



# Los Angeles Historical Cultural Centers

*Student Journal*

Transportation, Little Tokyo, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, Chinatown



# Lesson 1 – Transportation to/in Los Angeles



*Ships*



*Railroads*



*Streetcars*



*Cars*



*Metrolink*

## Transportation to/in Los Angeles Timeline

<b>Ships and wagons allow for trade.</b> 1500s – mid-1800s	1540	Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain, sends a second sea expedition up the Gulf of California where they enter the mouth of the Colorado River and become the first Europeans to stand on California soil.
	1542	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sails up the coast of California and lands at San Diego on September 28. He went on to discover the Catalina Islands, the sites of San Pedro, Santa Monica, and the Channel Islands.
	1769	San Diego De Alcalá, the first of 21 missions established by Father Junipero Serra, is founded. The missions extend along a 650-mile trail from San Diego to Sonoma.
	1775	Juan de Anza travels north from Mexico and establishes an inland trail between the missions called, El Camino Real. This would later become HWY 101.
	1770-1821	Spain forbids trading with any foreign ships. However, ships from Boston began to visit the Spanish towns and Missions along the upper and lower California coast looking to trade for otter and beaver pelts.
	1821	Mexico gains control of California and opens trade to the U.S., Russia, and England. Goods include cow hide, tallow, and longhorn horns.
	1825-1848	California receives an average of 25 trading ships per year (compared to only 2.5 ships per year under Spanish rule).
	1825-1920	Wagons pulled by ox and/or mule transport goods to places where oceans/ivers can't go.
<b>Railroads make connections.</b> mid-1800s – late-1800s	May 1869	Transcontinental railroad is completed and now connects San Francisco to Omaha. From there passengers could transfer to any eastbound train.
	Oct. 1869	Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad becomes Southern California's first railroad. It's 21-mile track connected the harbor with downtown.
	1870s	Stagecoaches and wagons provide transportation between inland towns.
	1873	David Waldron is authorized by the Los Angeles City Council to start a horse-drawn railroad track and begins the Main Street Railroad Company.
	1874	Judge Robert M. Widney begins a single-track horse car driven line which starts the beginning of public transit in Los Angeles.
	1876	Southern Pacific Rail completes the route from San Francisco to Los Angeles. This solidifies LA's claim as the "hub" of southern California.
	1883	City Railroad Company opens first line dedicated exclusively to public transit.
	1887	The first electric railcar (streetcar) opens on Pico Street.
<b>The automobile arrives.</b> 1900s – present	1897	The first "horseless carriage" appears in Los Angeles as J. Philip Erie and S.D. Sturgis attempt to drive from Los Angeles to San Bernardino.
	1895-1945	Street cars from the Los Angeles Railway (Yellow Cars) and Pacific Electric Railway (Red Cars) serve the suburbs by operating within a 6-mile radius of downtown.
	1920s	The number of automobiles increases dramatically.
	1928	Culver City and Santa Monica begin their own bus services.
	1939	Union Station is built as the "last great railroad station". City Council authorizes the demolition of Old Chinatown to allow for construction.
	1940	The first freeway opens from Pasadena to Los Angeles.
	1947	A formal, master plan for freeways is designed by City planners.
	1992	Metrolink connects rail service between five counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura.

## Transportation to/in Los Angeles

Southern Californians spend a lot of time traveling from one place to another. Over the past 200+ years of LA's existence, we've used various modes of transportation to get us where we are going.



### **El Camino Real**

During the late 1700s Father Junipero Serra was a Spanish monk who traveled north from Mexico building Catholic missions. The path he followed was called, *El Camino Real*, meaning The Royal Highway or The King's Highway. It connected the Catholic missions between Sonoma in the north and San Diego in the south. Now modern highways estimate the historic route.

Tradition says that the monks spread mustard seeds along El Camino Real, in order to mark the road with bright yellow mustard flowers. The modern El Camino Real was one of the first state highways in California. Since there was no standard road sign at the time, it was decided to place bells along the route. These iron bells hung on supports that looked like a shepherd's crook. The first of 450 bells was shown on August 15, 1906 at the Plaza Church in El Pueblo near Olvera Street in Los Angeles.



### **Ships**

Due to the distance, reaching California was difficult. Shipping became the best way to bring supplies, immigrants, and business to the area. The harbor in San Pedro (about 25 miles from downtown Los Angeles) had been used as a trading post by Spanish missionary monks from Mission San Gabriel since the 1760s. The monks would meet ships at the water's edge to receive the supplies from Spain. The first American trading ship to come to San Pedro was the Lelia Byrd, in 1805.

At that time, it was illegal to do business with any other country but Spain. However, trade with other countries thrived because Spain was too far away to enforce the law. In 1822, the new Mexican government lifted the Spanish rules on trade. That led to a rush of immigrants to southern California. These newcomers were looking for new lives and businesses. From 1825 to 1848 the average number of ships traveling to California increased to about 25 ships per year—a large increase from the average of 2.5 ships per year before then.



Ships after 1848 provided easy, cheap links among the coastal towns in California. Nearly all cargo to California came by sailing ship until the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. The sea route was more than 17,000 miles from the east coast of Europe around Cape Horn in South America. This route took about 200 days for a standard sailing ship.

### **The Railroad**

The railroad was one of Los Angeles' first modern links with the rest of the world. Up until now the ox-cart and wagon were used to bring goods and supplies from the ships to downtown. But, in 1869, Robert Widney connected the port to downtown with a railroad. This cut the cost of transporting goods and increased trade. Local merchants and farmers immediately benefitted from this form of transportation because

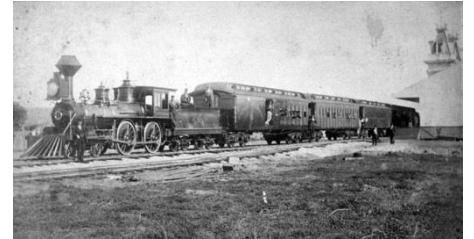


it was faster and cheaper to get their goods to the market. In just two years the total business at the San Pedro port more than doubled to 55,000 tons in 1871.



The growth of Los Angeles as a major city is mainly due to the construction of the railroad that connected it to the East. For about 100 years after the Spanish started El Pueblo, travel to the area was by ship or wagon. This was a long and often dangerous journey. In 1876, the Southern Pacific railroad company connected San Francisco to Los Angeles. The **transcontinental** railroad was now linked to the city and was accessible to the rest of the country. It quickly transformed from a small, isolated farming town into one of the world's biggest cities.

The city's strength grew when the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroad companies built railroads that directly linked it with the cities in the East. During the 1880s the population grew quickly as immigrants from across the country arrived by trains. These newcomers settled in Los Angeles and the surrounding area. The first railroads followed the traditional paths that had been created by the Native Americans and Mexican explorers. Several new towns and smaller cities grew up beside these routes as more and more people arrived. Some of those first towns are still around today and include: Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Claremont, Covina, Fullerton, Gardena, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, South Pasadena, Watts, and Whittier.



### From carts to streetcars

When early immigrants arrived in Los Angeles, they found a pueblo of dusty dirt roads laid out by the Spanish decades ago. Transportation was powered by animals including horses, mules, ox, donkeys, and even goats. With residents spread out across ranchos and farms, wealthy families and businesses needed a carriage or cart to haul themselves and their goods around town. They even used them to get to the beach!



The invention of the streetcar transformed Los Angeles. The streetcar was an electric version of the railroad trains. The first one was built on a part of Pico Street in 1887. These were a huge help to city developers because they allowed people to live farther and farther away from downtown Los Angeles. By 1911, Southern Pacific connected the entire streetcar network and named it the Pacific Electric Railway Company. Their streetcars were known as 'Red Cars'. At the same time, the Los Angeles Railway company ran a system of streetcars, known as the Yellow Cars.

For about 50 years the streetcar was the most popular form of transportation. There were more than 1,100 miles of tracks. They connected Newport Beach to the San Fernando Valley, and San Bernardino to Redondo Beach. By the 1920s Los Angeles had the best streetcar system in the country.



The streetcar system was a key tool in helping the spread of people in Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Streetcars allowed residents to travel to downtown as well as into the new **suburbs**. Streets were no more than six blocks from a station and the electric system

made it a cheaper way for people to travel. However, even with this great transportation system most businesses remained in and around the downtown area. Central Los Angeles didn't have an **urban** area for residents to live in, but instead became a spread-out city of neighborhoods. The streetcars allowed the growing population to combine an urban economy with a suburban housing community.

## Union Station

Los Angeles Union Station was built in 1939. It is the largest railroad station in the Western United States. This helped it get its nickname “the last of the great train stations”. In 1926, the residents of Los Angeles voted to build a station that would connect all the railroad lines into one **depot**. They chose to build over the top of the historic Plaza. But activist Christine Sterling argued the need to save the Plaza as part of the city's history. Instead, the location for the new depot was moved across the street. This new location was on top of where Chinatown was. The Chinese residents were forced to move, and the area was demolished. A brass line in the sidewalk at the station shows where the boundary was of this old neighborhood.



Union Station was designed by a father and son team by the name of John and Donald Parkinson. They created a new blend of Spanish Colonial, Mission Revival, and Art Deco architecture now called Mission Modern. The station was designed as an example of the California lifestyle and includes:



- a spacious ticket hall
- a 110-foot-long ticket counter made from American Black Walnut
- a huge waiting room with towering 40-foot windows
- massive art deco chandeliers
- inlaid marble floors
- hand painted mission tiles
- wide shaded patios
- towering palm trees
- a clock tower looming 100 feet above the city

The beautiful depot was completed with a cost of \$11 million (estimated in today's dollars at \$1.2 billion). It opened with an over-the-top, star-studded, three-day celebration. Around a half million people attended. Within just a few years of opening, Los Angeles Union Station became a busy 24-hour, seven-day-a-week depot. It had as many as 100 trains carrying tens of thousands of servicemen through the terminal every day during World War II. However, by the 1950's Americans liked cars and planes over trains and there were fewer passengers through the station.



## Motor vehicles

In 1897, a group of men in Los Angeles built what was most likely Southern California's first “horseless carriage”. The small gasoline-powered carriage was built by J. Philip Erie and S.D. Sturgis. They tested it on the city streets of Los Angeles in preparation for a trial run to San Bernardino. Unfortunately, due to mechanical problems, the car never made it. But nothing could stop the coming of the automobile age.



During the first 20 years of the 1900s more and more people started to own their own cars. This inspired the city to improve and pave local roads. The car and better roads allowed residents to be flexible about where they lived. Towns even further away from the city began to grow. This, along with the streetcar, helped the

increasing **sprawl** of Los Angeles. This spread-out style would come to define the city. From the 1920s onwards, car ownership increased at about 45,000 vehicles a year. The car had become the necessary form of transportation in Los Angeles.

### Freeways

As early as the 1930s, it became clear that the growing city of Los Angeles would need more than streetcars and regular city roads to simplify traffic. City planners began playing with the idea of a series of freeways that would link the surrounding areas. The first real Los Angeles highway was the Arroyo Seco Parkway. The \$6 million, 6.8-mile road followed "nature's river route" between Pasadena and Los Angeles. The landscaping and winding path



kept elements of a park path. But its tilted curves and signs directing slower traffic to the right lane signaled that a new type of highway had arrived. The first section opened on July 20, 1940, with no posted speed limit. The freeways now meant people could travel farther, faster, and easier than ever before. As a result, the streetcar system ended. The last red car ran in 1962. Two years later, the last yellow cars also ended.

Los Angeles' **dependence** on cars and freeways was a result of the area's widespread suburban sprawl. A master plan for freeways was introduced in 1947, and construction began in the 1950s. This network was the conclusion of all the transportation forms used in southern California: ships, wagons, railroads, and streetcars. Soon the freeway would completely define Los Angeles transportation. Even today, freeways control the transportation of goods and people. They serve as the main connection between the area's city, suburbs, and rural areas.

### Metrolink

By the late 1950s and early 1960s the streetcar tracks were finally removed. This left the freeway as the main form of transportation. If you didn't have a car the only public transit you could use was a bus. However, these were limited to local areas and were often stopped in traffic. There was a need to create a better transit system for Los Angeles and the surrounding area.



The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) started Metrolink in 1992. It is a **commuter** train system that serves many of the counties in southern California. Based in Union Station, Metrolink reduces traffic on the freeways and improves travel throughout Los Angeles. The creation of Metrolink has allowed for an alternative form of transportation that is better for the environment. Residents who live in the suburbs can now easily commute to jobs that are farther away from home. In 2019, nearly 40,000 people rode the Metrolink every day. Of those riders, close to 14,000 come from the San Bernardino and Riverside lines.

# Transportation to/in Los Angeles

Use close reading skills to write 2-3 notes for each important place and/or thing.



El Camino Real

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## Ships to Los Angeles

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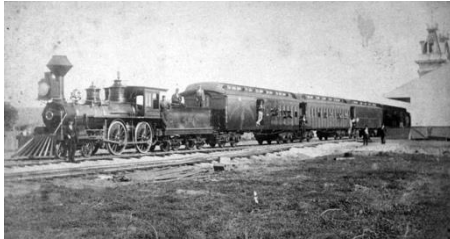


## Railroad:

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## Streetcars:

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Union Station:

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## Cars:

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Freeways:

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Metrolink:

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*Looking ahead...*

What do you <u><b>KNOW</b></u> about the history of Los Angeles	What do you <u><b>WANT TO KNOW</b></u> about the history of Los Angeles

## Transportation to/in Los Angeles Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary word with the correct definition.

\* commuter      \* dependence      \*depot      \*sprawl  
 \*suburban      \*transcontinental      \*urban

- 1.) a bus or train station \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) relying on another for help or to provide \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) having to do with a city or town \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) having to do with communities that are  
near a city \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) reaching across a continent \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) regular traveler going to or from work  
or school \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) spread out in an unorganized way \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 2 – El Pueblo de Los Angeles



Felipe De Neve



Queen of Angels Church



El Pueblo de Los Angeles



Father Junípero Serra



La Plaza



Olvera St.

## Spanish and Mexican American Timeline

<b>Exploration of California coast</b> mid-1500s – early-1600s	1540	Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain, sends a second sea expedition up the Gulf of California where they enter the mouth of the Colorado River and become the first Europeans to stand on California soil.
	1542	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sails up the coast of California and lands at San Diego on September 28. He went on to discover the Catalina Islands, the sites of San Pedro, Santa Monica, and the Channel Islands.
	1579	Sir Francis Drake lands north of San Francisco Bay and claimed the territory for England but the land is later taken by the Spanish.
	1602	Sebastian Vizcaíno, another Spaniard, explores the coast and Monterey Bay.
<b>Spanish Colonization</b> late-1700s - 1821	1769	San Diego De Alcalá, the first of 21 missions established by Father Junipero Serra, is founded. The missions extend along a 650-mile trail from San Diego to Sonoma.
	1770	Gaspar de Portolá sets up a military outpost in 1770 at Monterey.
	1771	A group of 11 Mexican families (total of 44 people) answer Governor Felipe de Neve's call to establish settlements in California. He names the settlement El Pueblo Sobre el Rio de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles del Río de Porciúncula. The name is shortened rather quickly to Los Angeles.
	1773	Colonization begins with the opening of an overland supply route across the southwestern deserts that links other Spanish settlements in what are the present-day states of Arizona and New Mexico to the coast
	1775	Juan de Anza travels north from Mexico and establishes an inland trail between the missions called, El Camino Real. This would later become HWY 101.
	1770-1821	Spain forbids trading with any foreign ships. However, ships from Boston began to visit the Spanish towns and Missions along the upper and lower California coast looking to trade for otter and beaver pelts.
<b>Mexican Rule</b> 1821 – 1848	1821	Mexico gains its independence from Spain, becoming California's new ruler. Under Mexican rule, large cattle ranches and farms called ranchos were settled in the southern California region. It officially opens trade to the U.S., Russia, and England. Goods include cow hide, tallow, and longhorn horns.
	1833-1840	Secularization of the missions was sought by Spanish Mexican settlers known as Californios. The mission ranches are parceled out to political favorites by the Mexican government.
	1841	History of Los Angeles' first census shows a population of 141.
	1845	Pío Pico becomes of last governor of California under Mexican rule.
	1846	The United States invades Mexico from the east, reaching San Diego in December. On July 9, 1846 Commander J. B. Montgomery raises the American Flag on Mexican soil.
	1847	After the battle of Rio San Gabriel, the United States takes control of Los Angeles. The treaty of Cahuenga is signed in the pass between Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.
	1848	California becomes a US territory with the <b>Treaty of Guadalupe</b> , which ended the Mexican American War on February 2.

## El Pueblo de Los Angeles



### **King Carlos III**

King Carlos III was the King of Spain from 1759 to 1788. He was the most active of the Spanish royalty. He helped build the capital city of Madrid by creating the *Paseo del Prado* (Prado Parkway), *Museo del Prado* (Prado Museum), and the *Real Jardín Botánica* (Royal Botanical Garden). He also sent the military to fight in Florida during the Seven Years War, but he lost the war. So, to regain control he helped the Americans win independence from Britain by giving them money and soldiers. Hoping to grow his power in North America he sent the military to California to help claim the **region** for Spain. Later, he encouraged the founding of Los Angeles as a *pueblo* (small town) in this new part of Spain.

In 1976, the Spanish government gave a statue of King Carlos III to the city Los Angeles. It is meant to celebrate the connection and history between the two countries. It is located in the Plaza in El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

### **Father Junípero Serra**

Father Junípero Serra was a Roman Catholic Spanish priest who founded the first nine of 21 Spanish missions in California from San Diego to San Francisco. Serra was born on the island of Majorca, which is part of the kingdom of Spain, on November 24, 1713. At the age of 16 he became a Monk in the Catholic church. As he was studying to become a priest he worked as a professor at the university and was often a guest preacher at nearby churches.



When Father Serra was 36 years old, he decided to become a missionary in the New World (North America). He traveled across the Atlantic Ocean and began preaching. In 1767, when he was 54 years old, he was put in charge of building the new Missions in *Las Californias*. He arrived in San Diego and built the Mission San Diego, the first of the 21 California missions.

Father Serra moved north and continued to build churches and Missions including the church in the Central Plaza of Los Angeles. The Missions were designed to bring the Catholic faith to the Native Americans. However, they were also there to teach people to work, understand and live a Spanish lifestyle, and support the power of King Carlos III in Spain. A statue honoring Father Serra is located across the street from the Central Plaza in El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

### **Felipe de Neve**

Felipe de Neve was the fourth governor of *Las Californias*. He was in charge of this settlement in New Spain, from 1775 to 1782. De Neve is the founder of Los Angeles, California as well as Santa Barbara and San Jose. He had asked for permission to start a pueblo near the Los Angeles River. His plan was approved, and he named the city "The Pueblo of Our Lady Queen of the Angels of the River of Porciúncula". It was later shortened to the city of Los Angeles, California.

During De Neve's time as governor, he argued with the missionaries' leader, Father Junípero Serra. He and the King of Spain wanted to run the cities without religion. De Neve also wanted to give back some of the land to the Native Americans and Spanish soldiers.





## Los Pobladores

When Governor Felipe de Neve, was assigned to create towns in *Las Californias* he gathered maps and building plans to design them. However, finding people to actually do the work of building and living in the new towns proved to be a hard task. De Neve finally found people in Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico who were willing to move and help him. The 44 people who came were called **Pobladores** (townspeople). There were 11 men, 11 women, and 22 children who built the town of Los Angeles. The official birthday of Los Angeles is September 4, 1781. To remember the *Pobladores* and their hard work, there is a plaque in the Plaza in El Pueblo de Los Angeles that lists all their names.

## El Pueblo de Los Angeles

The 44 *Pobladores* built the original pueblo to the southeast of the current **plaza** along the Los Angeles River in 1781. But in 1815 a flood washed away the original pueblo and it was rebuilt farther from the river at the location of the current plaza.



During its first 70 years, El Pueblo grew slowly from 44 in 1781 to 1,615 in 1850—an average of about 25 more people per year. During this time, the central Plaza was the Pueblo's business and social center. In 1850, shortly after California became part of the United States, Los Angeles was officially large enough to become a city. It experienced more growth in the 1880s and 1890s, as its **population** grew from 11,200 (1880) to 50,400 (1890) and then to 102,500 in 1900. As the city grew, the business and cultural center began to move away from the central Plaza.



## Queen of Angeles Church

At the time, El Pueblo was too far away from Mission San Gabriel for the priests to serve the local people. So they built a church in 1784 that acted like a “mini-mission”. A priest from San Gabriel would come for a couple days to preach and help the residents and then would return to the Mission. However, because El Pueblo wasn’t supposed to be a religious town the church eventually crumbled.

In 1814, a new church was built and then dedicated in December 1822. It’s new name was *La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles* (Our Lady Queen of Angeles Church). It is the only building at El Pueblo that is still used for its original purpose. Our Lady Queen of Angeles Catholic Church—known by locals as La Placita Church—is the oldest church in the city and today serves as an active parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

## Olvera Street

In November 1928, a young woman named Christine Sterling went for a walk at the historical Plaza. Halfway down the street, she saw the Avila Adobe with a notice from the City health officials. It said the building was going to be torn down. Sterling knew that the Avila Adobe was the oldest house in Los Angeles and was important to the history of the city. She also had a dream to create a "Mexican marketplace" near the Avila Adobe where people could learn about Los Angeles' Spanish and Mexican heritage. So, she began to raise money to repair all of it. Through her efforts many of the historic buildings around the Plaza were saved. She invited artists and craftspeople and opened Olvera Street on Easter Sunday in 1930. To this day, Olvera Street is a popular attraction for tourists and locals alike. It attracts over 2 million people a year.



## Avila Adobe

The Avila Adobe was built in 1818 by a well-known ranchero, Francisco José Avila. Avila was the mayor of Los Angeles in 1810. The home is built from **adobe** bricks. The walls are 3 feet thick which keeps the warm air inside during the winter and the cool air during the summer. When Mayor Avila died in 1832 his second wife continued to live in the house with her two daughters. Later, their daughter, Francisca, together with her husband and their nine children continued to live in the adobe until 1868.



From 1868 to the early 1920s, the adobe was rented and used as a restaurant, rooming house, or was often empty. The condition of the building worsened and in 1926 the City Health Department sent a notice for it to be torn down. This caught the attention of Christine Sterling, who began a public campaign to save the adobe. Today, the Avila Adobe is open to the public as a museum and is furnished as it might have appeared in the late 1840s. It attracts over 300,000 visitors every year.



## Plaza Firehouse

The Plaza Firehouse was the first building to be built by the City of Los Angeles for housing firefighting equipment and workers. The City Council hired architect William Boring to design the station. His plans followed a style that was popular in his home state of Illinois: the horses were kept inside the station. This was normal for places with a colder climate so the animals wouldn't freeze. A turntable in the floor made it unnecessary to back the horses in or out. Instead, the turntable would spin around and point them in the right direction. Construction began in May and was completed by mid-August. Firehouse No. 1 opened for business in September 1884.

Unfortunately, the station was built on land that did not belong to the City. They rented it from a local landowner. When the lease expired in 1897 the City had to leave the station. This ended the Plaza Firehouse's time as an active fire station. By this time the Plaza area had become the center of the City's original Chinatown. Over the next sixty years, the building was divided and used as a saloon, cheap boarding house, cigar store, and poolroom.

In 1953, the State of California joined with the City and County of Los Angeles to create El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument, which included the Plaza Firehouse. The State bought the building in 1954

and began the process of **restoring**, or repairing, the structure and installing firefighting equipment and memorabilia. It was the first building in the Monument to be restored.

### Sepulveda House

Señora Francisca Gallardo was given a house lot in 1847 between Main Street and Vine Street (later renamed Olvera Street). In 1881, she gave it to her niece Eloisa Martinez de Sepúlveda. Unfortunately, when Main Street was widened in 1886, she lost a large section of the front yard and a portion of the house. As a replacement, the next year she built a house that would be both a business and a home. The 22-room building had two large stores facing Main Street. On the second floor, there was a **boarding** house with fourteen bedrooms and a bathroom for renters. Señora Sepúlveda's private rooms were in the rear and separated from the stores by a breezeway.



Señora Sepúlveda died in 1903 and the family moved away in 1905. In the 1930s Christine Sterling invited entertainers and businesses to use the space on the growing Olvera Street. In the 1940s during World War II, a small shop was set up for the soldiers who were passing through Union Station. In 1953, the State of California took over the building as part of the restoration of El Pueblo.

### Pico House

The Pico House was built by the last Mexican governor of California, Pío Pico. It was the first 3-story building and the first grand hotel in Los Angeles. To raise money for the building and furniture, Pico and his brother sold most of their land in the San Fernando Valley. Construction began and the hotel opened for business on June 9, 1870.



The hotel was built in an Italian style with deep set round-arched windows and doors. The walls facing Main Street and the Plaza were made to look like blue granite. The hotel had 82 bedrooms and 21 parlors as well as separate bathrooms for men and women on each floor. The hotel is no longer open, but the ground floor is occasionally used for events.

### Religion

Catholicism is the oldest and largest branch of Christianity. There are more than 1 billion Catholics worldwide. The Catholic Church is led by the Pope. Like all Christians, Catholics base their beliefs on the Bible. For example, they believe that Jesus was the son of God. Catholics also believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a very important holy person. Unlike other Christians, Catholics pray to Mary. Catholics also pray to a number of saints. Saints are men and women who did great deeds to support the Catholic church. Catholics generally attend a service called Mass on Sunday mornings. Catholics also perform rituals, or special signs of their faith, called sacraments.



The history of the Catholic church begins with the start of Christianity about 2,000 years ago. After Jesus' death, Christianity spread throughout the Middle East and Europe. At that time the Roman Empire ruled these regions. At first the Romans had their own religion, and they often mistreated Christians. But in the years of the 300s the Romans made Christianity their main religion. The Roman Catholic Church was the most powerful organization in western Europe for hundreds of years. But in the 1500s people began to break away from Roman Catholicism to form new Christian churches. This movement was called the Protestant Reformation. Northern Europe became mainly Protestant, but southern Europe remained mostly Catholic.

# El Pueblo de Los Angeles

Use close reading skills to write 2-3 sentence summaries for each important person and/or place.

King Carlos III:



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Father Junípero Serra:



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Felipe de Neve:

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Los Pobladores:

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Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church:



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Olvera Street:



Avila Adobe:



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Fire House:

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Sepúlveda House:




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Pico House:




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Think, Pair, Share...

Draw something <b>YOU</b> have learned about El Pueblo?	Draw something your <b>PARTNER</b> has learned about El Pueblo?

## El Pueblo de Los Angeles Vocabulary

Find the vocabulary words in the word search puzzle. Then use the glossaries posted around the room to write the definition.

y	n	d	c	v	j	i	o	p	f	e	a	h	t	s	n	k	c
z	r	t	s	b	m	p	o	p	u	l	a	t	i	o	n	h	v
a	z	a	v	r	w	j	g	z	w	q	u	t	r	e	k	b	n
u	s	d	f	y	m	g	e	c	a	l	p	r	c	g	r	e	j
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f	p	u	e	b	l	o	s	f	g	j	d	f	g	m	r	n	b
q	m	b	w	j	j	d	t	y	i	p	l	o	w	q	n	m	c
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- 1.) adobe \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) boarding \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) plaza \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) pobladores \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) population \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) pueblo \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) region \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) restore \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 3 – Little Tokyo



Little Tokyo Village



Little Tokyo Fire Lookout Tower



Temple in Little Tokyo



Manzanar Internment



Japanese American National Museum

## Japanese American Timeline

<b>Immigration Period</b> Between 1885 and 1924, 180,000 Issei immigrate to Hawaii, the continental United States, and South America	1790	Congress decrees that “any alien, being a free white person” who has resided within the United States for at least two years can become a citizen (i.e. no person of color could become a naturalized citizen)
	1868	Known as the <b>Gannenmono</b> , 153 Japanese – including six women and a child – are the first immigrants to Hawaii from Japan.
	May 1882	Congress passes the <b>Chinese Exclusion Acts</b> , setting the precedent for laws explicitly excluding Asian immigrants and shutting off Chinese immigration for the next sixty years.
	1908	<b>Gentleman’s Agreement</b> between Japan and the United States effectively ends further immigration of Japanese laborers to the United States.
	1913	<b>Alien Land Laws</b> in California and Arizona prohibit “aliens ineligible to citizenship” (i.e. Asian immigrant males) from purchasing or owning land.
	1924	Congress passes the <b>Johnson-Reed Act</b> (Immigration Act of 1924), halting all immigration of Japanese into the United States.
	Oct./Nov. 1941	Curtis B. Munson is tasked by President Roosevelt to gather information on Japanese American loyalty: his report ( <b>Munson Report</b> ) concludes that they are loyal and would pose little threat to the U.S. in the event of war.
<b>WWII, Forced Removal, &amp; Incarceration</b> 120,000 Japanese Americans – two-thirds were U.S. Citizens – are forcibly removed from the Pacific Coast and incarcerated in ten concentration camps throughout the interior of the United States	Dec. 7, 1941	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War II. Local authorities and the FBI begin to round up the Issei leadership of Japanese American communities in Hawaii and on the continent.
	Feb. 1942	President Roosevelt signs <b>Executive Order 9066</b> , which allows military authorities to exclude anyone from anywhere without trial or hearings.
	Mar. 1942	Forced removal of Japanese Americans from the west coast starts with the Army’s first <b>Civilian Exclusion Order</b> , issued in Bainbridge Island near Seattle.
		Four Japanese Americans challenged the constitutionality of and refused to comply with the exclusion orders: Fred Korematsu, Mitsuye Endo, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui.
	1943-1945	In addition to African Americans and Native Americans, the U.S. Army segregate Japanese Americans into separate units. The all Japanese American 100 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the 442 <sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team would become the most decorated units of their size in U.S. military history.
<b>Post-War Resettlement, Redress, and Reparations.</b>	1944-1946	The ten American concentration camps run by the War Relocation Authority close. Japanese Americans begin the process of resettlement largely on their own, being given only \$25 and a one-way train ticket. Many feared leaving camp and rejoining society as anti-Japanese sentiment was still rampant.
	1952	Congress passes the <b>McCarren-Walther Act</b> (Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952), allowing Japanese immigration to the U.S. once again, albeit in small numbers, and allowing Issei to become U.S. citizens for the first time.
	1970s	Redress movement begins. Japanese American communities demand apology and recognition of wrongdoings from the U.S. government.
	Aug. 1988	President Reagan signs the <b>Civil Liberties Act of 1988</b> , which provides for individual payments of \$20,000 to each surviving internee and a \$1.25 billion education fund.
	1990	First redress payments are made, accompanied by a letter of apology signed by President George H. Bush.

## Little Tokyo

### Japanese Immigration



The first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States in the 1860s. For several decades Japan had been isolated and refused to let their citizens leave the country. But now the borders were open, and many people left to find work elsewhere. Immigrants arrived first in Hawaii to work in the sugarcane fields. Many of them had signed a contract with American companies agreeing to work for them. These first immigrants were called Issei. They were mainly young, single men. Later, thousands of Japanese women traveled to join their husbands already in the U.S.

In 1882, Congress passed the *Chinese Exclusion Act* that banned Chinese immigration. However, Hawaii and Japan made a special agreement to allow Japanese laborers to continue immigrating. Between 1895 and 1908 around 130,000 Japanese workers arrived in the U.S. Most of them settled in the Pacific Northwest, California, and Hawaii. However, in 1908, President Roosevelt signed a law called *The Gentleman's Agreement*. This agreement slowed Japanese immigration. It said that no new Japanese immigrants could enter the U.S. Only Japanese immigrants who had already been to the U.S. and their immediate family would be allowed into the country.



### Picture Brides



The *Gentleman's Agreement* slowed Japanese immigration and made it difficult for new immigrants to enter the U.S. This made it hard for single Japanese men to find a Japanese wife. So, a system of “picture bride” marriages grew and was how most of the Japanese women arrived in the U.S. Matchmakers would arrange a marriage by showing the groom pictures of single women who were in Japan. The groom would choose a bride and the matchmaker would work with the family to help her immigrate to the U.S. Couples were married while the bride was still in Japan. They would

meet for the first time at the harbor when the ship arrived. They would use photographs to identify each other. This picture bride system changed the Japanese American community from a working group to a family community.



### Occupations

Most of the Japanese immigrants found work and created their homes on the West coast. The first immigrants worked on the railroad, in canning factories, and logging camps. Some even worked in the mines with the Chinese immigrants. The Japanese immigrants were willing to work for less money, so it was easier to find jobs. The job that paid the most was **agriculture**, or farm work. Also, farming in Japan was considered a respectable job so many left their other jobs to grow fruit and vegetables. By 1909 about 30,000 Japanese were involved in California's agriculture. They were producing 30-35% of the state's crops. In Los Angeles, Japanese farmers were responsible for most of the growing and distributing of fruit and vegetables.

In addition to farming, many Japanese immigrants created small businesses, such as hotels and restaurants. They served their fellow immigrants in the Japanese community. Japanese immigrants worked hard with long hours. They also saved a lot of their money. This allowed them to become wealthy. However, their **internment**, or imprisonment, during World War II interrupted and destroyed much of their wealth. They were allowed to take only what they could carry so they had to sell or give away their businesses, homes, and many

of their belongings. Much of these things were not returned to them after the war. In fact, only 17.5% of Japanese Americans had their own business when they returned.

## Discrimination

In the late 1800s Japanese immigrants faced racial **prejudice**. Prejudice is when people make a judgement about who someone is before they even know them. In the U.S., people started to make negative judgements about the Japanese immigrants without actually knowing them. In the early 1900s Japan won a war against Russia. The Japanese



## BOYCOTT

A General Boycott has been declared upon all CHINESE and JAPANESE Restaurants, Tailor Shops and Wash Houses by the Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly

All Friends and Sympathizers of Organized Labor will assist us in this fight against the lowering Asiatic standards of living and of morals.

AMERICA vs. ASIA  
Progress vs. Retrogression  
Are the considerations involved.

BY ORDER OF  
Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly.

immigrants in the U.S. celebrated the victory. As a result, many white people became fearful that Japan would eventually start a war with them. They started campaigns, advertisements, and using racist labels to convince others of the “danger” of Japanese immigrants. **Racism**, the belief that a race is not equal to others, started to grow. Eventually Congress passed the *Immigration Act of 1924*. This law limited immigration from Asian countries, specifically China and Japan. Later, more laws were also passed specifically to stop the Asian communities from growing and becoming successful.



However, by 1940 Japanese Americans had become strong members of their communities. First generation immigrants, Issei, were not allowed to become citizens or own property. However, their children were second generation immigrants, Nisei, and were born in America. This meant they were automatically citizens. So, many of the Issei bought their businesses, homes, and farms in their children’s name. The Japanese immigrants were successful despite the laws. They were able to do well with the little amount they had. This made others, specifically white people, jealous of them. They became targets for racism and **discrimination**, or mistreatment because of prejudice.



## Removal & Internment

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 the United States entered World War II. The American people were shocked, angry, and scared. Many white people turned these emotions on to the



Japanese American community. They became convinced that these immigrants had a connection to the Japanese enemy. They thought that if someone looked like the enemy then they were a security threat. All of this was a result of the anti-Asian discrimination that had been going on in the U.S. even before the war. As a result, President Roosevelt signed *Executive Order 9066*. This gave the government permission to create areas that **excluded**, or removed, Japanese Americans and immigrants.



The Japanese Americans (citizens) and immigrants were required to leave their homes and move to an internment, or prison, camp. They had only days to close up their businesses and homes. Because they could only bring what they could carry families had to sell or give away many of their belongings, including

cars, pets, and home items. In some neighborhoods, military officers came to remove the Japanese residents.

The United States government **incarcerated**, or imprisoned, 120,313 Japanese Americans during World War II. The majority of them were placed in 10 concentration camps all over the U.S. Nearly 75,000 of them were citizens. This was not only wrong but also illegal. The law says citizens can't be put in prison without having a trial. However, no trials were had. In fact, after the war they found that not a single person inside the internment camps had ever tried to help the enemy.



### Camp Locations & Dates:

Tule Lake, California (May 27, 1942 to March 20, 1946)

Poston, Arizona (May 8, 1942 to Nov. 28, 1945)

Manzanar, California (June 1, 1942 to Nov. 21, 1945)

Gila River, Arizona (July 20, 1942 to Sept. 28, 1945)

Minidoka, Idaho (Aug. 10, 1942 to Oct. 28, 1945)

Heart Mountain, Wyoming (Aug. 12, 1942 to Nov. 10, 1945)

Amache, Colorado (Aug. 27, 1942 to Oct. 31, 1945)

Topaz, Utah (Sept. 11, 1942 to Oct. 31, 1945)

Rohwer, Arkansas (Sept. 18, 1942 to Nov. 30, 1945)

Jerome, Arkansas (Oct. 6, 1942 to June 30, 1944)

Crystal City, Texas (November 1942

to December 1947)

### **Return to Los Angeles**

After the war ended, the internment camps were closed. The Japanese Americans were allowed to return to their homes. However, they had been in the camps for 3-4 years. Many of their homes and businesses were not the same as when they left. For families in rural communities with farms, they found it difficult to buy their land back. They had to deal with farms that hadn't been taken care of, stolen and broken supplies, and sometimes violence from their racist neighbors. Families who lived in the city found their communities were now lived in by other people. In Los Angeles, Little Tokyo was now called "Bronzeville" and many African Americans lived there. Some of these new residents left willingly. But others refused to go or demanded they be paid to leave. Today, in Little Tokyo, bronze markers in the sidewalk show what the original businesses were before the removal of their Japanese American owners.



When the Japanese Americans returned in Los Angeles, things started to change. They started finding jobs near their new homes. But instead of jobs in agriculture, like before, they now worked as cleaners, caretakers, and gardeners. Stories started to come out about the brave fighting the Japanese American soldiers had done during the war. This changed people's views toward Asians. Also, laws that had stopped them from owning land and getting citizenship changed. Soon opportunities began to open for them. Some opened hotels and businesses, and others started to work for the city, which hadn't been possible before.

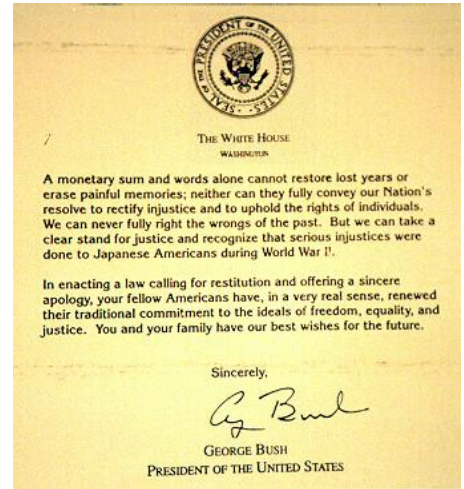


Later, activist Bruce Kaji had the idea to open a museum that would save the positive and full history of the Japanese Americans in the United States. In 1992, the Japanese American National Museum opened in an historic Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo. It now holds hundreds of objects, documents, and photographs and tells 130 years of Japanese American history.

## Redress

Forty years after the war ended members of the Japanese American community came together to address what happened to them. It was illegal to put the Japanese American citizens in an internment camp without a trial. They wanted the U.S. government to acknowledge the wrong it had done. Finally, in 1982 the government agreed that *Executive Order 9066* was wrong and unnecessary. The decision to remove Japanese Americans from their home was due to racism.

The government needed to **redress**, or fix, their mistake. They gave a national apology to the Japanese American community. They also gave money to every person who had been in the camp. This was to help make up for the money they weren't able to earn while they were there. Finally, they created a foundation to teach Americans about the dangers of racism. However, it took 6 years for it all to happen. In 1988, President Reagan signed the *Civil Liberties Act* that finally sent the money and apology to the survivors.



## Religion



More than 100 million people follow the religion known as Shinto. They are called Shintoists. Most of them live in Japan. The main beliefs are harmony, gratitude, purity, and goodness. Shinto doesn't have only one god. Rather, its gods, or *kami*, are many, and these supernatural beings are in both living and non-living objects. They may be things found in nature (such as the spirits of mountains and animals), worthy human beings (such as emperors), or gods and goddesses. Shintoists believe that the *kami* are the source of human life. The *kami* reveal truth to people and guide them.

Little is known about Shinto's origins. It was already strong by the time Buddhism came to Japan in the 500s. The two religions mixed for hundreds of years. In the late 1800s the Japanese government made Shinto the main religion of Japan. It encouraged people to worship at Shinto shrines. It made people believe that the emperor of Japan was a god. The first waves of Japanese immigrants brought their beliefs and practices with them to the United States. However, after World War II many Japanese went away from Shintoism.



Shinto does not have a central book to guide followers or regular weekly services. Shintoists can visit shrines any time they wish. Some people go every day. Many Shintoists also practice Buddhism. Some houses have both Shinto and Buddhist altars set up for prayer. One way believers pray is by buying paper fortunes at the shrine. If the fortune is good, the believer can take it home or tie it to a tree (or outside stand). Being outside will allow the fortune (or prayer) to come true. If the fortune is bad, then the believer will tie it to the stand at the shrine so there is no chance of the bad luck following them home.

# Little Tokyo

Use the reading handouts to answer each question.

Give the reason why Japanese immigrated to the United States.



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What are picture brides?



What were the occupations of most Japanese?

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What is discrimination? How did people discriminate against the Japanese Americans?

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Describe what happened to the Japanese Americans during WWII, their Removal, & Internment.



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What is Redress?



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What is one of the major religions of Japanese Americans? What are some of the things they believe?




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How do Shinto (and some Buddhist) believers pray?




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List and describe at least 2 new things you learned about the Japanese Americans and Little Tokyo.

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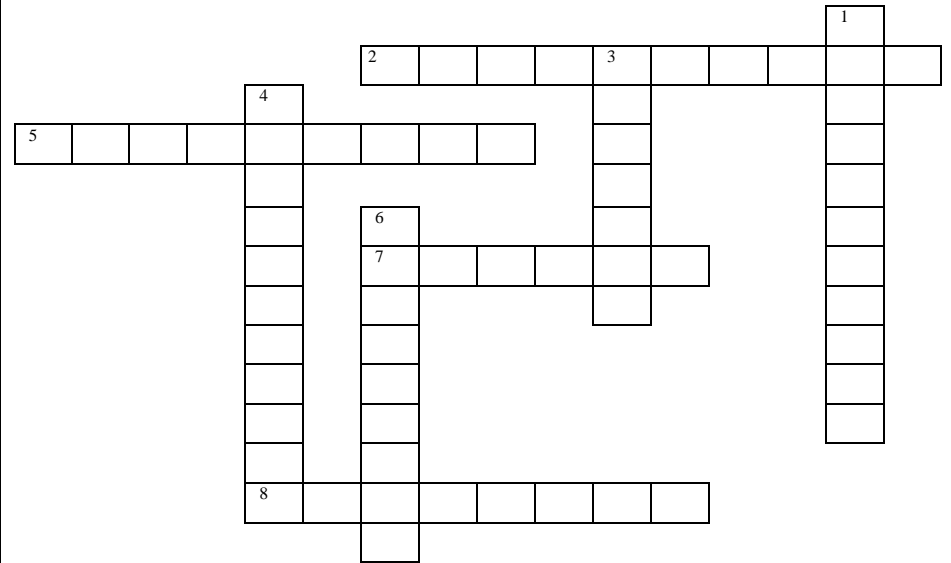


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## Little Tokyo Vocabulary

Use the clues to place each vocabulary word in the puzzle.

\*agriculture \*excluded \*incarcerate \*immigrant  
 \*internment \*prejudice \*racism \*redress



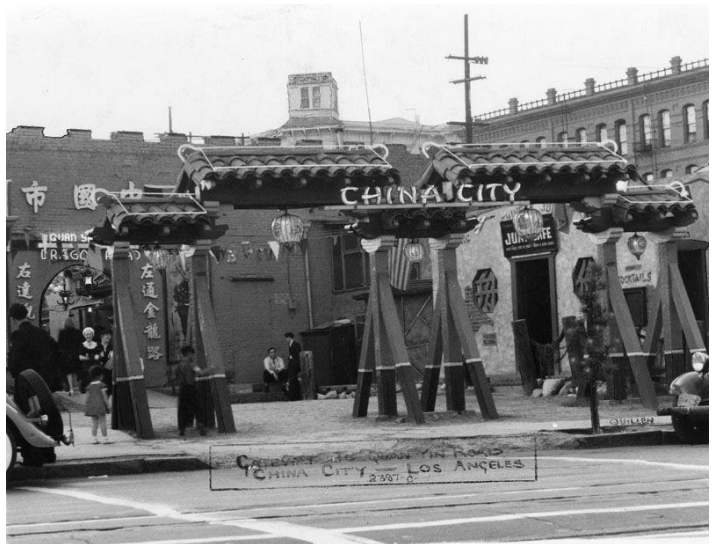
- 1.) put someone in prison
- 2.) putting a person in some form of prison during wartime
- 3.) to correct something that is wrong or unfair
- 4.) the science of farming
- 5.) a person who comes to a new country to live there
- 6.) a decision to dislike someone without knowing them and based only on who they are
- 7.) belief that one race is better than another
- 8.) leave someone out or prevent them from being part of the group

# Lesson 4 – Chinatown Los Angeles

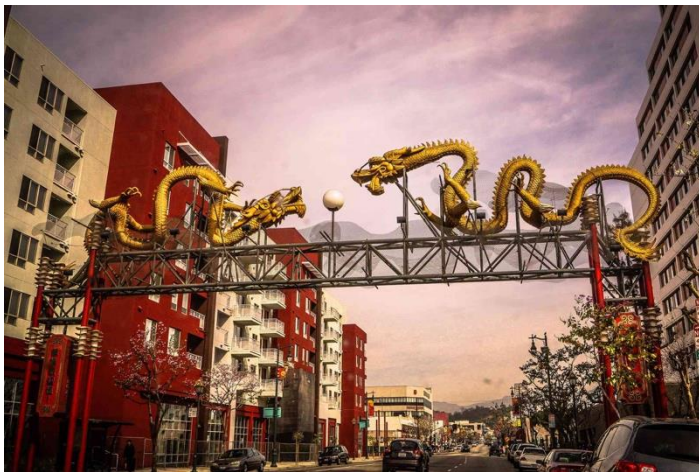


China City

New Chinatown



Twin Dragon Gate



Chinese Buddhist Temple



## Chinese American Timeline

		<b>Chinese American Timeline</b>	
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>1850</b> Chinese American population is about 4,000 out of 23.2 million.	1600s	Chinese arrive in Mexico aboard Spanish trading ships coming from the Philippines.
		1830s	Chinese "sugar masters" working in Hawaii; Chinese sailors and peddlers in New York.
		1848	Gold discovered in California. Chinese miners begin to arrive.
		1842-52	A series of floods and crop failures in southern China lead to poverty and threat of famine among peasant farmers.
		1850	California imposes <b>Foreign Miner's Tax</b> and enforces it mainly against Chinese miners, who were often forced to pay more than once.
		1852	Over 20,000 Chinese laborers enter California. Chinese first appear in court in California.
<b>Discrimination</b>	<b>1860</b> Chinese American population is 34,933 out of 31.4 million.	1854	The California Supreme Court decision, <i>People v. Hall</i> , rules that Chinese cannot testify in court.
		1862	California imposes a "police tax" of \$2.50 a month on every Chinese.
		1865-68	Central Pacific recruits Chinese workers to build a transcontinental railroad.
	<b>1870</b> Chinese American population is 63,199 out of 38.5 million.	1868	The United States and China ratify the Burlingame-Seward Treaty, which allows emigration between the two countries.
		1870	Congress approves the <b>Naturalization Act</b> , barring Chinese from obtaining U.S. citizenship. The Act also prevents immigration of Chinese women who have marital partners in the U.S.
		1871	Anti-Chinese violence erupts in Los Angeles and other cities. Such violence continues throughout the decade.
		1878-80	A federal district court in California rules Chinese ineligible for naturalized citizenship. California's second constitution prevents municipalities and corporations from employing Chinese. Section 69 of California's Civil Code prohibits issuing of licenses for marriages between whites and "Mongolians, Negroes, mulattoes and persons of mixed blood."
		1882	Congress passes the <b>Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882</b> , which halts Chinese laborer immigration for 10 years and denies Chinese from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.
		1885-86	Anti-Chinese violence at Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory, results in many Chinese deaths. Residents of Tacoma, Seattle, and many places in the American West forcibly expel the Chinese.
	<b>1890</b> Chinese American population is 107,488 out	1892	The <b>Geary Act</b> extends the Chinese Exclusion Act for another 10 years and requires all Chinese residents to carry permits.
		1893	In <i>Fong Yue Ting v. United States</i> , the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Congress has the power to expel the Chinese.
		1898	The U.S. Supreme Court admits Wong Kim Ark, a Chinese American born and raised in the United States, back into the United States. Ark was

	of 62.9 million.		initially denied entry due to the Chinese Exclusion Act. The case rules that U.S.-born Chinese cannot be divested of their citizenship.
		1904	Congress makes the Chinese Exclusion acts indefinite. Law enforcement officials arrest 250 allegedly illegal Chinese immigrants without search warrants.
		1906	Earthquake destroys all records in San Francisco, including immigration records. This opens the opportunity for a new surge of Chinese immigrants. These “paper sons” could now claim with the loss of official records that they were U.S. citizens and had the right to bring family members to America.
	<b>1910</b> Chinese American population is 94,414 out of 92.2 million.	1910	Angel Island Immigration Station opens to process and deport Asian immigrants.
		1913	California passes alien land law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from buying land or leasing it for longer than three years.
		1918	Servicemen of Asian ancestry who had served in World War I receive right of naturalization.
		1924	The Asian Exclusion Act, which is part of the <b>Immigration Act of 1924</b> , excludes all Asian laborer immigrants from entering into the United States.
		1929	Annual immigration quotas are declared permanent.
	<b>1930</b> Chinese American population is 102,159 out of 123.2 million.	1932	Anna May Wong, at the height of her career, stars with Marlene Dietrich in Shanghai Express.
		1941-43	The United States declares war after the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. China is now an ally of the United States. Congress repeals all Chinese exclusion laws, grants Chinese the right to become naturalized citizens, and allows 105 Chinese to immigrate to the US each year. The U.S. Army drafts over 20 percent of Chinese men living in the United States.
<b>1950</b> Chinese American population is 150,005 out of 151.3 million.	1947	Due to the <b>War Brides Act of 1945</b> , permitting immigration of foreign wives, husbands, fiancés, and children of U.S. Army personnel, 6,000 Chinese women enter into the United States as wives of Chinese American servicemen.	
	1965	Immigration Law abolishes "national origins" as basis for allocating immigration quotas to various countries -- Asian countries now on an equal footing with others for the first time in U.S. history.	
<b>Restoration of Rights</b>	<b>1970</b> Chinese American population is 237,292 out of 179.3 million.	1968-69	Students strike at San Francisco State University and University of California at Berkeley to demand establishment of ethnic studies programs.
		1987	First formal signing of the <b>Proclamation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week</b> by the White House.

## Chinatown Los Angeles

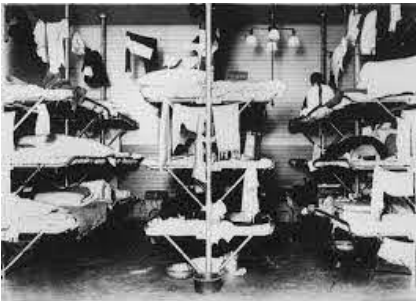


### Chinese Immigration

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. This news made many Chinese decide to leave China and travel to the United States to find the gold and become rich. Many of the **immigrants** came from Guangdong Province. This area had had many problems like natural disasters and a bad economy. The Chinese immigrants hoped to work for a few years, make money, and then return home to China to start a new life. However, earning money in the U.S. was harder than they thought. Many of them stayed for the rest of their lives.

### The Journey Across the Pacific

The journey across the Pacific Ocean took 3 weeks. The boat was crowded and many of the Chinese immigrants had to remain below deck. The trip was also expensive. Many had to borrow money to buy even the cheapest ticket. But they hoped to be able to repay it with the gold they found in California.



When the ships arrived from Asia their first stop was San Francisco. The immigration officers would come aboard and immediately separate the passengers. They would put them in groups based on their **nationality** (what country they were from) and whether they were rich or poor. Passengers who were European or had a first-class ticket were allowed to get off. But passengers from Asia, or were poor, were taken to Angel Island to wait. On the island many were mistreated or had to wait a long time to be released. Some were allowed to enter the U.S. while others were **deported**

(made to leave the country). On Angel Island Chinese immigrants weren't treated equally. They had to pass special medical tests to prove they were healthy. Also, they were asked harsher questions than other immigrants. Between 1910 and 1940 around 175,000 Chinese and 60,000 Japanese passed through Angel Island.

### "Paper Sons"

A law was made that Chinese immigrants who were living in the U.S. could not bring over any family members to join them. The law said only a **citizen** could bring their children who were still in China. This was an unfair law and many new immigrants tried to go around it by buying false identities. They would buy papers that said their parent was an American citizen. However, the papers were false. These new immigrants were called "paper sons" because they were related only on paper, not in real life.



After the Great Earthquake in San Francisco in 1906 many people started to use these false identity papers. This was because most of the Chinese workers had lost their papers in the fire that had destroyed over half the city. The city had no way to tell who was legal and who wasn't. So, some merchants took the opportunity to bring over more immigrants and claim them as a "son" or "daughter" on the false papers. But again, they were only related on paper.

## Occupations

The first group of Chinese immigrants got jobs in the gold mines. They called California “*Gam Saan*”, or Gold Mountain. In China they had been using gunpowder for over 900 years. This special knowledge meant they knew how to place the dynamite in the mines. This was a dangerous job that many white workers refused to do. But that provided the opportunity for Chinese men to find jobs.



Another job for many Chinese American workers was building the railroad. The Central Pacific Railroad was building through the Sierra Nevada mountains to connect with the Union Pacific railroad. This would finally open a route across the entire country. However, this was **hazardous** work using explosives to create the tunnels. At first the railroad companies didn't want to hire the Chinese immigrants. But they soon found out that they were exceptional workers. They set a record for laying 10 miles of railroad tracks in one day! Unfortunately, the Chinese workers were paid less than the other workers, even though they were better. Soon, companies were searching all over California for Chinese workers to come and work for them because they did good work for a cheaper price. The number of Chinese railroad workers rose to 12,000 in 1868, which was at least 80% of the Central Pacific workers.



Chinese immigrants were also farmers and fishermen. They helped develop the fishing **industry**, or business, for squid, abalone, shrimp, sturgeon, and other kinds of fish. In the factories they would prepare kelp and other sea plants for food and other products. By the late 1800s there were over 2,000 Chinese living in the fishing camps. They also grew and sold their own vegetables and fruit. Chinese farm **labor** was essential for some crops. Things like olives and grapes need special skills to take care of them. The Chinese immigrants were good at this and were able to find jobs in the orchards and vineyards. This was especially important for the wine industry in California.



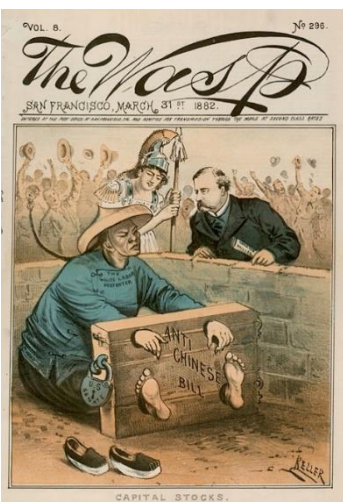
The Chinese also provided services as laundrymen, cooks, servants, and gardeners. By the 1870's the Chinese ran most of the laundries in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Chinese restaurants were also quite common, serving first the Chinese community, and later other clients as cooks learned to prepare Western food.



## Discrimination

During the 1870s, the U.S. economy went bad and resulted in many people losing their jobs. This led to more hatred against Asian immigrants. **Racist** leaders blamed the Chinese immigrants for lowered wages, a lack of jobs, and even accused them of being sinful people. All across the West immigrants from China were forced out of business, run out of town, beaten, tortured, and killed. And most of the time they had little hope of getting help from the police or courts. This meant that the people who committed these crimes often went unpunished.

Starting as early as 1850, laws were used to keep the Chinese immigrants from being treated equally. The *Foreign Miners' License Tax* law said that all non-white immigrants had to pay \$20 per month to own a mine. This was an unreasonable amount! The *Sidewalk Ordinance of 1870* banned people from



carrying a heavy load on a pole. This was a law meant to stop the way Chinese people commonly carried their vegetables or laundry. The *Queue Ordinance of 1873* outlawed men wearing a long braid. This was a Chinese custom that was now illegal.

Chinese immigrants were also forbidden from working for the government. This meant they couldn't run for office or even be a street sweeper! They were also banned from educating their children in public schools. Instead, Chinese children attended schools organized just for them by the community. For several decades, a law prevented Chinese immigrants from testifying in court against White men. This was wrong because if a Chinese immigrant had a problem, they couldn't sue and have the courts take care of it.

### Chinese Exclusion Act

The *Chinese Exclusion Act* was the first big law to restrict immigration to the United States. It banned the immigration of unskilled workers specifically from China. This was the first time a law had been created for immigrants from a specific country. President Arthur passed the law on May 6, 1882. The law was meant to be only for 10 years so that immigration from China would slow down. However, it became a permanent law for 61 years.



The law also made things difficult for the Chinese immigrants already in the United States. Because the government would not allow Chinese immigrants to become citizens, they needed permission to re-enter the country. The *Chinese Exclusion Act* said that if an immigrant who already had permission to be in the U.S. decided to leave then they would need to get permission again to come back. This meant that many immigrants could not return to China to see family in case they were not given permission to return to their homes and jobs in the U.S.

### Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act

It took 61 years before the *Chinese Exclusion Act* was **repealed**, or officially canceled. In 1943, Congress decided the law was unfair and decided to open the country to immigrants from China. They also made it possible for immigrants born in China to become U.S. citizens. However, the number of new immigrants didn't grow very much for nearly 25 years. It wasn't until the *Immigration Act of 1965* that the numbers increased significantly. Between 1960 and 1970 the Chinese American population nearly doubled! By the late 1990s Asians made up more than half of the total immigrants to the U.S.



### Religion

Siddhartha Gautama was the infant prince of a small kingdom in the southern part of Nepal. As an adult he left wealth and status behind to search for truth. He became known as the Buddha. The Buddha focused much of his teaching on how to overcome suffering. He saw that all living things suffer in being born, in getting sick, in growing old, and in facing death. He taught that by overcoming suffering a person will be truly happy.

The Buddha would not say if gods exist or not, although gods play a part in some Buddhist stories. If someone asked the Buddha, "Do gods exist?" he maintained a noble silence. That is, he would not say yes, or no. Buddhists do not believe that people should look to gods to save them or bring them enlightenment. Rather

individuals should work out their own path the best they can. The Buddha told people to follow a special way of life called the Noble Eightfold Path if they want to understand life and be happy. This became the religion of Buddhism.

*Noble Eightfold Path*

Appropriate views	• Know and understand the Four Noble Truths
Appropriate thought	• Turn your mind away from the world and towards the Dharma
Appropriate speech	• Tell the truth, don't gossip, and don't talk badly about others
Appropriate conduct	• Don't commit evil acts, like killing, stealing, or living an unclean life
Appropriate livelihood	• Earn your money in a way that doesn't harm anyone
Appropriate effort	• Work to make your mind more good and less evil
Appropriate mindfulness	• Remember the Dharma and apply it all the time
Appropriate meditation	• Practice meditation as a way of understanding reality

**Los Angeles Chinatown**

The first Chinatown was created in 1880 next to the Plaza in El Pueblo. It grew to around 15 streets and alleys and had about 200 buildings. There was a Chinese Opera theater, three temples, a newspaper, and a telephone company. It was a thriving community. But laws forbidding Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens meant they also couldn't own property. This, along with the *Chinese Exclusion Act* kept Chinatown from growing any bigger.



After 30 years the area was starting to crumble, and the Supreme Court gave permission to tear it down. In its place the new Union Station was going to be built. Residents living there were **evicted**, or forced to leave, and given 24 hours to clear out their homes and businesses. Many of the Chinese Americans moved a couple blocks to the northwest and started a New Chinatown. The only remaining building from Old Chinatown is the Garnier Building. It was once a meeting place for Chinese immigrants. Now, the Chinese American Museum is located inside.



Christine Sterling, who created the new Olvera Street, came up with a similar plan for the new Chinatown. In 1938, she opened China City, a walled area with Chinese-style architecture, restaurants, shops, rickshaw rides, a lotus pond, and a temple. Costumed workers greeted tourists, and a Chinese opera group performed live shows in front of the shops. Some replica buildings came from the sets of Hollywood movies.

China City was destroyed by fire and rebuilt many times. But in 1949 China City burned down for the last time. New Chinatown is now the city's only downtown Chinatown.

China City had mixed support from the Chinese American residents and businessmen. Many were happy for the jobs and money it brought. Others liked the New Chinatown project better. Community leader Peter Soo Hoo Sr. helped design the New Chinatown with suggestions from those in the surrounding area. This resulted in a blend of Chinese and American architecture. The creation of "Central Plaza" was made to look like a Hollywood version of Shanghai, a major city in China. Many of the lanes in the plaza have names like Bamboo Lane and Gin Ling Way. The Central







Plaza is home to restaurants, tourist shops, and several Chinese society clubs. In the middle is a statue honoring Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese leader who is thought of as the "founder of modern China". There is also a 7-foot tall statue of martial artist Bruce Lee.

Elsewhere in Chinatown many buildings were built for new shopping centers and mini malls. Metro Plaza Hotel was opened in the southwest corner of Chinatown in the early 1990s. A large Chinese gateway is at the intersection of Broadway and Cesar Chavez Avenue, funded by the local Chinese Americans.



# Chinatown Los Angeles

Use the reading handouts to answer each question.

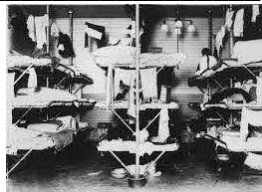
Why did the Chinese immigrate to the United States?

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_



What was their port of entry?

What was their journey like?



Give examples of how the laws discriminated against Chinese Americans?

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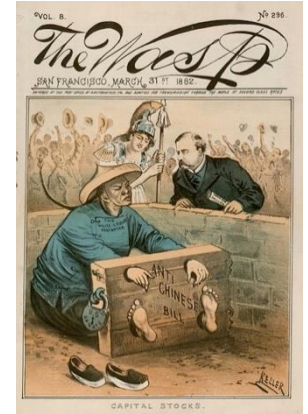
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What did the Chinese Exclusion Act do? Why?

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When was the Chinese Exclusion Act repealed?

When did the number of immigrants from Asia start to grow? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to the original Chinatown?

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What are "paper sons"?




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What were some of the occupations the Chinese had?

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1.) _____ | 2.) _____ |
| 3.) _____ | 4.) _____ |



What is one of the major religions of Chinese Americans? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Buddha's main teaching?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain what the *Noble Path* appropriate ways of life mean:

views	•
thought	•
speech	•
conduct	•
livelihood	•
effort	•
mindfulness	•
meditation	•

List and describe at least 2 new things you learned about the new Chinatown.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Chinatown Los Angeles Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary word with the correct definition.

* citizen	*deport	*evict	*hazardous	*industries
*labor	*nationality	*racist	*repealed	

- 1.) hard work or effort \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) full of danger and risks \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) the businesses that make something \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) a person who is a member of a country \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) legally force a person to leave a building \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) to do away with or officially cancel \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) to make a person leave the country \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) being described by the country a person is from \_\_\_\_\_
- 9.) belief that one race is better than another \_\_\_\_\_

## Glossary

- **adobe** a kind of clay used as a building material, typically in the form of sun-dried bricks
- **agriculture** the science of farming
- **boarding** providing a room and food for paying guests
- **citizen** a person who is a member of a country
- **commuter** regular traveler going to or from work or school
- **dependence** relying on another for help or to provide
- **deport** to legally make a person leave the country
- **depot** a bus or train station
- **discrimination** treating unfairly because of someone's race, religion, or other reason
- **excluded** leave someone out or prevent them from being part of the group
- **evict** legally force a person to leave a building
- **hazardous** full of danger and risks
- **immigrant** a person who comes to a new country to live there
- **incarcerate** put someone in prison
- **industries** the businesses that make something
- **internment** putting a person in some form of prison during wartime
- **labor** hard work or effort
- **nationality** being described by the country a person is from
- **plaza** a public square, marketplace, or similar open space in a city
- **pobladores** Spanish word for people who found a town or colony
- **population** the number of people living in a country, city, or area
- **prejudice** a decision to dislike someone without knowing them and based only on who they are
- **pueblo** Spanish word for "town" or "village"
- **racism** the belief that one race is better than another
- **racist** a person who believes that one race is better than another
- **redress** to correct something that is wrong or unfair
- **region** a specific area that has common features such as landforms, climate, language, government, or religion
- **repealed** to do away with or officially cancel
- **restore** repair and return to its original form
- **sprawl** spread out in an unorganized way
- **suburban** having to do with communities that are near a city
- **transcontinental** reaching across a continent
- **urban** having to do with a city or town

## Additional Resources

### Information:

LA History - <https://www.lahistoryarchive.org> and <https://lacounty.gov/government/about-lacounty/history/>

UCLA Library - <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/c.php?g=180917&p=1185187>

*Los Angeles: Portrait of a city* By Jim Heimann & Kevin Starr

*Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct, and the Rise of Los Angeles* By Les Standiford

USC & KCET's *Lost LA* - <https://www.kcet.org/lost-la-curriculum>

*Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles* By Charles P. Hobbs

Images of America book series (*African Americans in Los Angeles, Chinatown in Los Angeles, Italians in Los Angeles, Japanese Americans of the South Bay, Los Angeles California, Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, Los Angeles' Olvera Street, Mexican Americans in Los Angeles, Missions of Los Angeles, This Historic Core of Los Angeles, The Port of Los Angeles*)

### Los Angeles Museums:

Autry Museum of the American West - <https://theautry.org>

California African American Museum - <https://caamuseum.org>

Chinese American Museum - <http://camla.org>

Fort MacArthur Museum - <http://www.ftmac.org>

Heritage Square Museum - <http://heritagesquare.org>

Italian American Museum of Los Angeles - <http://www.iamla.org>

Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles - <https://www.kccla.org>

Los Angeles Maritime Museum - <https://www.lamaritimemuseum.org>

Petersen Automotive Museum - <https://www.petersen.org>

Southern California Railway Museum - <https://socalrailway.org>

### Hosted Field Trips

Union Station Field Trip - <https://www.metro.net/about/metro-student-field-trip/>

El Pueblo Field Trip - <https://elpueblo.lacity.org/blog/el-pueblo-digital-tours>

Little Tokyo Public Art tour - [http://www.crala.org/internet-site/Other/Art\\_Program/upload/LittleTokyo\\_Final.pdf](http://www.crala.org/internet-site/Other/Art_Program/upload/LittleTokyo_Final.pdf)

LA Conservancy Walking Tour - <https://www.laconservancy.org/student-tours>

Self-Guided Walking Tour - <https://www.gpsmycity.com/gps-tour-guides/los-angeles-631.html>