

Celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month With Messenger Kids



The Asian American and Pacific Islander experience has helped shape America's narrative. This May, Messenger Kids will honor the richness and diversity of some of the unique traditions, histories, and cultures representative of over 40 Asian and Pacific Islander countries. Through camera stickers and frames we aim to celebrate and share the meaningful traditions passed down from generation to generation.



Inspiring a Generation of Young Leaders

These camera stickers are available in the Messenger Kids app during the full month of May. Below is a glossary that will help provide details on the cultural and historical relevance of the sticker images from dance, to art, to music, illustrating the spirit of tradition and giving kids a chance to learn, share, and express pride in this rich heritage and history.



Celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage

Kick-off Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month with Messenger Kids. Learn about the rich traditions and heritage of Asian and Pacific Islander countries and share this sticker in support of the diverse cultures.

Japan - Koinobori

In Japanese culture, the koi is used to symbolize strength, energy, and power. A koinobori is a streamer or windsock shaped like a koi typically with at least 3 koinobori on a pole. These ornamental and domesticated carp are colorful and have such significant influence that they are used to embody one of Japan's biggest festivals, Children's Day.



Philippines - Jeepney

Locally referred to as a jeepney or jeep, this vehicle is a mode of Philippine public transport famously characterized by their vibrant, multicolored paint jobs and flashy decor. So much so that through the years, they have become a symbol of the country and its culture. It is a proudly Pinoy creation and has become a reflection of the Filipino spirit — resilient, innovative, and optimistic.



Thailand - White Elephants

In Thailand, white elephants are considered sacred and are a symbol of royal power and strength.



China - Lion Dances

The lion dance is a traditional Chinese dance performed on big occasions, such as the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) for good luck, as it is believed that the lion is a favored animal. In Chinese culture, the lion symbolizes power, wisdom, and superiority. People perform lion dances at Chinese festivals to bring good fortune and chase away evil spirits.

Polynesia - Hula

Hula is a Polynesian dance form accompanied by chant (Oli) or song (Mele). It was developed in the Hawaiian Islands by the Polynesians who originally settled there. The hula dramatizes or portrays the words of the oli or mele in a visual dance form.



Korea - Heart Fingers

The finger heart gesture is a trend that was popularized in South Korea during the 2010s. The thumb and index finger of one hand are crossed to form a heart shape, and an invisible virtual heart is imagined above it.

Vietnam - Lotus Flower

In Vietnam, the elegance of the lotus is often cited in folk songs and poems. To the Vietnamese, the lotus is known as an exquisite flower. It symbolizes the purity, serenity, commitment, and optimism of the future as it is the flower which grows in muddy water and rises above the surface to bloom with remarkable beauty. That it blossoms and recedes at certain times of the day makes the flower untouched by impurity and thus, the lotus symbolizes the purity of heart and mind.



Japan - Maneki-Neko

The maneki-neko, meaning beckoning cat, is a common Japanese figurine believed to bring good luck to the owner. In modern times, they are usually made of ceramic or plastic. The figurine depicts a cat, traditionally a Calico Japanese Bobtail, with a paw raised in a Japanese beckoning gesture. The figurines are often displayed in shops, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses, near the entrance.



India - Bharatanatyam

Bharatanatyam is a classical dance of Indian heritage and is regarded as the mother of many other classical dance forms in India. an Indian classical dance form of Indian heritage and is regarded as the mother of many other Indian classical dance forms. It is typically a solo dance, that originated in the Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu and eventually flourished in South India. It is an illustrative form of Hindu themes and illustrative ideas brought to life by a dancer with choreographed footwork and hand gestures. Accompanists often include a singer, musicians and the dancer's guru who directs and conducts the performance.

