

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first law to ban a group of people based on ethnicity, to detain those who awaiting trial in Angel Island for long periods of time, thus beginning a 61 year conflict between Chinese immigrants and White laborers.

I am a first generation Chinese-American so, out about this topic was intriguing and emotional. I learned about what Chinese had to go through, including children using the "Paper Son" method to immigrate to America. I'm glad I chose this topic because I obtained a greater understanding of Chinese immigration and discrimination, America's history in Immigration laws, Angel Island and most importantly that there is no utopia, there will always be ups and downs.

I started my online research with Chinese Exclusion background information, including the acts surrounding the Chinese Exclusion Act and Angel Island Detention Center. This was challenging at first, but the book by Russell Freedman [Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain](#) and the Library of Congress website were of tremendous help because they provided me with information regarding Chinese discrimination, especially Angel Island and the voices of those detained, discrimination and forming of Chinatowns and riots, and acts such as the Geary Act of 1892 and Naturalization Act of 1965.

My school librarian Mrs. Mignone and social studies teacher Mrs. Adler helped me tremendously in finding information. Mrs. Mignone lead me to the Center for Asian American Media with their new film [The Chinese Exclusion Act.](#) After researching for people that could expand my understanding, I had personal interviews with John Jung, an author and historian of Chinese American history for an understanding of Chinese Exclusion, Paper Sons, Wil Jorae, the Museum Curator of the California State Photographic Archives for information and photographs regarding Angel Island, and Stephen Gong and Donald Young who are both producers for the film "The Chinese Exclusion Act" for information regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act and their film and other historians/archives for additional information.

I chose the website category, because it suited my project, allowing me to display all the articles and in slideshows, galleries, as well as an opportunity to learn HTML coding and website design. I first gathered all the information I had obtained from my research and interviews and decided on the different pages for my website, then wrote everything needed, placing images and quotes to support my words. Through my project, I learned to perform thorough research and gain confidence to interview distinguished people.

The Chinese Exclusion Act relates to this year's topic, Conflict and Compromise, because the immigration of Chinese Americans was a 61 year long social, political and economic conflict that was finally resolved with a new immigration policy at the outset of WWII. The conflict quickly escalated creating Chinatowns, starting riots, significantly decreasing the Asian American population, and leading to the future immigration laws. The 61 year edict finally came to a compromise with America opening limited immigration to Chinese laborers, but not without much argument from both sides.