

History Snapshots

Lancy T.C. Sheng Wu (1912-2006)

Lesson Topic

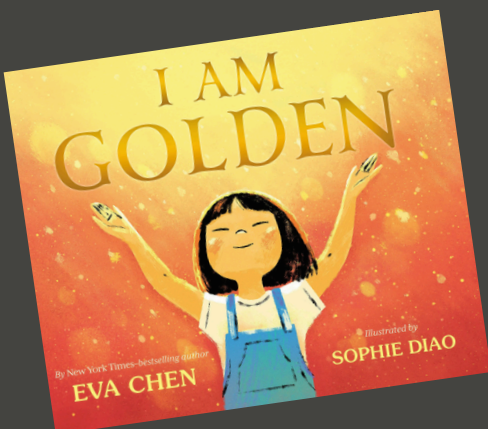
Lancy Wu and U.S. Immigration

Georgia Standards

SS5H1 Describe how life changed in America at the turn of the century. d. Describe the reasons people immigrated to the United States, from where they emigrated, and where they settled.

Lesson Picture Book

I Am Golden by Eva Chen



Lancy Wu, Immigration Advocate of Savannah, GA

Lancy Wu was born in Shanghai, China. She spent her early years as a nurse before immigrating to the United States. Inspired by her own struggle to earn her own citizenship, Wu became a well-known advocate for immigration cases in Savannah, Georgia. Wu and her husband John owned the Canton Restaurant on Abercorn Street. She was often found writing letters to immigration officials, feeding guests at her restaurant, or hosting bingo games at the Chinese Benevolent Association. Known as Savannah's Chinese Ambassador without portfolio, she earned city proclamations, the Liberty Bell Award, the Daughters of the American Revolution Americanism Gold Medal, three keys to the City of Savannah, and the American flag flown over the United States Capitol for her service to people. Lancy Wu dedicated most of her life to standing up for the rights of people pursuing the American Dream.

Materials

- [Immigration to United States \(1820-2023\) Timeline Video](#)
- [The immigrant. Is he an acquisition or a detriment? / Gillam ; Sackett & Wilhelms Litho. & Ptg. Co., New York. digital file from original](#)
- [Asian American Studies K-12 Framework](#)
- [Lancy Wu Obituary](#)
- [I Am Golden by Eva Chen](#)
- [Chinese Benevolent Society records](#)
- [Canton Restaurant](#)

GHS Primary Sources



Lesson Introduction

Teacher Tip - Before the start of the lesson, the facilitator of the lesson should review the [Asian American Studies K-12 Framework](#) by Dr. Sohyun An and Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodriguez for the Asian American Research Initiative.

Start the lesson by reviewing with the class the difference between:

- immigrate - to come to new country or region to live there
- emigrate - to leave a country or region to live somewhere else

Pose the following question to the class:

- What are some reasons people may want to leave their country and immigrate to the United States?
- How is immigration historically viewed?

During class discussion, fill in class responses on a t-chart to reference throughout the lesson.

Additionally, share the following to encourage class discussion:

- [Immigration to United States \(1820-2023\) timeline video](#)
- [The immigrant. Is he an acquisition or a detriment?](#)

Direct Instruction

Utilizing the Chinese Benevolent Society Primary Set ([Chinese Benevolent Society records](#), [Canton Restaurant](#), and [Lancy Wu Obituary](#)), introduce Lancy Wu.

Teacher will highlight:

- Reasons (Lancy Wu) immigrated to the United States.
- From where (Lancy Wu) emigrated.
- Where (Lancy Wu) settled.

Guided Practice

Split class into groups of five, give each a copy of the book, *I Am Golden* by Eva Chen and the Chinese Benevolent Society Primary Set.

Have each group read the picture book and complete the 3-2-1 written response:

- 3 interesting or important facts
- 2 things that surprised you in the primary source set.
- 1 major takeaway from the picture book.

Each group will present their findings to the class.

Independent Practice

Students will complete the ticket out of door journal response:

1. Describe reasons why people immigrated to the United States, from where they emigrate, and where they settle.
2. What roles are immigrants, documented and undocumented, playing in American economy and society?