Hmong History and Cultural Studies Model Curriculum California Department of Education Agents of Change: Students in Civic Action (Hmong Communities) Grade(s): 11–12

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Area of Study: Community Building, Home-making and Empowerment

Compelling Question: How do Hmong people build and sustain community and belonging?

Lesson Questions (Supporting Questions):

- What is civic engagement and why is it important?
- What are some pressing issues within Hmong communities that require attention and action? How can students raise awareness about these issues within their schools and communities?

Lesson Materials:

• Supplies:

- Access to laptop device
- o Poster Board
- Markers

• Readings:

- o "A Picture from History: The Hmong and the Secret War"
- "Building Partnerships: Conversations with the Hmong about Mental Health Needs and Community Strengths"
- o "After the War: Trauma still haunts California's Hmong Community" on Medium
- "Health Issues for the Hmong Population in the U.S.: Implications for Health Educators"
- "Review of Hmong-Related Health Problems: A Quick Guide for Healthcare Providers"
- "Being Hmong, you don't really have a place": Hmong American Alumni at UW–Madison
- "Hmong in the U.S. Fact Sheet"
- "Hmong students are among the forgotten minorities of higher education"

- "#advanceAAPIpower: Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Political Leadership"
- o "Asian American Voter Survey"
- "AAPI Data: Hmong Americans are up for grabs in the 2020 presidential election"
- "Hmong Voters Could Be Key To Winning Wisconsin. Here's How Organizers Are Reaching Them in the 2020 electoral race" from Wisconsin Public Radio
- o "The Design Thinking Process"

• Videos:

- What is Civic Engagement? on YouTube
- Hmong-led organization provides culturally relevant resources on YouTube

• Handout:

- Civic Engagement Proposal Form
- Link to handout: https://ucdavis.box.com/s/t1vhipmd5540zui8vgk101ni86exu48a

Lesson Objective: Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of civic engagement within Hmong communities by identifying a specific issue, planning a project to address it, and presenting their proposals to the class.

Ethnic Studies Theme:

This lesson connects to the ethnic studies theme of *community and solidarity* from the Asian American Studies Curriculum Framework (Asian American Research Initiative, 2022). Students analyze community resistance and alliances between communities, as well as the complexities within these experiences. Students execute a civic engagement initiative that enables them to collaborate with the community to address a passionate issue in their community or partner with other groups in solidarity to overcome racism and societal issues.

For additional guidance around ethnic studies implementation, refer to the *Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum* (2021) https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/esmc.asp.

Standards Addressed:

HSS-11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11–12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11–12.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Lesson Background: Hmong communities in the diaspora face a range of social, economic, and cultural challenges. Issues such as intergenerational trauma from war, cultural preservation and identity, mental health stigma, educational disparities, and lack of access to healthcare are just a few examples of areas where civic engagement can make a meaningful impact. The Hmong American experience, shaped by historical events of displacement, war, and migration, has led to unique challenges and opportunities for civic participation. Understanding these issues can inspire students to learn more about their culture while taking action and making a difference in their communities.

Teacher note: It may be beneficial to define mental health as our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. The concept of mental health may be foreign to some students, as this phrase may not exist in some languages.

Lesson Assessment: Students will select a topic or issue concerning the Hmong community and explore various assessment options from a menu board to propose ideas for advocacy and fostering change. Students will present their advocacy idea and initiate the first steps toward implementation.

Suggested Amount of Time: Month Long Project

Lesson Procedures:

- a. Cultural Energizer (5 minutes)
 - i. Prompt students to think about the question: "What are three things you wish for yourself/your community/the world?"
 - 1. Have students share with a partner and the class.
- b. Anticipation Guide (10–15 minutes)
 - i. Pose the following task to students (This can also be done as an interactive PearDeck on slides):
 - 1. What are you most proud of in your school/community/city/society?
 - 2. Jot down one or two issues you wish you could change that impact students at your school.

- 3. Jot down one or two common issues you wish you could change that impact the community you live in.
- 4. Jot down one or two common issues you wish you could change that impact your cultural community groups.
- ii. Have students share their list with a peer and encourage them to find any similarities in responses.
- iii. Teacher to solicit student responses and write down common issues on the board
- iv. Teacher to introduce the idea of civic engagement to students by sharing the video *What is Civic Engagement* (1:52 minutes)
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6bNwmrBPXI.
 - 1. Have students write one line that best wraps up their understanding of civic engagement.
 - a. Then, have students share their responses with an elbow partner.
 - 2. Teacher to solicit student responses of the definition of civic engagement and display a co-constructed definition on the board.
- v. Introduce students to lesson objective, lesson questions and lesson background.
- c. Building Background (20–25 minutes)
 - i. Teachers should provide content/trigger warning to class: "Today we will be discussing and viewing photos from the Secret War that may contain graphic and violent content. These images help us understand the impact and the war. If you feel uncomfortable or distressed, please feel free to step out of the room. As we engage in analyzing the photos to better understand the events that unfolded, please remain respectful of the victims."
 - ii. Teacher to start with explaining that before we look at today's society and the problems that are prominent in current times, we must understand the background and history from which the Hmong communities derive from. We will do that by analyzing a series of photos from the website, "A Picture from History: The Hmong and the Secret War" at https://www.pewpewtactical.com/a-picture-from-history-hmong-secret-war/.
 - 1. As students view the photos, have them complete the thinking routine (independently or with peers): "See-Think-Me-We" (recommended four responses per section).

- a. See Look closely at the images. What do you notice? Make at least three observations.
- b. Think What thoughts do you have about what is going on in the photos? What do you think happened during and after the war from looking at these photos?
- c. Me What connections can you make between you and the images?
- d. We How might the impacts from the Secret War seen in the photos be connected to bigger stories about the world? What issues and topics might stem from the Secret War (photos) and impact the larger Hmong American community?
- iii. After students have had sufficient time interacting with the images, have them share their responses to the 'We' section.
 - As students share, teachers can make a word bank list on the board of common impacts and issues that students mention. Teachers can also share one or two from the list below to prompt students to think in alignment with the lesson objective.
 - a. Possible responses: (intergenerational) trauma, mental health, poverty, politics, economics, health issues/access to health services, educational levels
- d. Shared Learning: Modified Jigsaw Activity (25–30 minutes)
 - i. In the next part of the lesson, students will each be responsible for conducting research on a pertinent issue or topic impacting Hmong American communities in present day society. These issues/topics have influences from the Secret War and carry over into the subsequent generations.
 - ii. Students will engage in a modified jigsaw activity in which they are assigned a topic/issue and source(s) to analyze. They will be responsible for exploring that issue and sharing a brief overview with their peers. This will serve as a window and introduction for students of the potential issues they can conduct their civic engagement project on.
 - iii. It is best to place students into groups. Each group will examine the same issue/topic and accompanying source(s). (If students are interested in researching a topic/issue not listed below, teachers can use best discretion to approve the topic).

- 1. Topic/Issue: Mental Health/(Intergenerational) Trauma
 - a. Source: "Building Partnerships: Conversations with the Hmong about Mental Health Needs and Community Strengths"
 https://ucdavis.box.com/s/gq0d697vsnrmadaqv27aluiye34khw97
 - Source: "After the War: Trauma still haunts California's Hmong Community"
 https://scotta-rsvpt.medium.com/after-the-war-trauma-still-haunts-californias-hmong-community-a6058a88b0e7
- 2. Topic/Issue: Health Conditions/Healthcare
 - a. Source: "Health Issues for the Hmong Population in the US: Implications for Health Educators" https://ucdavis.box.com/s/2mrvfryigaoehins97kqn79bul92pzyf
 - b. Source: "Review of Hmong-Related Health Problems: A Quick Guide for Healthcare Providers" https://ucdavis.box.com/s/mgwkieig5eyvkoh0lusgrwdcxpk92xat
- 3. Topic/Issue: Discrimination
 - a. Source: "Being Hmong, you don't really have a place": Hmong American Alumni at UW–Madison https://campushistory.wisc.edu/hmong-american-alumni/
 - Source: "A Struggle to be Seen: Why Wisconsin's Hmong American Community Continues to Face Discrimination" https://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/syndicated/struggle-seen-wisconsins-hmong-american-community-continues-face-discrimination/
- 4. Topic/Issue: Income, Education, Workforce
 - a. Source: "Hmong in the U.S Fact Sheet"

 https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/fact-sheet/asian-americans-hmong-in-the-u-s/
 - b. Source: "Hmong students are among the forgotten minorities of higher education"
 https://www.sltrib.com/news/nation-world/2019/03/19/hmong-students-are-among/

- 5. Topic/Issue: Representation in Government/Voting Patterns
 - a. Source: "#advanceAAPIpower: Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Political Leadership"
 https://wholeads.us/research/aapi-political-leadership/
 - b. Source: "Asian American Voter Survey" https://apiavote.org/policy-and-research/asian-american-voter-survey/
 - c. Source: "AAPI Data: Hmong Americans are up for grabs in the 2020 presidential election"

 http://aapidata.com/blog/hmong-americans-are-up-for-grabs-in-the-2020-presidential-election/
 - d. Source: "Hmong Voters Could Be Key To Winning Wisconsin. Here's How Organizers Are Reaching Them in the 2020 electoral race" https://www.wpr.org/hmong-voters-could-be-key-winning-wiscons-in-heres-how-organizers-are-reaching-them
- 6. Topic/Issue: Community Organizing
 - a. Source: "Finding a Hmong Identity in the Alliance"

 https://www.inheritancemag.com/stories/finding-a-hmong-identity-in-the-alliance
 - b. Source: "Hmong-led organization provides culturally relevant resources" (2:18 minutes)
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJqDKpItEy8
- 7. Encourage students that they are welcome to complete research on the issue/topic beyond the sources provided. There are additional websites that include information and multiple topics and issues in the "supplementary sources" that should be made available to students.
- 8. As students are researching, have them work together to prepare a poster to include the following: Topic/Issue (as a headline), three to five key details, two to three statistics, and an image or symbol of the topic/issue.
- e. Gallery Walk (15–20 minutes)
 - i. Once students are done with reading their sources and creating posters as a group, there will be a gallery walk for students to learn about the other prevalent issues impacting the Hmong American community.

- ii. Ask students to assign a notetaker that allows them to take note of the topic/issue and their key learnings.
- iii. Students can move as a group between posters, and allow three to four minutes at each poster. Once time is up, each group will move to the next respective poster.
- iv. Once students have a chance to preview all topics/issues, have them return to their groups and discuss the following:
 - 1. What connections can be made between the issue you researched and the influences of the Secret War?
 - 2. Which topic/issue was most interesting to you, or which topic/issue are you most passionate about?
- f. Civic Engagement Project Introduction (15–20 minutes)
 - i. Teachers will introduce the civic engagement project assignment.
 - 1. Task: Choose one major issue or topic that impacts the Hmong American community. Over the next month, conduct thorough research, and then execute a civic engagement initiative that enables you to collaborate with the community to enhance conditions and address the problem. The teacher can modify the length of time dedicated to this project.
 - ii. Allow students to consider their options and narrow down on a specific focus. If it helps, encourage them to sit with students who are choosing a similar topic/issue.
 - 1. Teachers can decide whether this is an independent project, or if students can work with others.
 - 2. Students can also pose additional project ideas that are not on the list above, with teacher approval.
 - iii. Have students consider the following guiding questions on the "Civic Engagement Project Proposal" form to support project design (see Handout https://ucdavis.box.com/s/t1vhjpmd5540zui8yqk101ni86exu48a).
 - 1. Students should submit a "Civic Engagement Project Proposal" Form to the teacher for approval, prior to starting on the project.
- g. A "Design Thinking Process" to Get Students Started (1 week)
 - i. In order to help students hone in on a particular topic/issue, and the appropriate project, students should start with gathering information and inspiration to guide the process.

- 1. For ways to encourage students to gather inspiration, educators can use the following resource titled, "The Design Thinking Process" https://www.ideou.com/blogs/inspiration/design-thinking-process.
 - a. Have students conduct empathy interviews or surveys with community members who are directly involved with the students topic/issue of interest.
- ii. After students have gathered information and inspiration to help frame their projects, they can brainstorm their advocacy project idea.
- h. Civic Engagement Project Execution (two to four weeks)
 - i. Menu Board of Options for Project Assignment (encourage students to choose a medium that best reflects the desired goals of their civic engagement):
 - 1. Raise Awareness
 - a. Create a PSA for an organization or media outlet
 - b. Create a Social Media Campaign
 - c. Create and Distribute a Leaflet for an organization or media outlet
 - d. Start a New Club on Campus
 - e. Write and Circulate a Press Release
 - 2. Demonstrate Support
 - a. Contact an Elected Official
 - b. Create a Petition
 - c. Initiate a Policy Proposal to Local Policymaker to Address the Issue
 - d. Organize a Town Hall Meeting that Includes a Variety Of Stakeholders
 - e. Reach out to a local Hmong community organization and attend their events or committees
 - Possible list of Hmong organizations:
 - i. Hmong Youth and Parent United (HYPU): https://www.hypu.org/
 - ii. Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP): https://hipcalifornia.com/
 - iii. Hlub Hmong Center: https://www.hlubhmongcenter.org/
 - iv. Hmong Culture Camp: https://hmongculturecamp.com/
 - v. The Fresno Center: https://fresnocenter.org/

vi. Stone Soup Fresno: https://sites.google.com/stonesoupfresno.org/stones

oup/home

vii. Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC): https://www.searac.org/

3. Donate to a Cause

- a. Apply for a Grant
- b. Solicit Funds for a Cause
- ii. Allow for student(s) to work on their Civic Engagement Project during specified class times.
- iii. Throughout the weeks, teachers should build a consistent routine for students to have check-ins with other peers and teachers to provide updates, meet benchmarks and get support and feedback on their project.
- i. Civic Engagement Project Presentation (30–60 minutes)
 - i. Presentations can look differently for each set of students depending on the context of their work. Teachers are encouraged to use best discretion in determining a presentation style that works best for the students and their projects.
 - ii. Below are two suggested presentation formats:
 - 1. Open Showcase: Teacher to reserve an open, public space on campus (i.e. library, quad, cafeteria) and set up tables for each project.
 - a. Invite community members, parents, educators, staff, and students to the showcase event.
 - b. Each student/student group will have a poster board display to share their civic engagement project and outcomes (including pictures, text, research, outcomes, process).
 - c. Students will prepare speaking parts to share about their project.
 - d. During the allotted showcase time, attendees will walk around and hear from student presenters and engage in questions.
 - 2. Closed Showcase: Students will prepare a three to five minute digital presentation (i.e. Google Slides, PowerPoint, Canva) outlining their civic engagement project
 - a. Once student(s) are done presenting, allow listeners to ask questions and provide feedback.

- j. Reflective Dialogue (15–20 minutes)
 - i. Have students complete a reflection of their civic engagement project, experiences, and successes.
 - 1. In small groups of four, or in a whole class discussion, pose one or more of the following questions to students:
 - a. What were some successes and wins? What worked best to reach these successful markers?
 - b. What were some surprising insights?
 - c. What were some challenges along the way?
 - d. How can you or peers continue to push the work to create a better future for our communities?
 - e. What were some parts you enjoyed about this experience?

Scaffolding:

- **Representation:** Consider the following method to support with multiple means of representation:
 - Use advanced organizers (e.g., KWL methods, concept maps)
 - Give explicit prompts for each step in a sequential process
- **Action and Expression**: Consider the following method to support in presenting their learning in multiple ways:
 - Provide models or examples of the process and product of goal-setting
 - o Provide guides and checklists for scaffolding goal-setting
- **Engagement:** Consider the following method to support with lesson engagement:
 - Differentiate the degree of difficulty or complexity within which core activities can be completed
 - Construct communities of learners engaged in common interests or activities

For additional ideas to support your students, check out the UDL Guidelines at CAST (2018) http://udlguidelines.cast.org.

Multilingual Learner Supports:

• **Emerging:** Consider the following method to support with emerging students:

- Speaking: Provide sentence frames for pair interactions
 - In response to a prompt, the teacher offers a sentence frame orally and/or in writing to support expression of student thinking. Frames are adjusted based upon specific grammatical structure, key vocabulary, content learning, and language proficiency level descriptors, etc. Frames are a temporary scaffold that require modification.
- **Expanding:** Consider the following method to support with expanding students:
 - Speaking: Scaffold oral reports with note cards and provide time for prior practice
- **Bridging:** Consider the following method to support with bridging students:
 - Speaking: Include oral presentations in the content classroom

For additional guidance around scaffolding for multilingual learners please consult the following resources:

- English Learner Toolkit of Strategies
 https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ujkdc2xp1dqjzrlq55czph50c3sq1ngu
- Providing Appropriate Scaffolding
 https://www.sdcoe.net/educators/multilingual-education-and-global-achievement/oracy-to-olkit/providing-appropriate-scaffolding#scaffolding
- Strategies for ELD https://ucdavis.box.com/s/dcp15ymah51uwizpmmt2vys5zr2r5reu
- ELA / ELD Framework
 https://www.caeducatorstogether.org/resources/6537/ela-eld-framework
- California ELD Standards
 https://ucdavis.box.com/s/vqn43cd632z22p8mfzn2h7pntc71kb02

Enrichment Opportunities:

- 1. State Seal Students can use this project to satisfy goal area three of the State Seal of Civic Engagement which includes: "Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts." Each LEA needs to adopt their own local criteria for earning the State Seal of Civic Engagement but this project should fit into most district plans. You can learn more about the State Seal of Civic Engagement on the California Department of Education website: https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/hs/hssstateseal.asp
- 2. Internship Opportunities Students can also pursue internships working with nonprofit organizations as well as local government agencies working in the area of their project.

Encourage students to get involved by becoming an active member of the respective community groups.

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