

# *Curriculum Guide*



## *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen And the Three People's Republic*



**CHINESE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY of  
AMERICA**

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## Acknowledgements

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CALIFORNIA COUNCIL  
FOR THE HUMANITIES



**CHINESE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY of  
AMERICA**

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and the Three People's Republic*, a History Alive performance. Performances last approximately one-hour and include dramatic monologue, a Question and Answer session where students are invited to speak with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, and lastly, the actor will step out of character to answer any questions Dr. Sun Yat-Sen would not have been able to answer.

This curriculum guide is designed to supplement the *Dr. Sun Yat-Sen* performance that covers topics of American democracy, Chinese Exclusion, immigration, and race issues in America. Lessons may be used individually or as a unit.

These lessons meet the California History-Social Science and National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Standards.

Items in this packet will:

- Familiarize educators about the Chinese immigration to America.
- Provide activities for students to learn about Chinese American history.
- Present additional resources for in-depth learning.

We hope this is a useful resource for you. Please let us know if you have any questions about this guide or the Chinese Historical Society of America.

Sincerely,

Pam Wong  
Programs Coordinator  
September 2011

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### About Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (1866-1925), was a patriot, national hero and president of the first Republic of China. Born the son of a farmer in Xiang Shan County, Guangdong Province, he later joined his older brother, Sun Mei, who had a store in Hawaii. Sent to the Iolani School to further his education, he learned about the British and American systems of government. He became inspired by the words of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Lincoln, and was convinced that the solution to problems of the inefficient and corrupt Manchu government of China was the founding of a democratic republic. As an adult he graduated from the college of Medicine for Chinese, Hong Kong and worked as a doctor in Macao and Guangzhou. But his political work soon became his main interest.

Taken his model from the words of Abraham Lincoln, “a government of the people, by the people, for the people,” he developed his own “Three Principles of the People.” They are, Nationalism, that China should be ruled by Chinese, Democracy, that the people should have a voice in their government, and Social Reform, that the government should help provide for the livelihood of the people.

For his speeches and activities, he was branded an outlaw by the Qing Dynasty government and became a wanted man with a price on his head. Forced into exile he traveled for over 15 years to Japan, Britain, Canada, the United States, spreading his message of the overthrow of the feudal court of the Manchus and the concept of a free and democratic China.

Overseas Chinese forced by China’s poverty and mismanagement to live in foreign countries supported Dr. Sun with money and contacts. He was having breakfast in Denver, Colorado when he learned that the long awaited revolution had begun. He returned to China 1911 to take the position of the first provisional President of the Republic of China. Today he is revered by The People’s Republic of China, the Republic of China in Taiwan, and by millions of Chinese around the world as the “Father of Modern China.”

### About the Performance

Performances last approximately one-hour and include a dramatic monologue and a Question and Answer session where students are invited to speak with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, and lastly, the actor steps out of character to answer any questions that Dr. Sun Yat-Sen would not have been able to answer.

Because the monologue is only one-third of the performance, conversations with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and the actor are important to how much the audience learns from this experience. Below are a few questions your class may ask during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the presentation. It would also be a good idea for your class to brainstorm some of their own questions before the show. Below are a few questions to get you started.

Questions to ask:

#### - Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

- What happened to your brother?
- Who is your favorite American Hero?
- Did you miss your family when you were traveling to different countries?
- Who did you meet when you were in Japan, Britain, Canada, or the United States?
- What qualifies you to be China's president?

#### - The Performer

- How do you know so much about Dr. Sun?
- How did you create this performance piece?
- How much of what we heard is true?
- What happened to Dr. Sun when he returned to China?
- What is China's government today?
- What are relations between US and China like now?

## Historic Background

### Chinese Immigration

Chinese continuously immigrated to the America in the time of the Gold Rush. Chinese immigrants came primarily from the Guangdong Province from districts in or near the Pearl River Delta, with many coming from the district of Toisan. Political unrest, economic hardships, and natural disasters were all factors that pushed Chinese to seek for better opportunities abroad. Arriving to America, Chinese immigrants worked on the Transcontinental railroad as well as mining, agriculture and fishing industries.

### Chinese Exclusion

Laws against the Chinese emerged soon after their arrival to the United States. Taxes, penalties and ordinances were specifically targeted at the Chinese. Due to high unemployment in America, anti-Chinese demonstrations, lynchings, and burnings were common. In 1882, under pressure from powerful labor unions, Congress decided that Chinese immigration must be restricted and passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act.

The Exclusion Act of 1882 prevented Chinese laborers from coming into the United States. The only Chinese who could come were students, merchants and diplomats. It was the nation's only immigration law that was ever based solely on race. This law stood in place until it was repealed in 1943 when United States and China became allies in World War II.

### Overseas Chinese support for Sun Yat-Sen

With limited rights here in the United States, Chinese felt it was important to support the revolutionary efforts in their homeland. They had experienced natural disasters like famine, flooding, and earthquakes in China and knew that the government was too weak and corrupt to give support to its citizens. By supporting the revolutionary activities of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, overseas Chinese were united in their hopes in rebuilding their homeland.

Focus Question: What did American heroes teach about democracy?

Key Theme: American Heroes

Standards:

California History-Social Science Standards, Language Arts Content Standards  
(See Standards Connections section).

Goal

1. Students will understand that American Heroes made lasting impact beyond the United States.

Objective

- Students will identify contributions made by American heroes.

Grades: 2-5

Materials:

- World Map
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Handouts pages 1-3

Procedure

- Introduce students to the map of the world. Identify where China, Hawaii, and the United States are.
- Distribute copies of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Learns U.S. History Handouts. Allow time for students to read the passage. Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary words in page 1. Ask students to complete page 2. Review the answers as a class for further discussions.

Adaptations or Extensions

Ask students to complete the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Learns U.S. History Handout page 3 and discuss what democracy looks like at their school and changes the student would like to see happen in the school to be more democratic.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Learns U.S. History



Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

Read the following passage. Underline any new vocabulary words and discuss with your class what you learned.

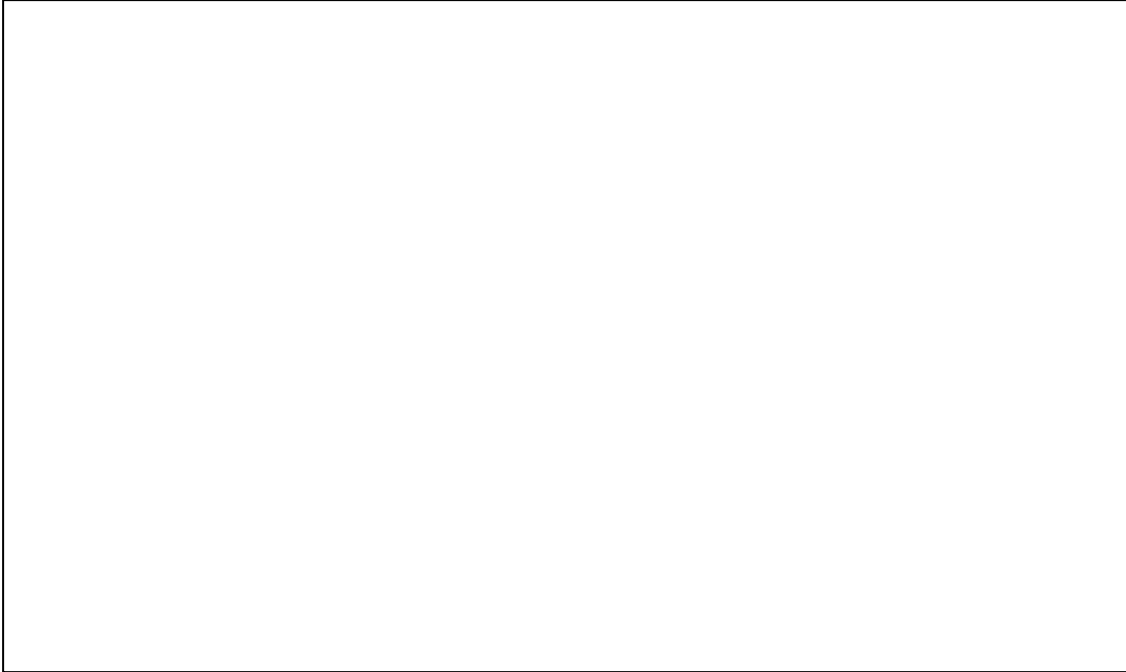
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen left his homeland in China to study at Iolani School in Hawaii. He learned English, history, math, science and Christianity. He admired American heroes like Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln. He memorized speeches American presidents made. Dr. Sun dreamed that China would be like the United States one day. Dr. Sun believed that in a democratic government and that it should be fair and provide for people. Sun became the first President of China.

Based on the paragraph from Handout 1, complete the statement to make them true.

1. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was born in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Hawaii, China, United States)
2. He studied the \_\_\_\_\_ of American heroes.  
(speeches, actions, books)
3. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen wanted China to be like \_\_\_\_\_.  
(United States, Australia, Egypt)
4. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen became the first \_\_\_\_\_ of China.  
(Mayor, Governor, President)
5. Sun believed that a government should \_\_\_\_\_ for people.  
(look, vote, provide)
6. A government established by the people and for the people is a  
\_\_\_\_\_ one.  
(socialist, monarch, democratic)

## My Democratic School

Draw examples of democracy at your school.



My school is democratic because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish my school could be more democratic if \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Based on the paragraph from Handout 1, complete the statement to make them true.

1. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was born in China.  
(Hawaii, China, United States)
2. He studied the speeches of American heroes.  
(speeches, actions, books)
3. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen wanted China to be like United States.  
(United States, Australia, Egypt)
4. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen became the first President of China.  
(Mayor, Governor, President)
5. Sun believed that a government should provide for people.  
(look, vote, provide)
7. A government established by the people and for the people is a democratic one.  
(socialist, monarch, democratic)

Focus Question: What is democracy?

Key Theme: Democracy and reasons for a revolution

Standards:

California History-Social Science Standards, Language Arts Content Standards  
(See Standards Connections section).

Goal

1. Students will be familiar with vocabulary words that are used in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen performance
2. Students will understand the reasons Dr. Sun Yat-Sen participated in the revolutionary activities.

Objective

- Explain how American Democratic values of Dr. Sun fueled his work as a revolutionary.

Grades: 6-8

Materials: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and Democracy Handouts

Procedure

- Distribute Student Handouts and ask the students to complete the activities.
- Review the answers as a class for further discussions.
- Discuss student essays using vocabulary words.

Read each clue and choose the person or word from the list that best matches the clue. Write the name or word on the blank. Use dictionaries, encyclopedias or the internet if necessary.

Abraham Lincoln	Gettysburg Address
Alexander Hamilton	Hawaii
Democracy	Revolution
Overseas Chinese	Sun Yat-Sen

- I was the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. I gave the Gettysburg Address. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The following phrases are quoted from a famous speech, "that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth". These words are from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I worked with Washington during the Revolutionary War, the framing of the Constitution, and Washington's Presidency of the United States. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen learned American History while studying at Iolani School. It was located in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was a fugitive for wanting this for China. It's called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I was born in China but now an American citizen. I support Dr. Sun's revolutionary activities because I care about my home country. I am an \_\_\_\_\_.
- I became the first president of China in 1911. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Word Search

Search for all the words in the list.

L M U E S E N I H C S A E S R E V O J Z  
 Z S O F A G F R E E D O M T Y F W Y T P  
 W B B X H E J J F A O B Z J F Y L K S K  
 P Z L D Q O Q L P A L N F D E N I A A G  
 S H V N X R Y D S R A M D T Y Z D L N A  
 V W J I Q G L O N D O N R U F U X E F B  
 Z S W N M E Y O S U N Y A T S E N X R R  
 Y I H Z E W A N H A W A I I K P N A A A  
 P L K S C A N I H C L E G A D F B N N H  
 G E T T Y S B U R G A D D R E S S D C A  
 H I H L W H L K D E M O C R A C Y E I M  
 G M V N O I T U L O V E R G Y G P R S L  
 K H D Z B N A E N A U G F L S Z W H C I  
 J Y V D G G D E N V E R R K I O S A O N  
 Y X J I R T U K I Z L D Z G R V J M Z C  
 L J W M K O Y D F T P M F N U Z N I Q O  
 O X Z G E N Z R R L I X S Z P J E L Z L  
 T N N A T I O N A L I S M V K O A T Y N  
 N O I T A Z I L A U Q E T T P G V O E Z  
 M B I D S V X R B Z A Y S F H J K N W G

Abraham Lincoln  
 Alexander Hamilton  
 China  
 Democracy  
 Denver  
 Equalization  
 Freedom  
 George Washington

Gettysburg Address  
 Hawaii  
 London  
 Nationalism  
 Overseas Chinese  
 Revolution  
 San Francisco  
 Sun Yat Sen

Using the words from this list, write 1-2 paragraphs about Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's background and how he became a revolutionary leader and later as the first provisional president of China. Bonus points for using every word in the list.

Read each clue and choose the person or word from the list that best matches the clue. Write the name or word on the blank. Use dictionaries, encyclopedias or the internet if necessary.

Abraham Lincoln	Gettysburg Address
Alexander Hamilton	Hawaii
Democracy	Revolution
Overseas Chinese	Sun Yat-Sen

- I was the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. I gave the Gettysburg Address.  
**Abraham Lincoln**  
 My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The following phrases are quoted from a famous speech, “that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth”.  
**Gettysburg Address**  
 These words are from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I worked with Washington during the Revolutionary War, the framing of the Constitution, and Washington's Presidency of the United States.  
**Alexander Hamilton**  
 My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen learned American History while studying at Iolani School.  
**Hawaii**  
 It was located in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was a fugitive for wanting this for China. It's called a  
**revolution**  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- I was born in China but now an American citizen. I support Dr. Sun's revolutionary activities because I care about my home country.  
**overseas Chinese**  
 I am an \_\_\_\_\_.
- I became the first president of China in 1911.  
**Sun Yat-Sen**  
 My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Search

Search for all the words in the list.

L	M	U	E	S	E	N	I	H	C	S	A	E	S	R	E	V	O	J	Z
Z	S	O	F	A	G	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	T	Y	F	W	Y	T	P
W	B	B	X	H	E	J	J	F	A	O	B	Z	J	F	Y	L	K	S	K
P	Z	L	D	Q	O	Q	L	P	A	L	N	F	D	E	N	I	A	A	G
S	H	V	N	X	R	Y	D	S	R	A	M	D	T	Y	Z	D	L	N	A
V	W	J	I	Q	G	L	O	N	D	O	N	R	U	F	U	X	E	F	B
Z	S	W	N	M	E	Y	O	S	U	N	Y	A	T	S	E	N	X	R	R
Y	I	H	Z	E	W	A	N	H	A	W	A	I	I	K	P	N	A	A	A
P	L	K	S	C	A	N	I	H	C	L	E	G	A	D	F	B	N	N	H
G	E	T	T	Y	S	B	U	R	G	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	D	C	A
H	I	H	L	W	H	L	K	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	C	Y	E	I	M
G	M	V	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R	G	Y	G	P	R	S	L
K	H	D	Z	B	N	A	E	N	A	U	G	F	L	S	Z	W	H	C	I
J	Y	V	D	G	G	D	E	N	V	E	R	R	K	I	O	S	A	O	N
Y	X	J	I	R	T	U	K	I	Z	L	D	Z	G	R	V	J	M	Z	C
L	J	W	M	K	O	Y	D	F	T	P	M	F	N	U	Z	N	I	Q	O
O	X	Z	G	E	N	Z	R	R	L	I	X	S	Z	P	J	E	L	Z	L
T	N	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	M	V	K	O	A	T	Y	N
N	O	I	T	A	Z	I	L	A	U	Q	E	T	T	P	G	V	O	E	Z
M	B	I	D	S	V	X	R	B	Z	A	Y	S	F	H	J	K	N	W	G

- Abraham Lincoln
- Alexander Hamilton
- China
- Democracy
- Denver
- Equalization
- Freedom
- George Washington

- Gettysburg Address
- Hawaii
- London
- Nationalism
- Overseas Chinese
- Revolution
- San Francisco
- Sun Yat Sen

Using the words from this list, write 1-2 paragraphs about Dr. Sun Yat-Sen’s background and how he became a revolutionary leader and later as the first provisional president of China. Bonus points for using every word in the list.

Answers may vary but should be historically accurate. For example: Sun Yat-Sen studied the words of American Heroes like Abraham Lincoln, Alexander Hamilton and George Washington while he was in Hawaii. Words from the Gettysburg Address made a lasting impression on his governmental ideals. He learned that democracy, equalization, nationalism and freedom were a basis to an ideal government in China. He participated in the revolution to overthrow the Qing Dynasty. To gain support from the overseas Chinese, he went to London, San Francisco, Denver, among other major cities with a large Chinese population.

## Additional Resources

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### Visit the Chinese Historical Society of America

The Chinese Historical Society of America was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on January 5, 1963. Its mission is: 1) to establish, maintain, and operate a scientific, literary, and educational organization; 2) to study, record, acquire, and preserve all suitable artifacts and such cultural items as manuscripts, books, and works of art or their facsimiles which have a bearing on the history of the Chinese living in the United States of America; 3) to establish a headquarters to enable the display of such items as are acquired; 4) to issue papers and publicity pertaining to the findings of the Society; and 5) to promote the contributions that Chinese Americans living in this country have made to the United States of America. To accommodate its expanding programs and exhibitions, CHSA opened the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum and Learning Center in the historic Julia Morgan Chinese YWCA building in November 2001.

We offer school programs throughout the school year for Elementary, Middle and High School students. Along with museum theater performances (*Dr. Sun Yat-Sen & the Three People's Principles*; *Dr. Yee: California Pioneer*; *Hugh Liang: Witness to San Francisco's 1906 Earthquake and Fire*; and *Ng Poon Chew: Chinese Activist*) storytelling, and docent tours of our galleries, not to mention walking tours of Chinatown.

Rates for museum programs start at \$2.50 for K-12 students and \$4.00 for adults. Museum theater capacity: 50. Recommended group size for docent or walking tours: 20.

If you have any questions or would like to book a visit to CHSA, please call (415) 391-1188 ext. 101 or email: [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org).