In the early 1850s, people began immigrating to the United States from China. The first waves of immigrants found jobs working in the gold mines, building railroads, operating restaurants and shops, and in agriculture. They faced racism, harassment, and discrimination and formed communities to help people find jobs, learn English, find places to live, worship together, and combat discrimination.

  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23073;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *A Family Portrait in San Francisco’s Chinatown*   
Date: early 1800s  
Object ID: P.14024  
Notes: Photograph of a mother and child posing for a family portrait in Chinatown, San Francisco.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23011;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *A Group of Young Chinese Boy*s   
Date: early 1800s  
Object ID: P.14013  
Notes: Photograph of a group of four boys in Chinatown, San Francisco.

A picture containing wall, indoor, vessel

Description automatically generated  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M534451;type=101>

Object name: Jar  
Date: 1800s  
Object ID: 94.70.5  
Notes: Chinese Shiwan earthenware medicine steeping jar.  
Object name: Robe  
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s  
Object ID: 94.236.1  
Notes: Women’s embroidered, pale green silk robe.

A picture containing accessory

Description automatically generated  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M577781;type=101>

Object name: Fan  
Date: 1860s  
Object ID: 2002.1.20  
Notes: Canton Chinese fan made from wood, ivory, and paper. This is typical of the kind of fan made for export and was owned by the Vallejo family from Sonoma, California.

A picture containing person, people, crowd, outdoor

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M77146;type=101>

Object Name: Poster

Maker: Thomas Hill

Title: *Driving of the Last Spike (Gold) at the Joining of the Central and Union Pacific Lines - Promontory, Utah, May 10, 1869*

Date: circa 1881

Object ID: 14.C.1202

Notes: Leland Stanford, the Civil War Governor of California and one of the founders of the Central Pacific Railroad, commissioned California painter Thomas Hill to paint a monumental portrait of the ceremony at Promontory Point, Utah. The image mingled fact and fiction. Stanford directed who would be included among the portraits. People who were not present at the 1869 ceremony were included, while the Chinese workers who laid the last rails to Promontory Point were erased.

A group of people climbing a mountain

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M579493;type=101>

Object Name: Painting

Maker: Mian Situ

Title: *Powder Monkeys, Transcontinental Railroad, Cape Horn, 1865*

Date: 2001–2002

Object ID: 2002.3.1  
Notes: Oil painting depicting Chinese railroad workers on the side of a mountain chipping away granite. Above and in the background, there are more workers—some are being lowered in baskets. On the right of the painting there is an explosion in the distance and a river winds down between two mountains.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=ocm16075850;type=106>

Object: Pamphlet

Title: *Chinese immigration the social, moral and political effect of Chinese immigration. Policy and means of exclusion.*   
Maker: California State Legislature, Senate Special Committee on Chinese Immigration.

Date: 1877

Object ID: 94.93.1

Notes: This pamphlet lays out the act passed by the California State Legislature to exclude Chinese immigrants in 1877 prior the U.S. Congress passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Text

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M560754;type=105>

Object Name: Document

Title: “Certificate of Residence”

Date: 1894  
Object ID: 87.59.356

Notes: Certificate of residence for Chin Bak, issued in Hanford, California, on March 1894. On September 19, 1892, California passed the Geary Act. The law extended the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for ten years and required Chinese residents in California to carry photo identification proving they were legal immigrants.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M560883;type=101>

Object name: Drawing  
Maker: Rudolf Cronau  
Title: *A Chinese Teahouse, San Francisco*  
Date: 1880s  
Object ID: 93.99.3  
Notes: Pen and ink drawing featuring four Chinese people seated at a table in a teahouse located in Chinatown, San Francisco.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M14579;type=102>Object Name: Lantern Slide   
Title: *Parade with Dragon through Old Chinatown*   
Date: late 1800s  
Object ID: LS.12344  
Notes: A lantern slide of a dragon in a parade through Old Chinatown in Los Angeles. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.

A picture containing outdoor, snow

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17120;type=102>Object Name: Lantern Slide  
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *The Chinese Shell Vendor*  
Date: early 1900s  
Object ID: P.12769  
Notes: Photograph of a Chinese shell vendor in Carmel, California.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23040;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *A Chicken Vendor in San Francisco’s Chinatown*  
Date: circa 1892  
Object ID: P.14018  
Notes: Photograph of a chicken vendor in Chinatown, San Francisco.

A picture containing text, old, picture frame

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M524666;type=105>

Object Name: Lettersheet

Maker: Charles Christian Nahl, published by W.W. Kurtz & Company

Title: *Chinese Buddhistic Worship in San Francisco*

Date: 1855

Object ID: 94.237.10  
Notes: A lettersheet featuring the interior of a Chinese Buddhist temple in San Francisco. Printed below is an article about a religious festival held at the Sze Yap Asylum, headquarters for poor and sick members of the Chinese community in California.

A group of people in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17107;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph  
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *Christian Helpers of Congregational Chinese Mission School*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.12766

Notes: Photograph of a group of Chinese men at the Mission School, San Francisco, California.

  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17098;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *A Portrait of an Unidentified Chinese Man*   
Date: early 1900s   
Object ID: P.12764  
Notes: Photograph of an unidentified Chinese man in California.

  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17110;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *A Chinese Family in California*  
Date: early 1900s  
Object ID: P.12767  
Notes: Photograph of an unidentified Chinese family in California.

A picture containing clothing, person, person, wall

Description automatically generated  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M514609;type=101>

Object name: Jacket  
Date: circa 1900  
Object ID: 94.76.1  
Notes: Chinese cotton jacket, worn by a Chinese railroad worker.

A picture containing wall, vessel, jar

Description automatically generated  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M517838;type=101>

Object name: Cake mold  
Date: circa 1900  
Object ID: 94.70.1  
Notes: Used to make sweets like moon cakes. Carrying on a centuries-old tradition, Chinese women offered these cakes to relatives and friends as part of mid-autumn festivities celebrating family unity.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17102;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph  
Maker: H.E. Matthews  
Title: *The Chinese Mission Home on Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California*  
Date: early 1900s  
Object ID: P.12765  
Notes: A photograph of the Chinese Mission Home in San Francisco, California.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M31197;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph  
Maker: Munsey  
Title: *A “Joss House” in Old Chinatown Sections Los Angeles*  
Date: early 1900s   
Object ID: P.15740  
Notes: A Joss House is a place of worship.

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23914;type=102>   
Object Name: Photograph   
Maker: Taber  
Title: *A Chinese Restaurant on Dupont Street, San Francisco*  
Date: early 1900s  
Object ID: P.14160  
Notes: Photograph of a street scene in Chinatown, San Francisco.

A boat on the water

Description automatically generated with low confidence

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M46643;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Harry Vroman  
Title: *Old Chinese Junk, Ning-Po*

Date: circa 1913

Object ID: A.184.235

Notes: Photograph of Ning-Po, a Chinese junk vessel, Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M539813;type=101>

Object name: Mah-jhong (set)  
Maker: Unknown artist  
Date: 1920s  
Object ID: 93.123.1  
Notes: Chinese mah-jhong is a tile-based game developed in China in the 1800s.

A picture containing background pattern

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M663097;type=102>

Object Name: Brochure

Title: “Year of the Dog”  
Date: 1970

Object ID: 2016.0.30

Notes: Chinese calendar logo for Year of the Dog in year 4668 (1970).

  
<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M277606;type=102>   
Object Name: Lantern Slide  
Maker: Unidentified photographer  
Title: *Chinese Children in San Francisco*   
Date: Late 1800s   
Object ID: LS.3094  
Notes: Lantern slide of Chinese children in San Francisco. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.

A picture containing text, book

Description automatically generated

<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M581008;type=101>

Object Name: Print

Maker: Hung Liu

Title: *Sisters*

Date: 2000

Object ID: 2002.41.3  
Notes: A lithograph by artist Hung Liu.