



History Abroad – Michael Henderson

Just like February, May is another special month in America; Asian American and Pacific Islander History Month (AAPI History Month)! This is when many people celebrate the achievements and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in America. This time I will talk about a special neighborhood in Seattle; The Chinatown-International District.

The International District in Seattle is home to many Asian immigrants (移民) and Asian Americans. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, many Japanese immigrants came to America and settled in this area of Seattle. It became a Japantown (日本人町), and was filled with Japanese restaurants and stores. However, in 1942 during World War II, all Japanese people in Seattle, including my family, were sent to Internment Camps (日系人強制収容所) for 3 years. They had to sell or throw out all their belongings, and leave their houses empty. Due to this, the Japantown in Seattle was suddenly gone. Even after the war, the Japantown never became like it once was, though the International District carried on as an area for Asian Americans.

Today, it is a bustling district filled with mostly Chinese and Vietnamese businesses. I often go here with my friends to try out the newest bubble tea shop, or eat at a late-night dim sum restaurant. I really miss all the Pho (フォー) (Vietnamese Noodle Soup) places here especially! There are also many festivals throughout the year that celebrate Asian culture, such as the Seattle Bon Odori or Lunar New Year Festival. There are still popular Japanese stores, and new businesses are popping up every day, but the original ones are very few.

The places that remain from the original Japantown are still in business, but are hidden away on side streets, serving as a reminder of Seattle’s Japanese history.



The Nostalgia of Road Trips – Katelyn Sondereker

In America, taking road trips is a very popular activity, especially in the summer when children don’t have school. Because America is so big, people often don’t think twice about driving hours and hours to get somewhere. Road trips with my family are some of my favorite memories - hopping in the car at 3 AM with pillows and blankets for sleeping in the car, books to read when you get bored, the perfect music playlist, and lots and lots of road trip snacks. Road trips always feel like an adventure.

When I was in high school, my family and I went on a long road trip to the West parts of America. West of where I live in Ohio, there are lots of beautiful landmarks and natural wonders to see. So we brought two tents and camping gear and drove all the way to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, which was a 20-hour drive! But it was worth it because the mountains were so beautiful.

After that, we would camp wherever we went, cooking food over the fire and sleeping in tents and sleeping bags. We visited the some very famous places in America, like the Grand Canyon (キャニオン), which is a huge valley with a river running through it, and Mount Rushmore, which is a mountain that has faces of American Presidents carved into it. America has many beautiful National Parks, and I hope to visit more of them in the future.

What do you want to know about road trips in America? Come ask us about them!

Kate-sensei with her family in front of the Rocky Mountains.



Kate-sensei and her brothers and sisters looking at the Grand Canyon.



和製英語 - *Be Careful!*

- ✧ Did you know that the term “SNS” is 和製英語? If you say “SNS” to a native English speaker, they might get confused or think you’re saying “SMS”, which is a phrase that means text messages. In fact, I didn’t hear the word “SNS” until I came to Japan! The word you want to use instead is “social media”. “Social Media” and “SNS” mean the same thing, but we only say “social media”. Here’s an example:

Grace: “I need to stop using my phone so much, I think I’m addicted to social media.”

Jordan: “Yeah, I felt the same way, so I deleted my Instagram.”

Next time you’re writing an English essay or speaking with someone from abroad, try using the word “social media” instead!

Asian American Spotlight!



This is one of my favorite singers, Keshi, a Vietnamese American from Texas. He used to be a nurse, but then pursued music full-time. His story reminds me to always follow my heart, but also to work hard. Give him a listen!

The Best Road Trip Songs!

Don’t Stop Believin’ – Journey

Dreams – Fleetwood Mac

Something Just Like This – Chainsmokers

Weight of Dreams – Greta Van Fleet

Antifreeze – Yerin Baek

Are we there yet?

Road trips in America usually take a LONG time! Like Calvin in the comic, children often ask their parents, “Are we there yet?” and “How much longer?” and “How much longer NOW?” when they are tired of being in the car.

Sometimes children will ask so much that parents will tell their children to stop asking! Or they will say,

“We`ll be there before you know it.”

What do you think this phrase means? Come talk to us about it!

