

United States v. Wong Kim Ark:

Establishing U.S. Minority

Birthrights

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Group Website

Senior Division

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Our group decided to choose the United States v. Wong Kim Ark court case as we felt it was a vital part to not just American history, but our own history. As we are all children of Asian immigrants, we know that without Wong Kim Ark fighting for his rights- we wouldn't be living here today. What we found initially interesting about our topic was the development it brought upon existing cases. While citizenship was allowed for children, those who weren't minors would not be granted the same rights even if they were born on U.S. soil. After more research, we also found Wong Kim Ark's resilience fascinating. Despite being in a time of intense anti-Chinese sentiment, Wong Kim Ark successfully defended his birth rights as an American citizen. Getting to know about the history of our lives was a major factor in choosing this topic.

The major sources we used for our research consisted of direct transcripts and primary sources. We gathered these from either government or educational websites and podcasts, ensuring the reliability and trustworthiness of the information we were using for our project. When actually finding the sources, we looked at court transcripts provided by the U.S. government, as well as online copies of books from our local library in Millcreek, Utah. The digital copies of books were particularly helpful to us as most of them were textbooks dedicated to educating students about Supreme Court trials, such as the Wong Kim Ark case.

As we made a website during last year's National History Day, we decided to make another one this year. Combining our current website-building knowledge with our artistic creativity and detailed research, we believed this would help us create the best project we could. By increasing our work efficiency due to already having experience, this would leave us more time and effort to spend on making our work aesthetically pleasing and information rich. Further, we admired the idea of using modern-day technology to talk about past historical events. It symbolizes our lives and experiences coming full circle, which we thought would help

emphasize the importance of learning and teaching about history to our future generations. In the end, that is how we deemed a group website to be the best option for our team.

Our project relates to the topic as Wong Kim Ark was a significant frontier in Asian American history. A frontier is defined as a means by which an idea, place, or person advances into uncharted territory- whether it be physical or intellectual. Wong Kim Ark's court case against the United States was an advancement into unknown territory, specifically being Asian American citizenship rights. However, not only did Wong Kim Ark strengthen the birth rights of Asian Americans, but his case's ruling acted as precedent for later battles fighting for Native American and other minority group rights. All in all, Wong Kim Ark was a major frontier in American history regarding the birth rights of minority and immigrant groups.