

Resources for Teaching / Learning About Early U.S. Connections with East Asia

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- **Caroline Frank, *Objectifying China, Imagining America*** – A scholarly introduction to the impact of Chinese commodities in Early America. [Link](#)
- **A Chronicle of the China Trade** – An online display of collections from the Harvard Business School related to early trade with China. [Link](#)
- **Early American Trade with China** – A website loaded with primary sources and lesson plans for teaching middle and high school students about the early China trade. [Link](#)
- **Forbes House – “Opium: The Business of Addiction”** – Online exhibition focusing on a Boston-area merchant’s involvement in the opium trade. [Link](#)
- **Imperial Twilight Excerpt** – [Link](#)
- **Levant Voyage Map** — A visualization of Boston-originating vessel that engaged in the early trade with China - [Link](#)
- **Massachusetts Historical Society – History Source, “Opium Smugglers”** – A set of lessons focusing on American involvement in the opium trade with China drawn from the Society’s rich collection of primary sources. [Link](#)
 - **Professional Development** – The Society also offers fellowships for both teachers and students to do research in their extensive collections. [Link](#)
 - **Perspectives Activity** – An activity handout from the Massachusetts Historical Society that includes short primary source excerpts, all focusing on reactions to the First Opium War – [link](#)
- **Mystic Seaport Museum Collections** – Many primary sources related to American maritime trade during the Age of Sail. Includes crew lists that reflect the early presence of Asian seafarers on American vessels during the early Republic. [Link](#)
- **National Consortium for Teaching About Asia** – The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), funded by the Freeman Foundation, is a multi-year initiative to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about East Asia in elementary and secondary schools nationwide. – [Link](#)
- **Potter Family Overmantle Painting (Newport Historical Society)** – This painting is an excellent visual example of globalization in an affluent New England household. [Link](#)
- **Ties that Bind** – This is an interactive website that focuses on identifying historical connections between the United States and East Asia (China, Japan, the Koreas, Taiwan). It is rich with examples from New England. [Link](#)
- **Visualizing Cultures** – An incredible resource for learning about early modern East Asia, with most units focusing on China and Japan. Includes MANY incredible primary sources and some units also include lesson plans. [Link](#)