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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume III: Asian American History and the Making of the U.S. Immigration System

Navajo Nation and Asian American Histories Together

Guide for Curriculum Unit 26.03.01, published September 2026
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The history of Chinese immigration and today's immigration issues are lightly covered in schools. Therefore, our Navajo Nation Students only know what is shared on social media or on television. Today's current events involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) do spark conversations at home and at school. Through the history of the Southeast Asian people, Hmong people and the history of our Navajo ancestors' Long Walk to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, will broaden our Navajo Students' understanding of immigration and its effects. My hopes of sharing the research of Hmong people can be compared to our own Navajo ancestors who traveled 400 miles to the Bosque Redondo reservation in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. The human treatment of people in captivity or held to wait on immigration is inconceivable. The unit will lend itself to many discussions and hands-on activities to learn that history is messy, but learning can happen with the guidance of a teacher teaching the delicate actions.

(Developed for History and Southeast Asian, grade 6; recommended for World History, grades 6 and 11; and Government, grade 7)

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