



Learn with Us: Asian American & Pacific Island Heritage Month



Teaching Guide for Kids:

- History
- Historical Figures/Heroes
- Book Recommendations
- Film/TV Series Recommendations



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A letter from diversiTINY

Dear Caregiver or Educator,

Welcome to Diversitiny - where big change starts with the small! We created this website brand for readers to teach their kids about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Diversitiny was created and rebranded by two Digital Media and Design students from the University of Connecticut. It started as an unfinished site which was originally called Creation Station. We, the team, wanted to make this site to provide positive resources for elementary students to learn about DEI. There are several topics included, such as LGBTQ+, Black History Month, and more!

The main topic of this guide: ***Asian American & Pacific Island Heritage Month.***

This guide features its history, such as how it started, important heroes, and book/film recommendations.

We hope you and your Diversitiny friend enjoy this guide.

Sincerely,

the Diversitiny team!



Let's grow BIG!

May is coming up, which means that Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month is near! This is an opportunity for you and your Diversitiny friend(s) to learn about the history and people behind this celebration.

What is AAPI Heritage Month?

Asian American and Pacific Island (AAPI) Heritage Month is the celebration on the achievements and history towards Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the US.

How did it start?

The efforts of recognizing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the US began in the late 1970s.

- In 1977, NY Representative Frank Horton proposed the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. When it didn't pass, Horton introduced another plan to request the President to make the week happen during the first 10 days of May, including May 7th and 10th
 - **May 7th, 1843:** the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States
 - **May 10th, 1843:** the anniversary of completion of the transcontinental railroad from most workers who were Chinese immigrants
- In 1978, the House and Senate passed Horton's resolution. President Carter signed it as well
- From 1980-90, each president passed proclamations for Heritage Week
- In 1992, under President Bush, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week became a full month
- In 2009, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was renamed to **AAPI Heritage Month**



AT&T

Geographics

Asia

Eastern Asia: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, South Korea, North Korea, Macau, Mongolia, Paracel Islands, and Taiwan

South Central Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Southeastern Asia: Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

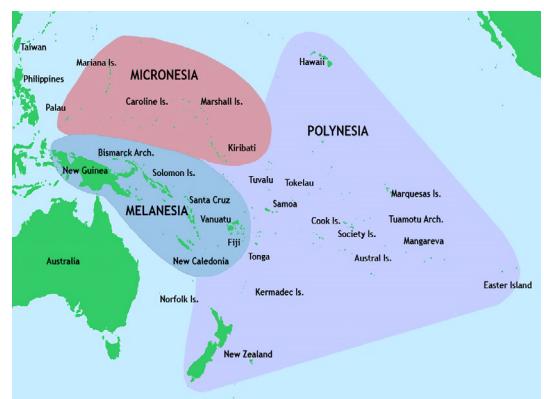
Western Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



Pacific Islands

Melanesia (black islands): New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands.

Micronesia (small islands): the Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia.



Polynesia (many islands): New Zealand, the Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, the Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island.

Historical Figures/Heroes

Hazel Ying Lee

- Born on August 24, 1912 in Portland, OR
- American aircraft pilot
- Lee was described as athletic and adventurous
- After visiting an airstrip with her friends, she began saving money for flying lessons and enrolled into a flying program supported by the Portland Chinese Benevolent Society
- In 1932, she became one of the first Chinese American women to earn a pilot's license
- In 1942, she was one of the first Chinese American women to be accepted to Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during WWII
- As she was about to land, her plane and another plane collided. Her plane burned and she died from her injuries



George Takei

- Born on April 20, 1937 in Los Angeles, CA
- American actor and Activist
- When he was 5, he and his family were forced to live in Japanese camps
- They returned home after WWII
- When growing up, he pursued acting and starred as Hikaru Sulu in *Star Trek*. He felt uncomfy due to the Hollywood environment, such as stereotyping Asians
- After the *Star Trek* series was cancelled, he began to play a big role to shape the public image of Asian Americans and entering state politics, such as the Southern Transit District
- In 2014, he received a GLAAD Media Vito Russo Award
- He is now the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign



Patsy T. Mink

- Born on December 6, 1927 in Paia, HI
- Former Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the US
- When she was in high school, she won her first election as class president
- She graduated with degrees in zoology and chemistry. She didn't get into any medical schools, so she decided to apply for law
- In 1964, she won a seat in the US House of Representatives, which made her the first Asian-American woman to work in Congress



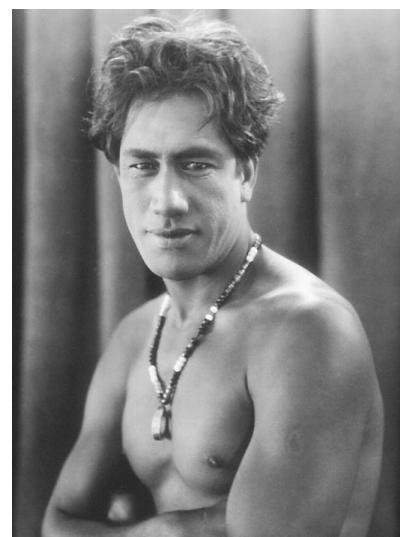
Kalpana Chawla

- Born on March 17, 1962 in Karnal, India
- Indian-American astronaut
- As a child, she was always interested in flying after seeing a plane fly in the sky. She would visit her local flying club with her father and showing an interest in aviation
- She pursued a career in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College. In 1890s, she moved to the US to continue her studies in aerospace engineering
- She began to work with NASA and her focus was on understanding how air flows
- In 1994, she was selected to be the astronaut and developed missions
- In 2003, when she and her crew were about to land back to Earth, hot gas streamed into the shuttle wing, which killed the crew



Duke Kahanamoku

- Born on August 24, 1890 in Honolulu, HI
- Swimmer (also known as "The Big Kahuna")
- He grew up with the ocean as his playground - mostly surfing, swimming, canoeing, and bodysurfing
- At 21, he broke 3 freestyle world records in his first swimming races (1911)
- In 1912, he was awarded 2 Olympic Medals in Stockholm
- He also introduced surfing to the US Atlantic Coast, Australia, and New Zealand
- In 1960, he was the US Representative at the Melbourne Olympics
- Years after passing, US released a first-class postage stamp of his younger self



Chloe Kim

- Born on April 23, 2000 in Long Beach, CA
- American snowboarder
- When she was 4, her father took her snowboarding in San Gabriel Mountains in California and she enjoyed this sport
- Chloe's parents knew she was talented, but they told her that education comes first. For a couple of grades, she was sent to school in Switzerland and struggled to fit in because she was the only Asian student at her school
- At age 14, she won a gold medal at the 2015 X Games. She was the youngest winner in history for that competition
- At the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022, she was the first woman to win two gold medals for doing a halfpipe



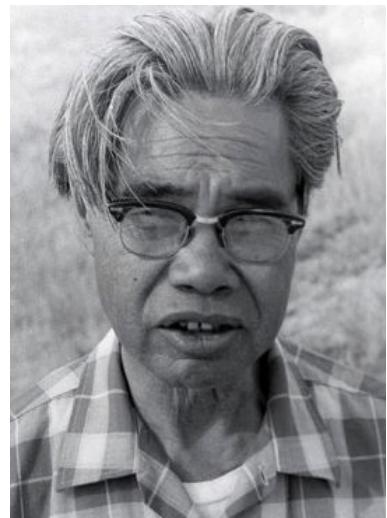
Phillipa Soo

- Born on May 31, 1990 in Libertyville, IL
- American actress
- In 2012, she attended The Juilliard School in NY
- After graduating, she was casted as Natasha Rostova in the Ars Nova and Off-Broadway production of Dave Malloy's Natasha, Pierre, and The Great Comet of 1812
- She originally played Eliza in one of the most popular Broadway musicals, Hamilton
- For her performance, she received the 2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Lead Actress in a Musical and nominated for a 2016 Tony Award



Philip Vera Cruz

- Born on December 25, 1904 in San Juan, Phillipines
- Filipino American labor leader and leader in the Asian American Movement,
- In 1926, he moved to the US and became a farmworker
- He also attended Gonzaga University in WA for a year
- He joined his first strike in 1948, organized by Filipino farmworkers who worked in asparagus fields
- In 1965, with the success of strikes, the Filipino groups joined other ethnic groups, mostly Mexicans, to form United Farm Workers (under the direction of Cesar Chavez)
- He became Vice President of United Farm Workers, but resigned his position in 1977, due to his differences with Mr. Chavez
- In 1988, he received an award from President Corazon Aquino in Manila for long service to Filipinos in the US



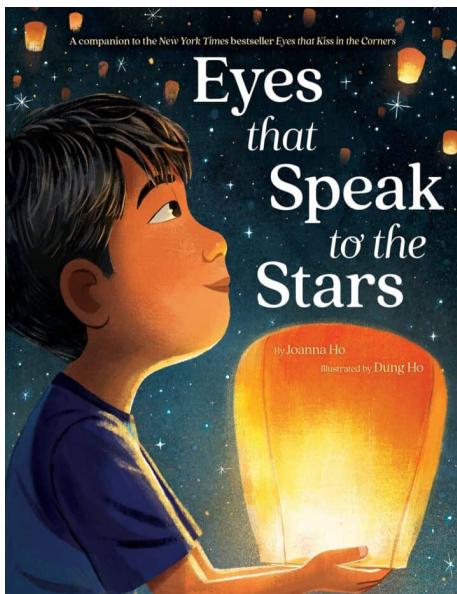
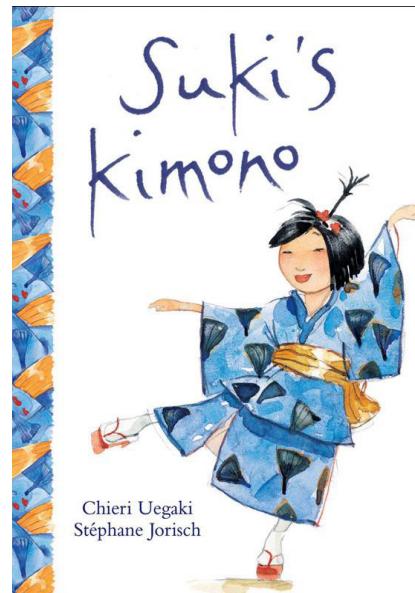
Book Recommendations

Suki's Kimono

By Chieri Uegaki • Illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch

It's the first day of school and Suki wants to wear the kimono gifted by her grandmother. Her older siblings warned that her peers will laugh at her but she doesn't care. Suki is going to wear it to school --- no matter what anyone says.

Ages 4 and up



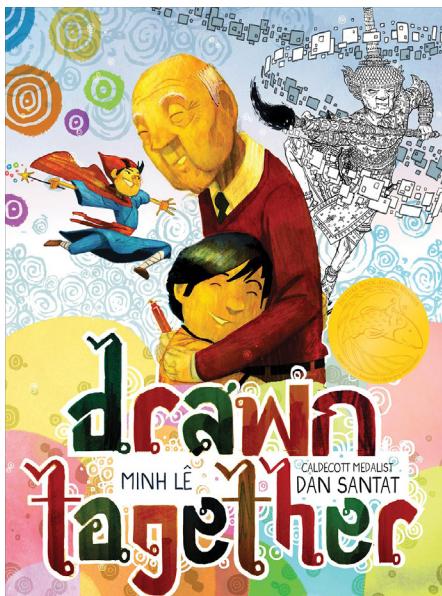
When Lola Visits

By Michelle Sterling • Art by Aaron Asis

Summer doesn't start until the young girl's Lola, her grandmother, comes for her annual visit. She fills the house with culture while her grandchild brings her to the beach with fun activities.

Ages 4 and up





Drawn Together

By Minh Lě • Illustrated by Dan Santat

When a young Vietnamese American boy arrives at his grandfather's house, the two struggle communicate. The boy doesn't speak Vietnamese, and his grandfather doesn't speak English. When they begin to draw together, a big connection happens.

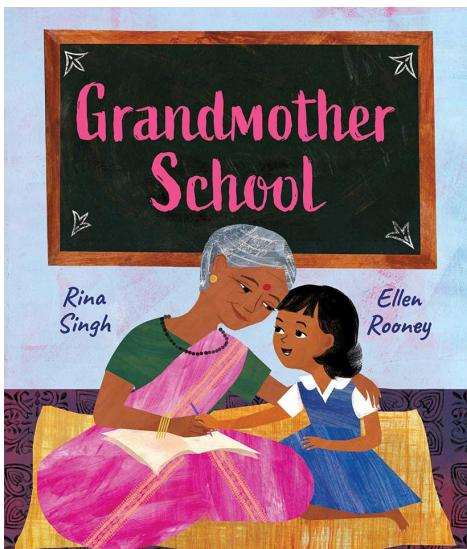
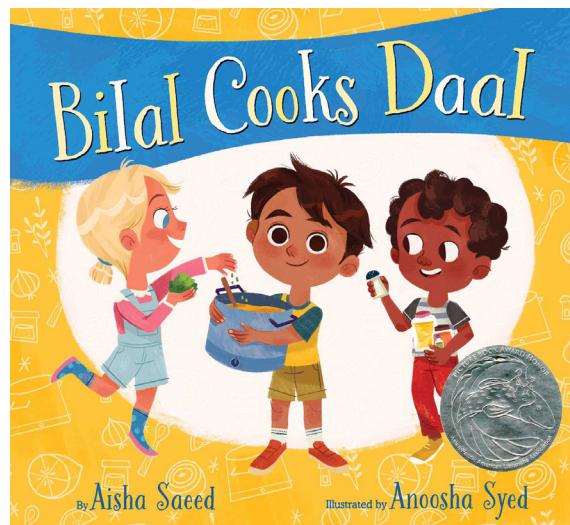
Ages 4 and up

Bilal Cooks Daal

By Aisha Saeed • Illustrated by Anoosha Syed

Six-year-old Bilal introduces his friends to his favorite dish—daal!—in this charming picture book that shows teamwork and sharing!

Ages 4 and up



Grandmother School

By Rina Singh • Illustrated by Ellen Rooney

Instead of her grandmother walking her to school, she walks her grandmother to school, a place where grandmothers learn to write, read and perform arithmetic. *Based on a true story.*

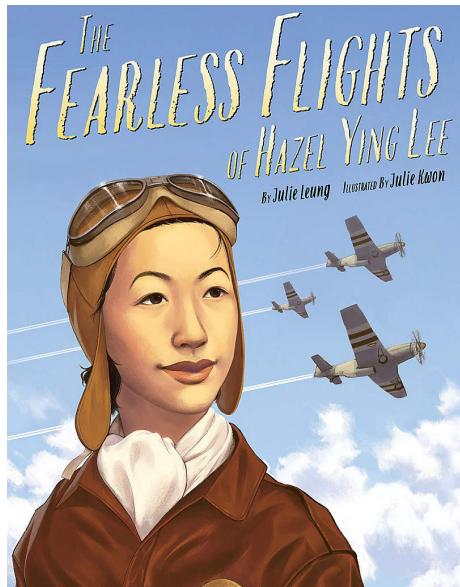
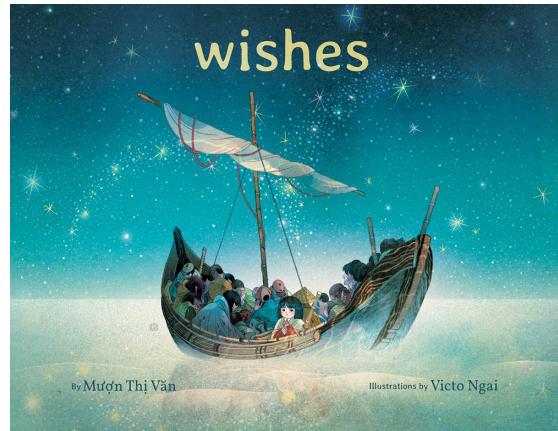
Ages 5 and up

Wishes

By Muon Thi Van • Illustrated by Victo Ngai

Wishes tells the powerful story about one Vietnamese family's search for a new home on the other side of the world, and the long-lasting and powerful impact that makes on one of the youngest members of the family.

Ages 5 and up



The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee

By Julie Leung • Illustrated by Julie Kwon

Hazel Ying Lee was born fearless and the moment she took her first airplane ride, she knew where she belonged. When people didn't believe in her being a pilot, Hazel wouldn't take no for an answer. She joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II.

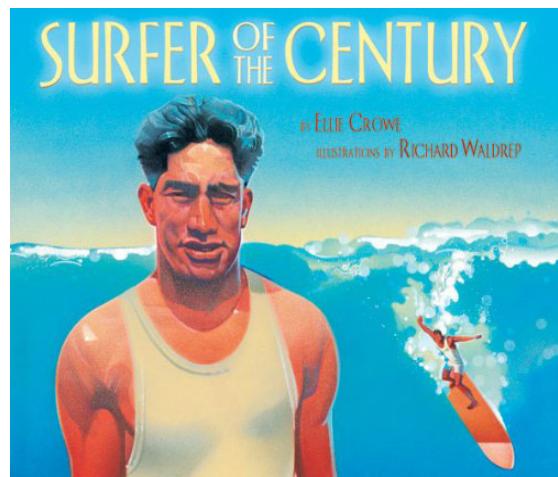
Ages 5 and up

Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku

By Ellie Crowe • Illustrated by Richard Waldrep

The true story of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, six-time Olympic swimming champion and legendary surfer who popularized surfing around the world.

Ages 6 and up

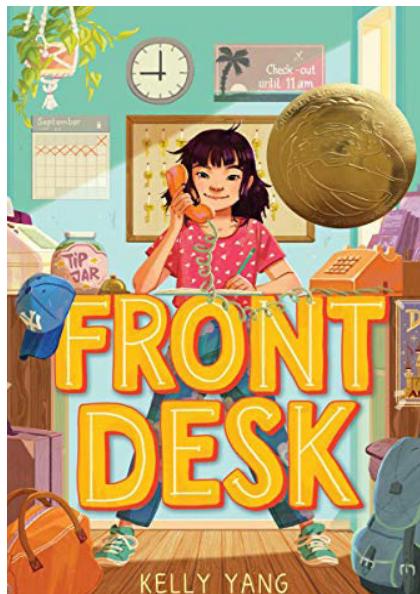
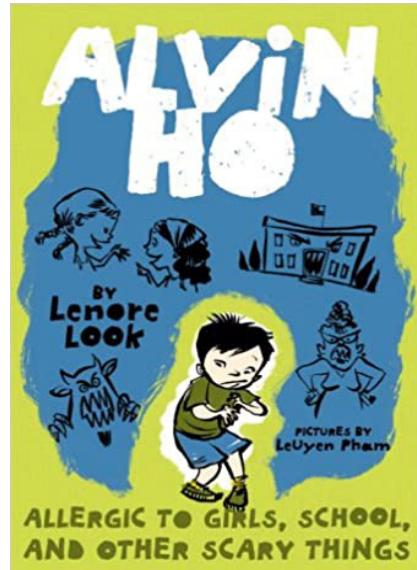


Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

By Lenore Look • Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Alvin, an Asian American second grader, is afraid of everything—elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man, a brother to Calvin and Anibelly, and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad.

Ages 7 and up



Front Desk

By Kelly Yang

Mia Tang and her family have moved to the US to build a better life. They have been working for a mean boss at a motel. Mia spends her time at the front desk while her parents clean the rooms. There are secrets Mia has; her parents hide immigrants in rooms for free and she wants to be a writer. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help immigrants, and go for her dreams?

Ages 8 and up

Ms. Marvel Graphic Novel: Stretched Thin

By Nadia Shammaas • Illustrated by Nabi H. Ali

Kamala Khan (a.k.a Ms. Marvel) is stretched too thin — literally. She's having a hard time with schoolwork, being with family, becoming a superhero. But when a mysterious robot tries to infiltrate Avengers Tower, it'll be up to Ms. Marvel to (literally) pull herself together, learn to ask for help, and fix the mess she's made before anyone gets hurt!

Ages 8 and up

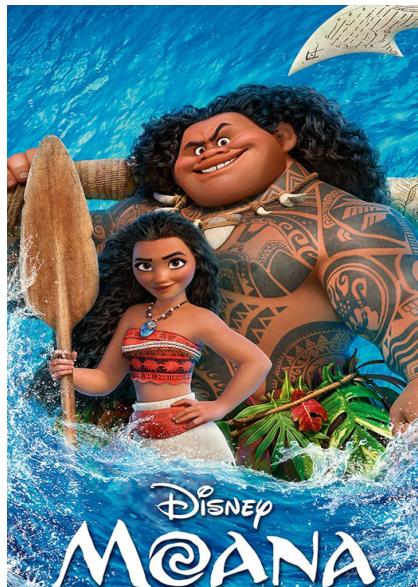


Film/Series Recommendations

Turning Red

Directed by Domee Shi
Family/Comedy
Pixar Animation Studios

Mei Lee is a 13-year-old girl who is torn between being her mother's obedient daughter and the chaos of her youth. But, when she gets too excited, she turns into a big red panda.



Moana

Directed by Ron Clements & John Musker
Family/Musical
Walt Disney Animation Studios

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse caused by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out to set things right for her land.

Over the Moon

Directed by Glen Keane
Family/Musical
Netflix

Fueled by memories of her mother, adventurous Fei Fei builds a rocket to the moon on a mission to prove the existence of a legendary moon goddess, Chang'e.



Raya and the Last Dragon

Directed by Carlos López Estrada & Don Hall

Family/Adventure

Walt Disney Pictures

In a realm called Kumandra, a re-imagined Earth inhabited by an ancient civilization, a warrior named Raya is determined to find the last dragon.



Big Hero 6

Directed by Chris Williams and Don Hall

Family/Adventure

Walt Disney Pictures

A special bond develops between plus-sized inflatable robot Baymax and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who together team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes.

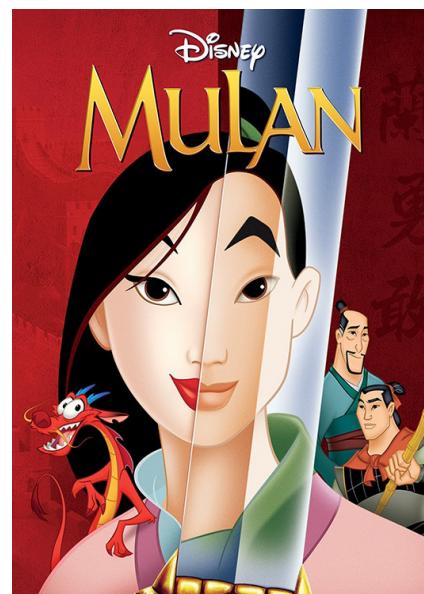
Mulan

Directed by Tony Bancroft and Barry Cook

Musical/Family

Walt Disney Pictures

Fearing about her father attending the Chinese military, Mulan takes his spot, but women aren't qualified. She dresses like a man and goes off to train with fellow recruits. Accompanied by her dragon, Mushu, she uses her smarts to help fight against the Huns.



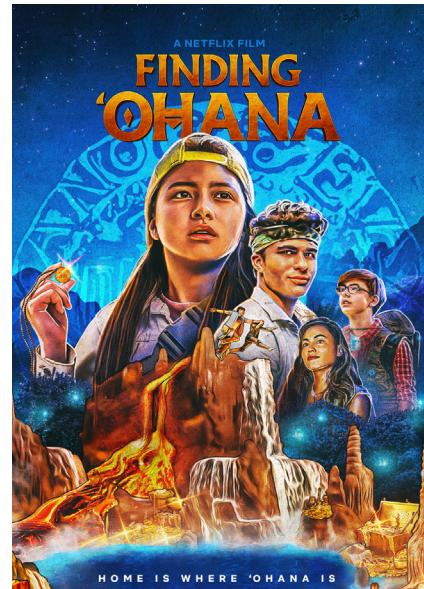
Finding 'Ohana

Directed by Jude Weng

Action/Adventure

Netflix

A summer in rural Oahu takes an exciting turn for two Brooklyn-raised siblings when a journal that points to a treasure sets them to a big adventure, new friends, and connection with their Hawaiian heritage.



Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton

Action/Fantasy

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Shang-Chi must confront the past he thought he left behind when he is drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organization.

Never Have I Ever

Series Created by Mindy Kaling

Comedy/Drama

Netflix

After a traumatic year, a first-generation Indian-American teenager wants to improve her status at school, but finds it difficult with her friends, family, and feelings.



Research

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“I intend to live life, not just exist.”

– George Takei

Thank you for learning with us.

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