

# CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITY

A free [Online Learning](#) activity aligned with  
Common Core & State Content Standards for grades 3-8

**OVERVIEW:**

This Women's History Month we invite students to explore the lives of two California women, Kamala Harris and March Fong Eu, elected to serve at the state and national levels, analyzing photos and documents from throughout their lives, and drawing inspiration to inform civic engagement.

**APPROPRIATE FOR:**

3rd-8th grades

**OBJECTIVES:**

In this activity, learners will:

- Explore the lives of Vice President Kamala Harris and former California Secretary of State March Fong Eu through online exhibits from the California State Archives and the California Museum.
- Draw conclusions based on primary sources.
- Use primary sources from online exhibits to propose their own online exhibit on influential California women.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Use the guided questions to explore the lives of Vice President Kamala Harris and former Secretary of State March Fong Eu through the online exhibits and video linked below.

**TIME:**

1 hour

**MATERIALS:**

- California Museum and California State Archives online exhibit "[Vice President Harris: First, But Not Last](#)"
- [March Fong Eu video](#) in the California Museum's online exhibit "[Women Inspire: California Women Changing our World](#)"
- California State Archives' online exhibit "[Leading the Way: March Fong Eu and a Lifetime of Service](#)"

**STANDARDS:****Common Core***Reading Informational Texts - Key Ideas and Details*

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|-----|---|
| K-5 | Ask and answer questions about key details in a source  |
| 6-8 | Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. |

*Reading Informational Texts - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas*

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|-----|---|
| K-5 | Use illustrations and details to describe the main ideas of a source  |
| 6-8 | Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts. |

**History-Social Science California State Content Standards**

*Chronological and Spatial Thinking*

- K-5 Students explain how the present is connected to the past, identifying both similarities and differences between the two, and how some things change over time and some things stay the same.
- 6-8 Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.

*Research, Evidence, and Point of view*

- K-5 Students pose relevant questions about events they encounter in historical documents, eyewitness accounts, oral histories, letters, diaries, artifacts, photographs, maps, artworks, and architecture.
- 6-8 Students frame questions that can be answered by historical study and research.

Thank you for downloading this Online Learning resource! We hope you and your students enjoy using it. For additional downloadable resources in our free program, visit the [Online Learning](#) page on our website. For help or questions, contact the education department at [reservations@californiamuseum.org](mailto:reservations@californiamuseum.org).

**PART 1: EXPLORE**

**Directions:** Explore the online exhibits “[Vice President Harris: First. But Not Last.](#),” [March Fong Eu video](#) from “Women Inspire: California Women Changing our World,” and “[Leading the Way: March Fong Eu and a Lifetime of Service.](#)” then use the table below to take notes on what you learn about their childhoods, education, careers, and the issues they have fought for.

	Vice President Kamala Harris	Secretary of State March Fong Eu
<b>Childhood</b>		
<b>Education</b>		
<b>Career</b>		
<b>What issues has she fought for?</b>		

**PART II: CONNECT**

**Directions:** Use your notes and the online resources to answer the following questions.

1. What do Vice President Harris and former Secretary Fong Eu have in common? How have their experiences been different?
2. How do you think their childhoods, education, and early careers inspired the issues they have taken on in their roles as elected officials? Share at least one example for each.
3. In speeches, Vice President Harris has shared a quote from her mother saying, "**Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.**" March Fong Eu was the first Asian American woman in the United States elected to a statewide office, and Kamala Harris is the first woman and the first Black and South Asian American to be elected Vice President of the United States. Why do you think the idea of being "first but not last" is so important?
4. If you were creating an online exhibit connecting the stories of these two women, what items from these exhibits would you choose? Which items are connected to each other? What stories about these women would you want to tell?
5. Secretary March Fong Eu and Vice President Kamala Harris have both fought for equity in their positions. What are issues of our society that we still need to fight for equity? What are ways we can support these issues both as individuals and with our elected representatives?