditions

- In the Philippines, there is a very strong Spanish influence in their festivals, thus making the Philippines, distinctively occidental. Fiesta is the term used to refer to a festival. Most of these fiestas are celebrated in honor of a patron Saint. Some prime examples include Sinulog.
- It is held each year on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City to honor the Santo Niño (child Jesus).



Eating Habits

- In many parts of Asia, rice is a staple food, and it is mostly served steamed or as a porridge known as congee.
- China is the world largest producer and consumer of rice.
- The Japanese are very concerned about the visual appeal of the food and the "separateness" of the foods and tastes.
- Asian food preparation techniques include stir-frying, barbecuing, deep-frying, boiling, and steaming. All ingredients are carefully prepared (chopped, sliced, etc.) prior to starting the cooking process.

Teaching and Learning Implications

- Bowing is important, but most Asian-Americans will shake hands. Bowing is a gesture similar to waving.
- The elderly, children, and pregnant women are held in high esteem.
- Thai women breastfeed their children up to the age of two (2).
- New Korean mothers believe that eating seaweed soup for the first month of delivery helps cleanse their blood.
- Positive health factors related to diet include: low incidence of heart disease, bowel cancer and breast cancer.
- Major diet-related diseases or concerns include stomach cancer and lactose intolerance.

