



ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



Name: _____





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - Page 3-5

Emi Kim - Page 6

David Ho - Page 11

Yuri Kochiyama - Page 17

Duke Kahanamoku - Page 24

Tammy Duckworth - Page 30

Kamala Harris - Page 37

Quiz - Page 46

Book Recommendations - Page 47





May is "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month", a month dedicated to the celebration of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

(NOTE: There are no Heritage Months recognized in January and because the month of May celebrates both Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we are recognizing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month this month.)

Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) communities represent a multitude of ethnicities, languages, and experiences that enrich America and strengthen our Union.

Speaking of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States, the term Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of: Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands)

Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia)

Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

First observed in 1979 as "Asian/Pacific Heritage Week", Congress expanded the observance to a month in 1990, and in 1992, Congress passed a bill annually designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.





History of AANHPI Heritage Month

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 72.

Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 1007. This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become Public Law 95-419. This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’”

During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed Public Law 101-283 which expanded the observance to a month in 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.



A Proclamation on National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2023

"During Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, our Nation celebrates the diversity of cultures, breadth of achievement, and remarkable contributions of these communities; of brave immigrants who, motivated by the promise of possibilities, picked up their lives and found new homes here; of native peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial; and of community leaders shaping a brighter future for us all. Throughout our history, they have represented the bigger story of who we are as Americans and embodied the truth that our diversity is our strength as a Nation.

Despite the immeasurable ways AA and NHPs enrich this country, we continue to see persistent racism, harassment, and hate crimes against these communities. Attacks on Asian American women and elders have left too many families afraid to leave their homes and too many loved ones traumatized. Hate must have no safe harbor in America, and every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. To address the rising tide of anti-Asian violence, I signed the bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law — which included the Jabara-Heyer No HATE Act, making it easier for Americans to report hate crimes and to help State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies better track these hateful acts.

As we make progress to advance equity and opportunity, we know our work is far from done. To help more AA and NHPs see themselves in the story of America, I signed historic legislation bringing us closer to creating the National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture. To honor the traditional practices and ancestral pathways of Pacific Island voyagers, I expanded protections for the Pacific Remote Islands. To help Americans reckon with and learn from more shameful chapters of our history, I signed into law the Amache National Historic Site Act, which establishes a memorial to the 10,000 Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated at Amache during World War II. Facing past wrongs helps us build a more just and equitable future."

www.whitehouse.gov





Emi Kim



- ◆ **Kid Activist and Changemaker**
- ◆ **5th Grader, Lover of Art, Science, and Big Sister**
- ◆ **Korean, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Chinese**
- ◆ **With the Support of Her Community, has Donated Over 330 Books so far About People of Color to Schools in Utah**

"I hope that these books help people realize that they're not alone and that people are different and we should accept that."



Emi Kim



You are never too young to make a difference in your community. Ten-year-old Emi Kim was born in Provo, Utah. As a kid from Korean, Japanese, and Native Hawaiian decent, Emi noticed a problem with racism and wanted to do something to change it. “People are afraid of what they don’t know so I think that’s partly the reason we treat people bad on how they look.” She decided one way to help others learn about people different from them was to read books with diverse characters and experiences saying, “Books are a safe way to get to know people.” She also wanted kids to see themselves represented on their library shelves.

With the help of family and friends, she set up a lemonade stand and bake sale to raise money to purchase diverse and inclusive books for local libraries. With the donations and money she made from her lemonade stand, Emi was able to purchase 75 books. She researched, read, and watched read-alouds of books with diverse main characters. She narrowed down her book choices to 15 books with Asian, Native American, Black, Latine, and Polynesian main characters. She was able to donate books to 5 schools. When the Media Specialist for her school district heard about Emi’s project, she decided to purchase the same set of books for each school Emi wasn’t able to donate to! Now, every elementary school in the Provo City School District has a special bookshelf with Emi’s Books for the students to check out.

Emi was so excited about the difference she was able to make that she set up a second lemonade stand and bake sale a few months later but this time she wanted to purchase books about people with different types of families and disabilities. She was able to donate 261 books this time. So far, Emi has donated a total of 336 books. She hopes to hold even more lemonade stands and bake sales in the future to purchase diverse and inclusive books for every school district in Utah.

Emi has been featured in the local newspaper and even on news stations on TV and on Good Morning America’s digital news and while it was exciting, she doesn’t do it for the publicity.

“I hope that these books help people realize that they’re not alone and that people are different and we should accept that.” Emi hopes other kids are inspired to make a difference in their communities no matter their age saying, “I’m just a kid and I can still do great things with help from others and you can, too!”

- Dorie Kim

"I'm just a kid and
I can still do great
things with
help from others
and you can, too!"

—Emi Kim

"Books are a
safe way to
get to know
people."

—Emi Kim

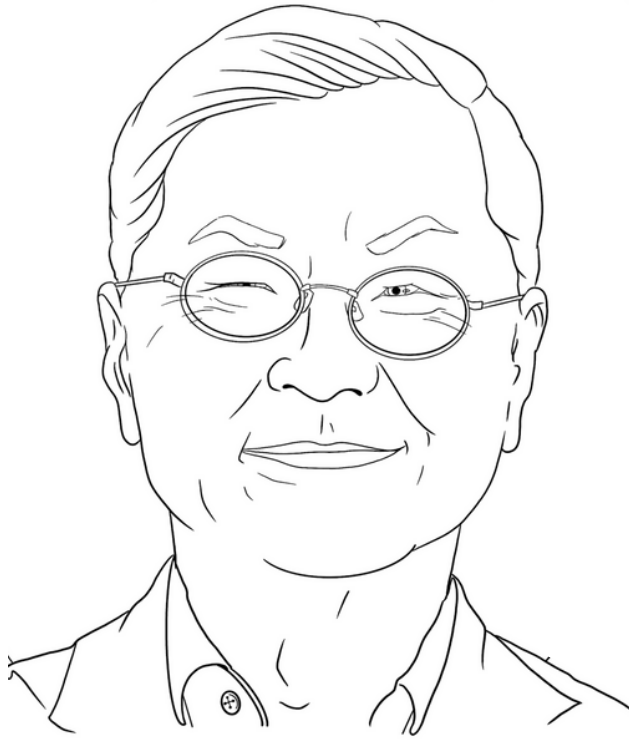
Name:

EMI KIM





Dr. David Ho



- ◆ **AIDS Expert and Researcher, Physician, and Virologist**
- ◆ **Taiwanese-American**
- ◆ **Best Known for his AIDS Research and Numerous Scientific Contributions to the Understanding and Treatment of AIDS**
- ◆ **Because of His Work AIDS is no Longer a Death Sentence**

“I happened to be in the right place at the right time...I encountered a number of patients who presented with opportunistic infections suggesting that their immune system was impaired. It was a mystifying syndrome to doctors and scientists alike.”



Dr. David Ho



David D. Ho is the Founding Scientific Director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and the Clyde and Helen Wu Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

David Ho was born in Taiwan and moved to the United States as a child with his mother and younger brother to unite with his father who had been in the US for a number of years. He grew up in Los Angeles and received his Bachelor of Science with highest honors from the California Institute of Technology. He went on to earn his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. Ho completed his clinical training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at UCLA School of Medicine and Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Ho was a resident in internal medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1981 when he came in contact with some of the first reported cases of what was later identified as AIDS.

Dr. Ho has been at the forefront of AIDS research for 40 years and has published over 400 papers. His research unraveled the dynamic nature of HIV replication in vivo and revolutionized basic understanding of the horrific disease. This knowledge led him to champion combination antiretroviral therapy that resulted in unprecedented control of HIV in patients. Because of his work with AIDS, what was once an automatic death sentence has been transformed into a manageable disease, and over 25 million people worldwide are currently on antiretroviral therapy to manage the disease. Dr. Ho and his research team continue to devote considerable efforts on vaccine and antibody research in order to halt or slow the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

Ho worked on the SARS virus and since 2020 has devoted time to developing drugs and antibodies against the new coronavirus.

Dr. Ho has received fourteen honorary doctorates. He was named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1996 and the recipient of a Presidential Medal from Bill Clinton in 2001. He was also inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

- *microbiology.columbia.edu, pbs.org, wikipedia.org*

"I think, for most of the research groups, there would be consensus that vaccine research has to be the most important thing we do today."

—David Ho

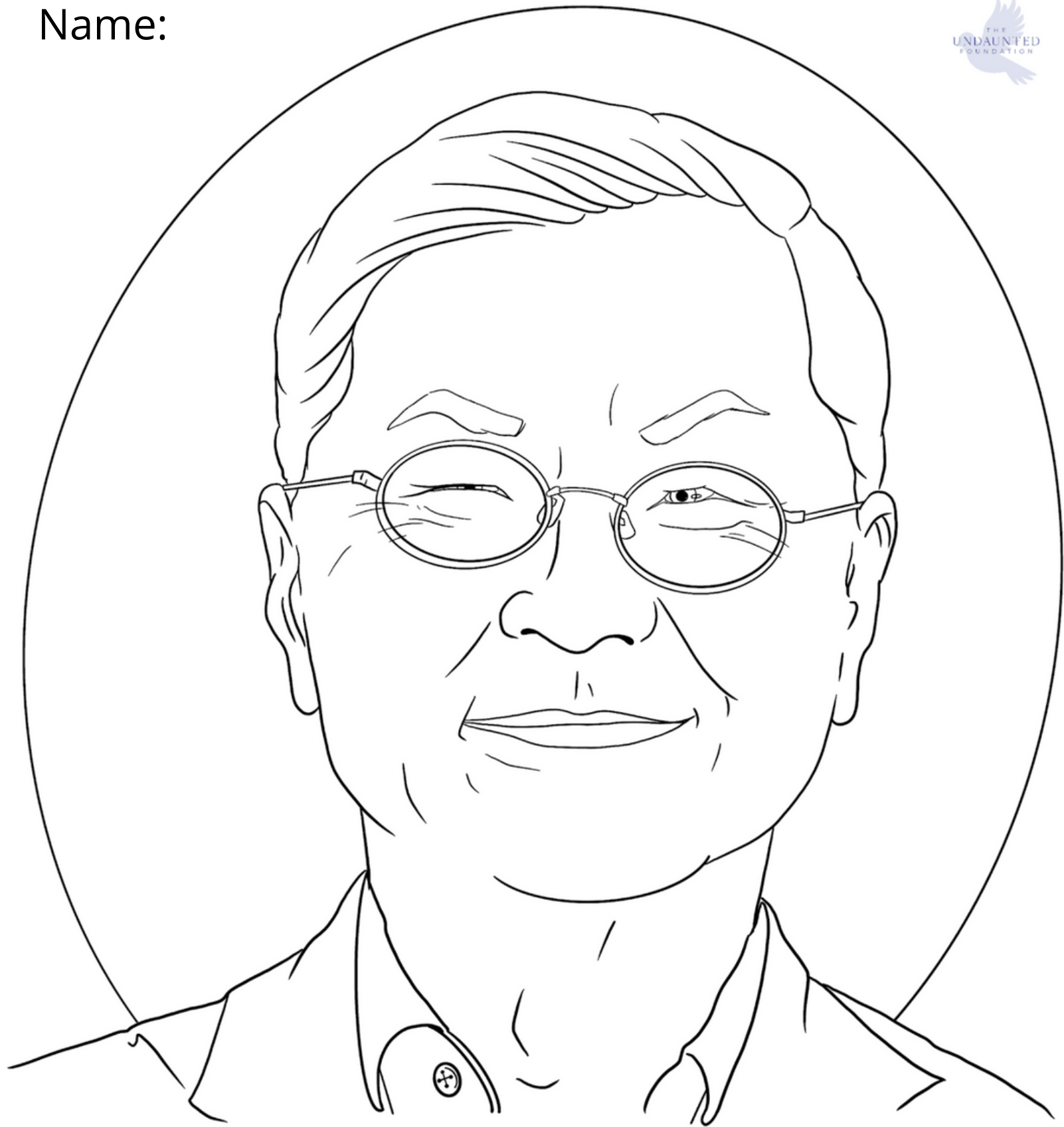
"There's always
hope -- through
science and
scientific
investigation."

—David Ho

"It's hard to
make friends
when you can't
communicate"

—David Ho

Name:



DR. DAVID HO



Yuri Kochiyama

◆ **Political and Civil Rights Activist**



◆ **Japanese American**

◆ **Interned with her Family at an Internment Camp in Arkansas for Most of WWII**

◆ **Advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community, Black Community, Anti-War Movement, Nuclear Disarmament, Reparations for Japanese American Incarcerees, and the Rights of Political Prisoners**

“The legacy I would like to leave is that people try to build bridges and not walls.”



Yuri Kochiyama



Japanese-American activist Yuri Kochiyama was a Japanese-American activist, a lifelong champion of civil rights causes in the black, Latino, Native American and Asian-American communities.

Born in 1921 as Mary Yuriko Nakahara, Kochiyama spent the early years of her life in San Pedro, Calif., a small town south of Los Angeles. Months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, she and her family were forced to relocate to internment camps along with tens of thousands of other Japanese-Americans. She met her late husband, Bill Kochiyama, who served with other Japanese-American soldiers in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas, where she spent two years.

The couple married after World War II and moved to start their family in New York City. Living in housing projects among black and Puerto Rican neighbors inspired her interest in the civil rights movement. Kochiyama held weekly open houses for activists in the family's apartment, where she taped newspaper clippings to the walls and kept piles of leaflets on the kitchen table. "Our house felt like it was the movement 24/7," said her eldest daughter, Audee Kochiyama-Holman.

Her brief but formative friendship with Malcolm X, whom she first met in 1963, helped radicalize her activism. Kochiyama began focusing her work on black nationalism and was with Malcolm X during his final moments. Minutes after gunmen fired at Malcolm X in 1965 during his last speech in New York City, she rushed toward him and cradled his head on her lap. A black-and-white photo in *Life* magazine shows Kochiyama peering worriedly through horn-rimmed glasses at Malcolm X's bullet-riddled body.

In the 1980s, she and her husband pushed for reparations and a formal government apology for Japanese-American internees through the Civil Liberties Act, which President Ronald Reagan signed into law in 1988. Her continued dedication to social causes inspired younger generations of activists, especially within the Asian-American community.

"She was not your typical Japanese-American person, especially a nisei," or a second-generation Japanese-American, said Tim Toyama, Kochiyama's second cousin, who wrote a one-act play about her relationship with Malcolm X.

"She was definitely ahead of her time, and we caught up with her."

- [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

"Don't become too narrow. Live fully. Meet all kinds of people. You'll learn something from everyone. Follow what you feel in your heart."

—Yuri Kochiyama

"So, transform yourself first... Because you are young and have dreams and want to do something meaningful, that in itself, makes you our future and our hope. Keep expanding your horizon..."

—Yuri Kochiyama

"Unless we know
ourselves and our history,
and other people and
their history, there is
really no way that we can
really have positive kinds
of interaction where
there is real
understanding."

—Yuri Kochiyama

"Our ultimate
objective in
learning about
anything is to try
to create and
develop a more just
society."

—Yuri Kochiyama

Name:

YURI
KOCHIYAMA





Duke Kahanamoku

- ◆ **Surfer, Swimmer, Olympian, and Ultimate Hawaiian Waterman**
- ◆ **Hawaiian, Spread Aloha Spirit Throughout the World**
- ◆ **He was Considered the Greatest Freestyle Swimmer in the World**
- ◆ **Considered the Father of Modern Surfing and Invented the Flutter Kick**



“It was in 1925 when I accidentally introduced another kind of surfing [lifesaving] to California. Good sometimes comes from the worst of tragedies. Boards became standard equipment on the emergency rescue trucks as well as at the towers.”



Duke Kahanamoku



Kahanamoku, nicknamed "The Duke" and "The Big Kahuna," is considered the father of modern surfing.

By the end of the 19th century, foreign missionaries had almost "erased" surfing from the Hawaiian Islands. Only a handful of locals would hit the Waikiki rollers for a few rides. However, Duke, born in 1890, was always in the water, swimming, surfing, diving, and exploring. Duke impressed everyone with his swimming skills and rapidly started winning competitions to become the ultimate Hawaiian waterman.

After elementary school, Kahanamoku entered Kamehameha Industrial School, but never graduated because his family needed him to work to help with bills. He sold newspapers, transported ice, and shined shoes.

At 21, his swimming performances paid off; he beat the 100 yards freestyle world record by 4.6 seconds, but judges considered that race floats drifted, and the measurement was incorrect. In 1912, Kahanamoku wrote history for the Hawaiian flag. He won the 100-meter freestyle gold medal and the 4x200 relay silver medal at the Stockholm Olympic Games. The sports world had a new hero. Duke started touring the world to teach his famous "Kahanamoku Kick" (the flutter kick). The star of the swimming world kept collecting Olympic medals (Antwerp, 1920, and Paris, 1924), and surfing was starting to become a global sport. Duke was the first person to be inducted into both the Surfing and Swimming Hall of Fame.

During his 30s and 40s, Duke appeared in Hollywood movies, worked as a mechanic and lifeguard, and shared his swimming knowledge. In 1925, he saved the lives of eight men when a giant swell hit their 40-foot yacht, making three trips to and from the beach to rescue the men. He served as sheriff of Honolulu from 1932-1961, and when Hawaii became the 50th US State in 1959, Kahanamoku was named State of Hawaii Ambassador of Aloha. A bronze statue was erected in his memory at Kuhio Beach in Honolulu and is one of the most popular attractions in Hawaii.

He gave his life to surfing and touched the hearts and souls of millions of people around the world.

- *surfertoday.com*

"I was fired up with a mania for improving the boards and getting the most out of the surf. I was constantly redoing my board, giving it a new shape, new contours, new balance."

—Duke Kahanamoku

"I have no doubt the
ancient Hawaiians
used every stroke
we know and
perhaps had better
swimming form than
we'll ever have."

—Duke Kahanamoku

"When I
wasn't at
school, I
was in the
surf."

—Duke Kahanamoku

Name:



DUKE
KAHANAMOKU



Tammy Duckworth



- ◆ **Senator, Former Member of the U.S. House of Reps, Former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs**
- ◆ **Thai American**
- ◆ **Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart Recipient, Retired Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel**
- ◆ **First Asian-American and Disabled Woman Elected to Congress in Illinois**

“It was the combination of hard work and a hand up that allowed me to become one of the first women to fly combat missions and achieve my American Dream.”



Tammy Duckworth



Tammy Duckworth was born in Thailand, the daughter of an American development-aid worker and a Thai mother of Chinese descent. Tammy's father was a Marine and Vietnam Veteran who was working with United Nations development programs throughout Southeast Asia when he met Tammy's mother. The family lived in Thailand and Singapore before relocating to Hawaii when Tammy was 16.

At the age of 16, Tammy was the only family member with a job. By selling roses on the side of the road for 25 cents apiece and taking on other odd jobs, she helped pull her family out of poverty—and developed a deep-seated appreciation both for the social safety net that helped keep her family afloat and for just how hard so many Americans have to work to survive, pay their rent and put food on the table.

Duckworth finished high school and worked her way through college at the University of Hawai'i waitressing and with other minimum wage jobs before enrolling in a Masters in International Affairs program at George Washington University. Friends in the military encouraged her to go to basic training, saying “if you want to represent America in our embassies, you need to learn something about the military.” She enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard and went to basic training, falling in love with the Army. After earning her master's degree, Duckworth began a Ph.D. program at Northern Illinois University and continued serving in the Reserve Forces. In 2004 she was deployed to Iraq as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, interrupting her Ph.D. program and becoming one of the first women in the Army to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On November 12, 2004, Tammy's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade that exploded in her lap. She lost both legs and partial use of her right arm in the explosion and was awarded a Purple Heart for her injuries.

Duckworth, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after two terms in the House of Representatives, sits on the Senate Committee on Armed Services. She is focused on helping working families get ahead through job development programs, protecting Social Security and Medicare, promoting civil rights and equal rights for all Illinoisans, advocating for environmental justice, and supporting our Veterans and military families. She serves on the Armed Services Committee; the Environment & Public Works Committee; the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee; and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee.

In 2018, after Tammy became the first U.S. Senator to give birth while serving in office, she worked to change Senate rules to allow Senators to bring their infant children onto the Senate floor as they do their job voting on issues of national importance—sending a message that all workplaces should be family-friendly. She has since passed several pieces of legislation making traveling easier for new moms and people with disabilities.

- *TammyDuckworth.com and Britannica.com*

"Young women are not as likely to receive the encouragement they need from role models like teachers and parents. And they should be encouraged – studies show women are just as likely as men to win when they do run."

–Tammy Duckworth

"It's important to have women in leadership positions because our experiences are different from those of the men we serve with and that helps us identify problems we can fix."

—Tammy Duckworth

"As a nation, we need to do everything we can to make sure those who have served have the tools they need to succeed in civilian life."

—Tammy Duckworth

"My job now is to not give up, to continue advocating and fighting for the issues Secretary Clinton ran her campaign on. I have to do that to show young girls in this country that they truly can grow up to be whatever they want to be – they need to know that they can grow up to be president."

–Tammy Duckworth

Name:

TAMMY
DUCKWORTH





Kamala Harris



- ◆ **Vice President of the United States**
- ◆ **First Female Vice President, First African American, and First Asian American Vice President**
- ◆ **Highest-Ranking Female Official in History**
- ◆ **Politician and Attorney, Former Attorney General of California, Former Senator for California**

“My mother would say, 'Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.'”



Kamala Harris



Kamala D. Harris was elected Vice President of the United States in the November 2022 election, after a lifetime of public service, having been elected District Attorney of San Francisco, California Attorney General, and United States Senator.

Vice President Harris was born in Oakland, California to parents who emigrated from India and Jamaica. Growing up, she was surrounded by a diverse community and extended family. Her parents were activists, instilling Vice President Harris with a strong sense of justice. They brought her to civil rights demonstrations and introduced role models—ranging from Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to civil rights leader Constance Baker Motley—whose work motivated her to become a prosecutor. Vice President Harris was inspired by her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a breast cancer scientist and pioneer in her own right, she received her doctorate the same year Vice President Harris was born.

She graduated from Howard University and the University of California, Hastings College of Law. In 2014, she married Douglas Emhoff. They have a large blended family that includes their children, Ella and Cole.

In 1990, Vice President Harris joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office where she specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. She was elected District Attorney of San Francisco in 2003 and created a ground-breaking program to provide first-time drug offenders with the opportunity to earn a high school degree and find employment. In 2010, she was elected California's Attorney General and oversaw the largest state justice department in the United States. She established the state's first Bureau of Children's Justice and instituted several first-of-their-kind reforms that ensured greater transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system. She defended the Affordable Care Act in court, enforced environmental law, and was a national leader in the movement for marriage equality.

In 2017, Vice President Harris was sworn into the United States Senate. In her first speech, she spoke out on behalf of immigrants and refugees. As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, she fought for better protections for DREAMers and called for better oversight of substandard conditions at immigrant detention facilities.

On the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, she worked with members of both parties to keep the American people safe from foreign threats and crafted bipartisan legislation to assist in securing American elections. She visited Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan to meet with servicemembers and assess the situation on the ground. She also served on the Senate Judiciary Committee. During her tenure on the committee, she participated in hearings for two Supreme Court nominees.

As Senator, Vice President Harris championed legislation to combat hunger, provide rent relief, improve maternal health care, and address the climate crisis as a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Her bipartisan anti-lynching bill passed the Senate in 2018. Her legislation to preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities was signed into law, as was her effort to infuse much-needed capital into low-income communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 11, 2020, Vice President Harris accepted President Joe Biden's invitation to become his running mate and help unite the nation. She is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President, as was the case with other offices she has held. She is, however, determined not to be the last. In everything she does, she remains focused on the people of our nation -- and our collective future.

Throughout her career, she has been guided by the words she spoke the first time she stood up in court: "Kamala Harris, for the people."

- *whitehouse.gov*

"What I want young
women and girls to
know is that you
are powerful and
your voice
matters."

—Kamala Harris

"My daily challenge to myself is to be part of the solution, to be a joyful warrior in the battle to come. My challenge to you is to join that effort. To stand up for our ideals and our values. Let's not throw up our hands when it's time to roll up our sleeves."

—Kamala Harris

"My mother always used to say, 'Don't sit around and complain about things; do something.'

So I did something. I devoted my life to making real the words carved in the United States Supreme Court: Equal justice under law."

—Kamala Harris

"What I want young
women and girls to
know is that you
are powerful and
your voice
matters."

—Kamala Harris

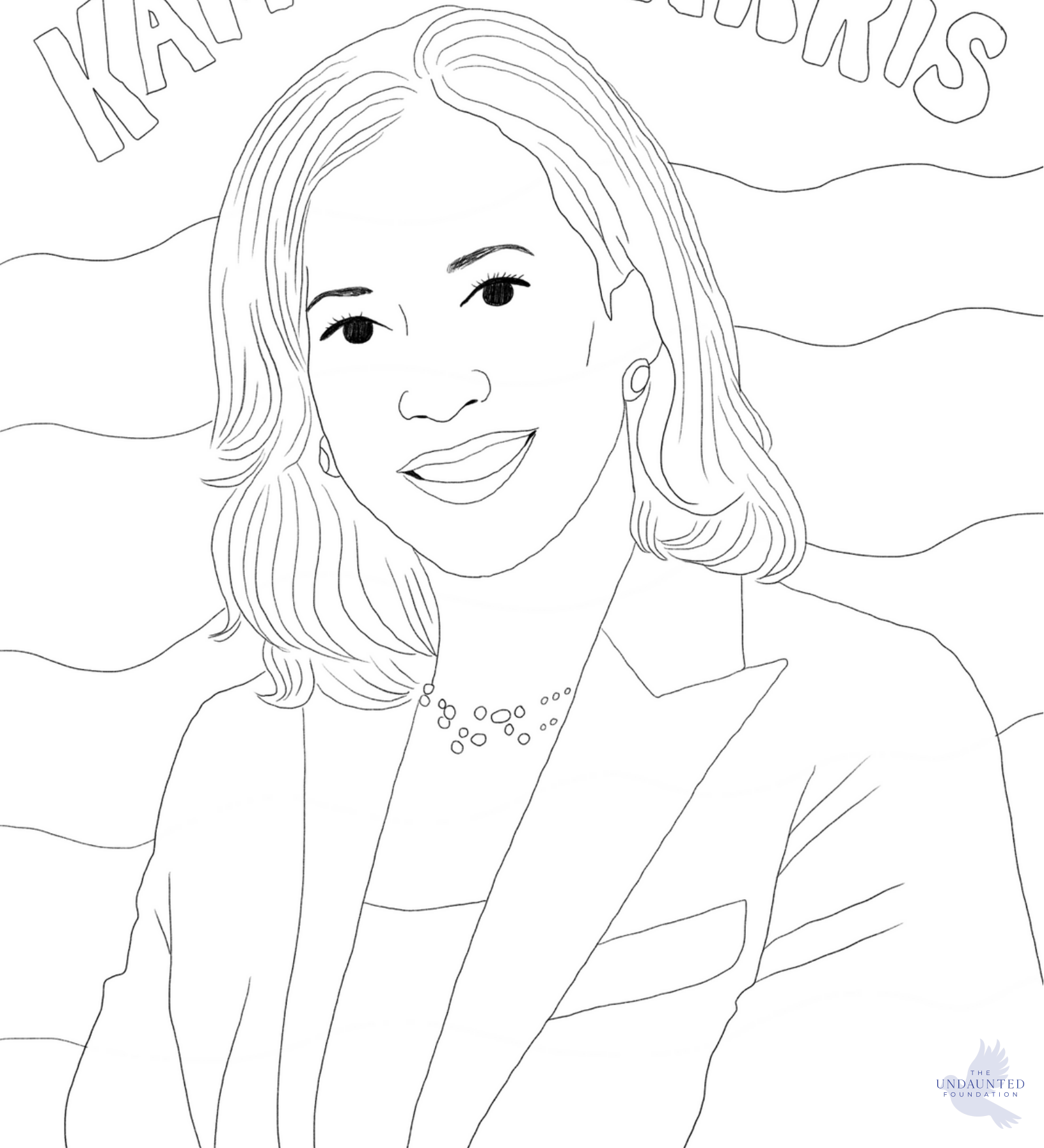
"The American
dream belongs
to all of us."

—Kamala

Harris

Name:

KAMALA HARRIS



AANIPI Heritage Month Quiz



- 1. How many diverse books has Emi donated to local schools?**
- 2. Who was called the Ultimate Hawaiian Waterman?**
- 3. Who is an Iraq War Veteran and received a Purple Heart?**
- 4. Who said "The legacy I would like to leave is that people try to build bridges and not walls"?**
- 5. Who is the first female Vice President of the United States and is the highest-ranking female official in U.S. History?**
- 6. Who is a physician, virologist and AIDS expert and researcher?**



Book Recommendations

