



T Is for Tape Family v. Hurley | ABC's of AAPIs

This lesson plan is about the Tape Family v. Hurley case and its significance to Asian American civil rights and activism.

Artwork by Killamari

Poem by Mila Konomos

In partnership with the Asian American Advocacy Fund (AAAF), WQED Education took AAAF's ABC's of AAPIs coloring book project and created lesson plans for educators to use in the classroom to provide a creative activity and resource for AAPI Studies.

Time Allotment: 1 class period

Learning Objectives

- Learn about the Tape Family v. Hurley case and it's significance
- Explore what defines being American

Prep for Teachers

- Print enough copies of the coloring sheet and poem (see support materials)
- Have video clip ready to view [Redefine American | Asian Americans](#)

Supplies

- Video viewing device
- Video: [Redefine American | Asian Americans](#)
- Pencil
- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- "T is for Tape Family v. Hurley" coloring sheet

Media in this Lesson

- Video: [Redefine American | Asian Americans](#)

Vocabulary

- Board of Education: A group or committee of citizens whose job is to oversee a system of primary or secondary public-school education in a district.
- Civil Rights: Your rights as a citizen that are guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Equality: When people have equal rights, no matter their appearance or background.
- Immigrant: A person who comes to another country to settle there permanently.

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- Racism: A belief that a person's abilities and traits are predetermined by what race that person is and that such racial differences make one race better than another.
- Segregation: A system of separating one group from a larger group and treating them differently.
- Sue: To seek justice or right from a person or institution through a legal process.
- Supreme Court: The highest court in the United States.

Learning Activities

1. Have students watch this video [Redefine American | Asian Americans](#)

2. What are their initial reactions from watching the video? Write these down on the board for everyone to see. Did they know about this case before? What did they think of Mrs. Tape's letter? How did they make them feel? What was the tone of the letter?

3. Answer the following discussion questions:

- What does it mean to be an immigrant?
- What might cause a person to leave his or her native country and go to a new one?
- What might be the struggles and obstacles of starting a new life in a foreign place for immigrants?
- What does it mean to be American? Why do you think Marnie Tape wasn't treated like the white students? Why do you think the city prevented her from attending the Spring Valley School?
- Even though Mamie Tape never went to Spring Valley School, her family still went to court to fight for her daughter's behalf. Why is it important to fight for civil rights even if you don't personally or directly benefit from it?

4. Ask students answer reflection questions on a piece of paper or in a notebook: What does it mean to be American? Do you think the Tapes were Americans? In what ways were they Americans? How were they treated differently? What might cause someone to leave their home country and settle down in a new one as an immigrant?

5. Distribute copies of the coloring sheet and put students into small groups to read and analyze the poem: "T is for Tape Family v. Hurley."

6. Groups will define key terms outlined in the vocabulary section of the video and summarize the poem. Each group should write a reflection question for classmates to consider and respond to in regards to the poem.



7. As a group discuss the following questions:

- Why is it important to advocate for civil rights? In what ways is this case important to our society and history?
- How can we be more mindful of people who are new to our country?
- How can we help them to adjust to their new home?
- Why is it important to fight for civil rights as a society, even if you aren't the one being discriminated against?

Lesson Extension:

- Another school segregation case was in 1954, Brown v. Board of Education. How was this similar and different to Mrs. Tape's case?