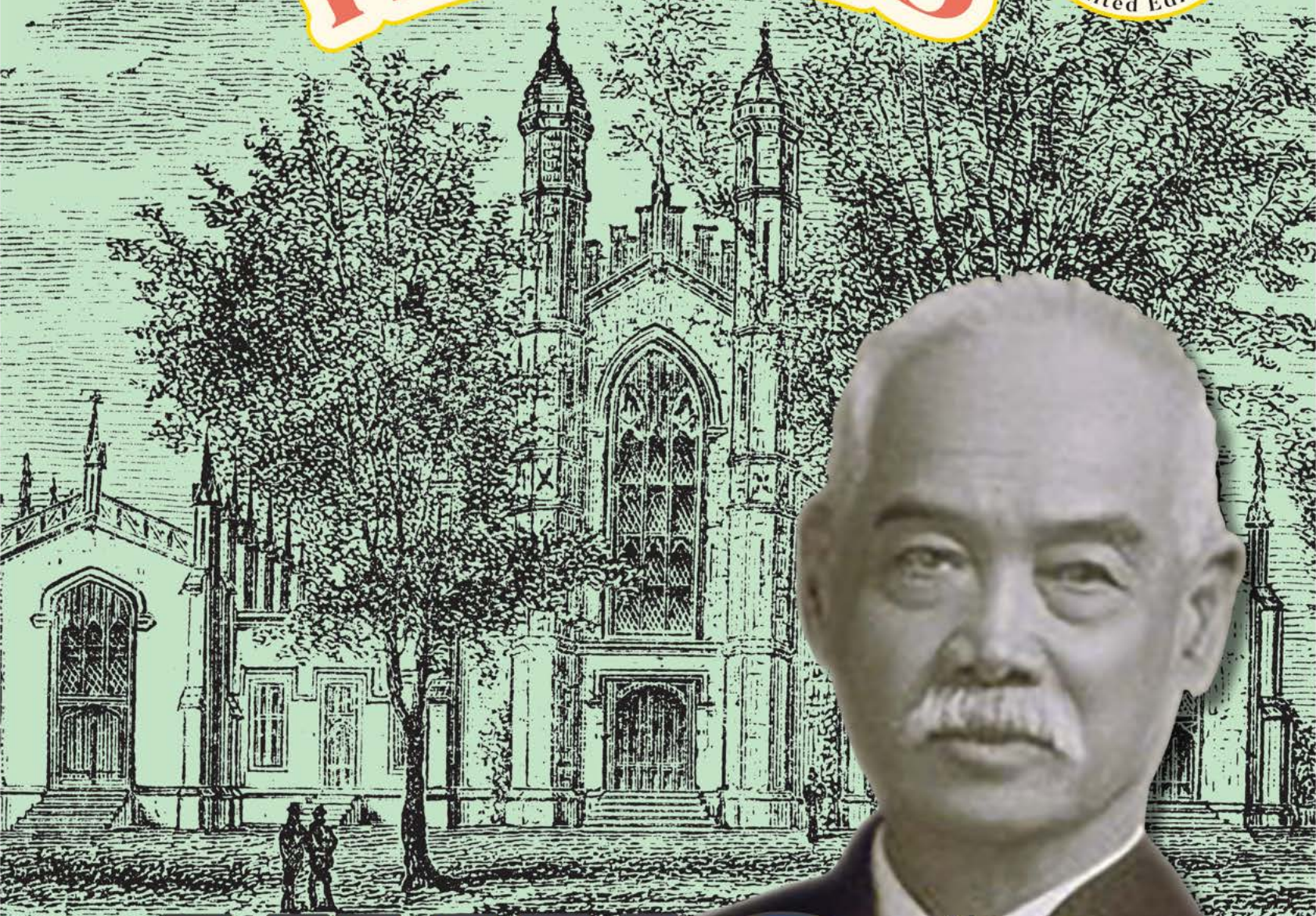


MUSEUM  
OF  
CHINESE  
IN  
AMERICA

# MOCA HEROES

FREE!

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2019  
*Limited Edition*



YUNG 容  
WING 閔

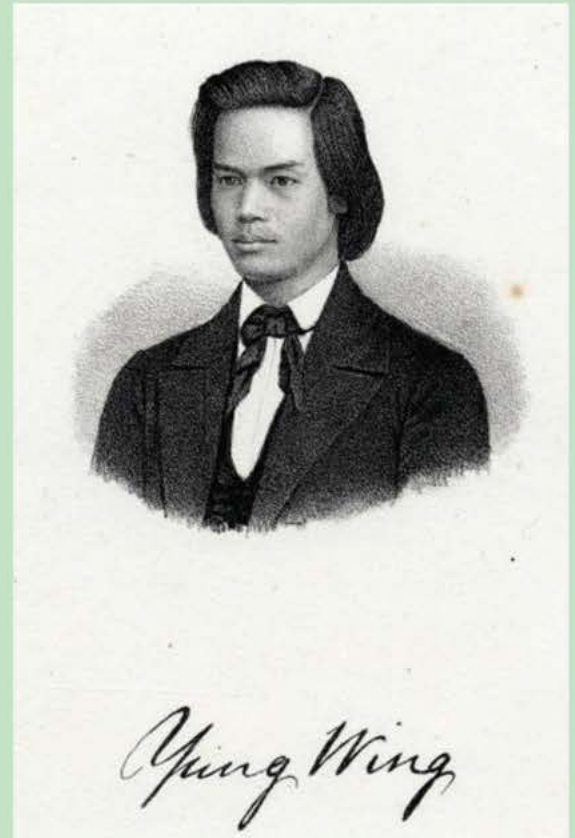
# Meet Yung Wing

**Have you ever wanted to study abroad and live in a new place?**

Learning and living in a new place is a great way to discover things that you didn't know before. Just ask Yung Wing! Yung Wing (容闳 Róng Hóng) (1828-1912) was born in China, studied in the U.S., and graduated from Yale University. In fact, he was the first Chinese person to graduate from a college outside of China!

Studying **abroad** was so important to Yung Wing that he wanted to help more people do the same. In 1871, he founded the Chinese Educational Mission (CEM), paving the way for 120 Chinese boys to study in the United States with the hope that they would come back and share their experiences with people back home. Like Yung Wing, they studied English, practiced American customs, played sports, and learned more about the world.

The CEM was an exciting project, and something that had never been done before in China. Although the mission was cut short after only 9 years, many of the students who participated went on to do great things in China and carry out Yung Wing's educational dreams. Let's take a closer look at how Yung Wing's journey began!



Engraving of Yung Wing in Yale Class of 1854 album. Source: Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University.

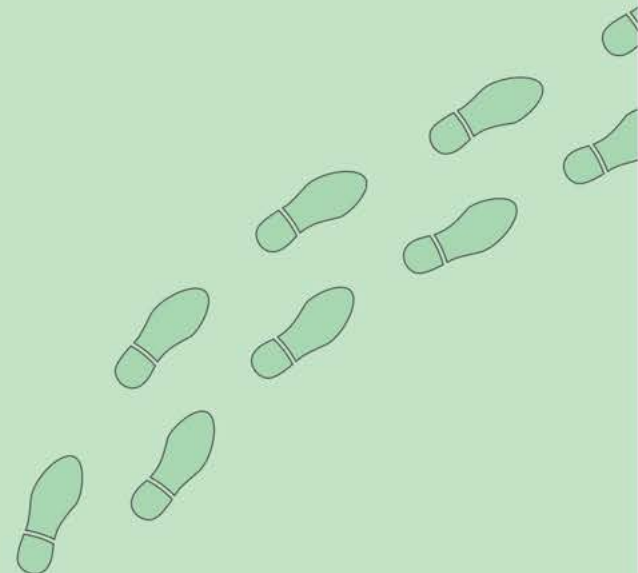
## GLOSSARY

**abroad:**

in or to a country that is not one's own

## DID YOU KNOW?

In China, someone's last name, or family name, is written before their first name. In the case of Yung Wing, his last name was Yung and his first name was Wing. If you greeted him, you would say "Hi, Mr. Yung," rather than "Hi, Mr. Wing." In this booklet, all the names of Chinese people will be written in this way.



Yung Wing had never met someone from another country before going to boarding school. What do you think that was like? Have you ever met someone from another country?

CONSIDER THIS!

## GLOSSARY

**missionary:**

a person sent to another place to teach and promote their religion

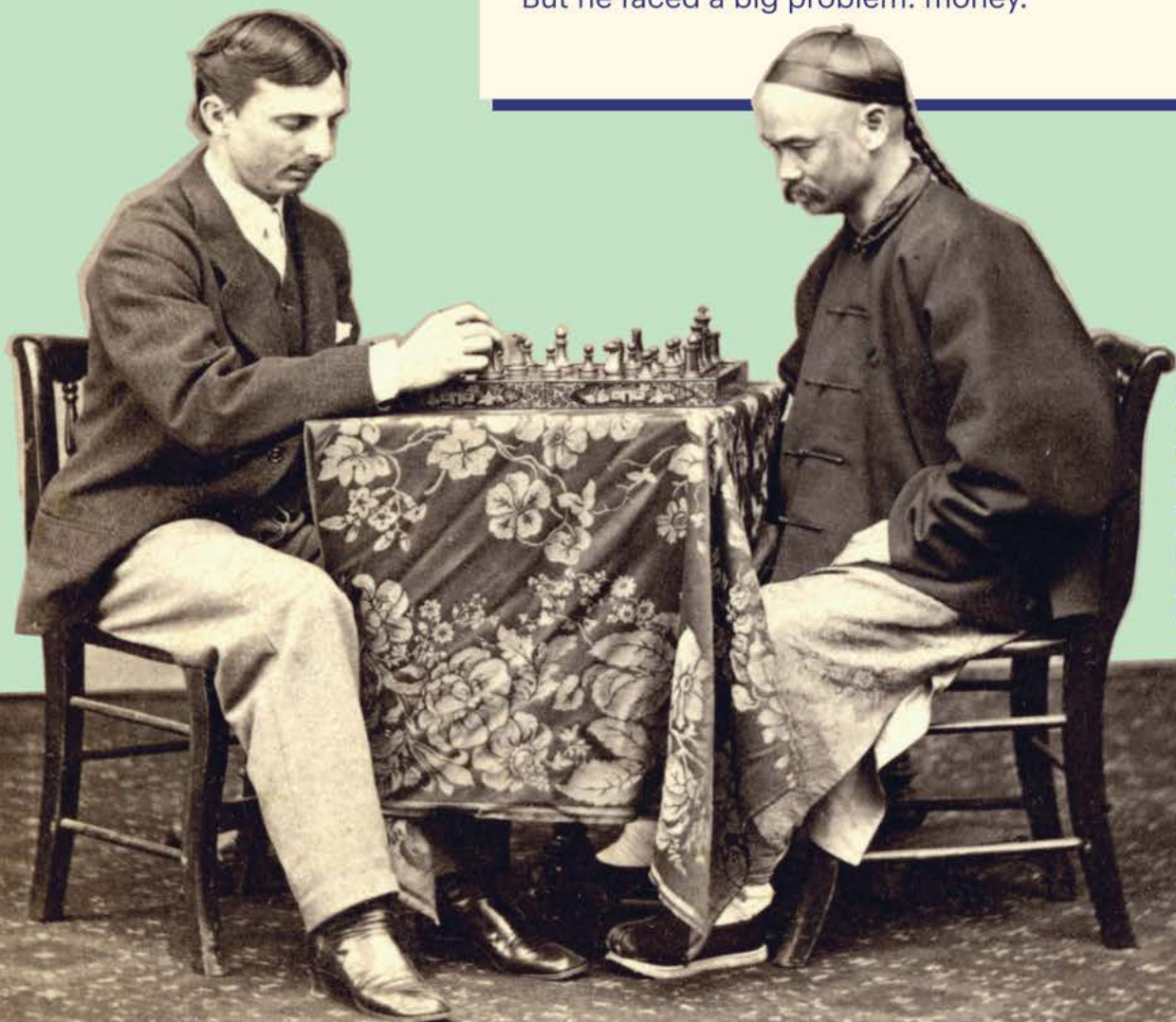
## From China to the U.S.

### What brought Yung Wing to the U.S.?

He started studying in many new and different places when he was just a kid. Born to a poor family in Nanping, Guangdong, China, he attended boarding schools run by **missionaries** at a young age. But it wasn't easy. Yung Wing was the youngest person at his school. At first, he was very homesick. In fact, one time he tried to run away from school to go back to his village! But he had good experiences at school too. He learned English and met people from England and the U.S. for the first time.

Yung Wing was a very determined student and his teachers liked him a lot. In 1847, the head of his school, Reverend Brown, moved back to the U.S. Brown brought three Chinese students with him to finish their education. Yung Wing was one of them. He attended high school in Massachusetts and lived with Reverend Brown's family.

In 1850, it was time for Yung Wing to go to college. But he faced a big problem: money.



Photograph of R. N. Brown and Yung Wing playing chess in Shanghai on May 5, 1869. Source: Washington State University Collections.

# YUNG WING'S 99 DAY JOURNEY



## WHERE DID HE STOP ALONG THE WAY?

- 📍 Nanping: Yung Wing's hometown
- 📍 Whampoa: where Yung Wing's ship to America set sail
- 📍 St. Helena Island: where the ship stopped to pick up more food and supplies
- 📍 New York City: the ship's final destination

Yung Wing boarded a ship called "The Huntress" on January 4th, 1847. It took 99 days to make the journey from Whampoa in Hong Kong to New York City.

## Standing Up for His Values

CONSIDER  
**THIS!**

We all have to make difficult choices. What would you do if you were Yung Wing? Can you remember a choice you made that had a big effect on your life?

College in the U.S. was, and still is, expensive. Yung Wing had no money of his own to pay for his education. Luckily, the **trustees** of his high school agreed to pay for his college **tuition**, but under one condition: he had to go back to China as a missionary after graduation.

Being a missionary was not what Yung Wing wanted. He once said that he wanted “every opportunity to do the greatest good” in China. He felt that being a missionary would limit his options. Despite the large amount of money he would receive, Yung Wing had to do what was right for himself. He turned down the offer.

It was a difficult decision. Instead, Yung Wing looked for other ways to pay for college and eventually found support from the Savannah Ladies’ Association. Around the same time, he passed Yale’s entrance exam—he was going to college!

## Bright College Years

For Yung Wing, college started out as a bit of a challenge. In a letter to missionary Samuel Wells Williams, he wrote: “College life is something new to me... [One] has no time to think... except study.” But Yung Wing did more than study. He also worked at the dining hall and library throughout college to pay his way through school.

What was the hardest subject for Yung Wing? Math! He got such bad grades in math that he thought he was going to fail out of college.

Even though math was tricky, there was one subject Yung Wing did very well in: English. He joined a **debate team** and won prizes for writing **essays**. Winning essay competitions helped him get his classmates’ attention. He also met people on the debate team who were interested in getting to know him and learning about his life in China.

The more Yung Wing learned in college, the more he understood the problems China was facing. He wanted to do something for his homeland. But what would he do, and how?

## GLOSSARY

**trustees:**

a person who has been given responsibility for a group or organization

**tuition:**

money paid for education

**debate team:**

a common student activity where teams take different sides on a topic and defend their opinion against another team

**essay:**

a short piece of writing; an article

CONSIDER  
**THIS!**

When Yung Wing went to college, there weren’t many people who looked like him in his classes. He felt it was important to mentor Chinese students who came after him. What kind of support is there for students who want to go to college today? What are some other ways we can support students with their education?

## A Voice for Change

CONSIDER  
**THIS!**

Only boys from China were allowed to study abroad in the 1800s. It wasn't until the early 1900s that girls were allowed to do so. Do you think that was fair? Why or why not?

Upon graduation, in 1854, Yung Wing had the option of staying at Yale, but he decided to go back to China. First, he became a tea merchant, then a translator. Afterwards, he worked in a variety of different **government** offices. All this time, an idea was brewing—he approached Zeng Guofan, an important official in the **imperial government**, with his proposal for the Chinese Educational Mission (CEM).

Yung Wing was so **transformed** by his experience studying in the U.S. that he wanted to create an opportunity for others to do the same. Under his plan, a group of 30 students would go to the U.S. each year to learn and bring their experiences back home to China. All of their expenses would be paid for by the Chinese government. Studying abroad at that time cost way more than most families earned, but the CEM made it possible for boys from all **backgrounds** to have a chance to study and experience life in another country.

In 1872, the CEM was approved. Boys aged 11 to 15 were selected from all over China to study in the U.S. for up to 15 years.



THE FIRST CHINESE STUDENTS ON THEIR ARRIVAL, 1872

Kwong Yung-Kwang      Chang Hong Yen      Tong Kowh On  
Ho Ting-lang      Su Yu-Tchu      Kwong King-hoon

Source: Connecticut Historical Society.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1870s, getting a college education was rare! From 1869 to 1870, only about 63,000 students attended college in the U.S.— only 1% of the population at the time. Between 2017 and 2018, there were more than 19,831,000 students enrolled in the U.S., including 363,341 Chinese students.



Engraving of the study and dining room of the Chinese Educational Mission in Hartford from the May 18, 1878 edition of Harper's Weekly magazine. Source: Connecticut Historical Society.

## GLOSSARY

### government:

the group of people in charge of running a nation, state, or city and making important decisions for it

### imperial government:

a type of government in which dynasties, or ruling families, lead a country. China was ruled by an imperial government from 221 B.C. – 1911 A.D.

### transform:

to make a big change

### background:

one's environment, including their experiences, race, ethnicity, family life, traditions, etc.



Photograph of the Chinese Educational Mission Building in Hartford, 1887. Source: Connecticut Historical Society.

## Life with the CEM

For the CEM students, their journey would not be an easy one. Not only would they have to travel across rough seas, they would also have to **adjust** to a life that was very different from what they were used to.

The boys were required to study science and technology, which were not common subjects at the time in China. To help them adjust, they were assigned to live with local families in Connecticut. These families were usually very warm and kind to them, and the boys learned English quickly there. However, because of their traditional clothing and the **queues** that the Chinese government required them to wear, the boys were often laughed at and called “Chinese girls” outside of the home.

### CONSIDER THIS!

Have you ever been in a new environment by yourself? How did you feel, and what did you do to get used to it?

Yung Wing supported the boys and helped them adjust to life in the U.S. He **appealed** to the Chinese government so the boys could wear Western clothing and even cut their hair short, which would have never been allowed otherwise. Later, when the first groups of boys entered college, a lot of them went to Yale University, just like Yung Wing.

Yung Wing was extremely proud of the CEM and the boys who were a part of it. However, the CEM was started at a time when many Americans were questioning immigration and debating who should be allowed to enter the country. The environment was not welcoming to Chinese immigrants and it became increasingly difficult for Chinese students to come to the U.S.

In 1881, several boys were even rejected from American schools because of anti-Chinese views in the U.S., which greatly angered Chinese officials. After nine short years, the mission ended.

### GLOSSARY

**adjust:**  
to get used to

**queue:**  
a long braid worn by Chinese boys and men during the Qing Dynasty

**appeal:**  
to request very seriously

## Later Life and Legacy

In 1852, Yung Wing became an American **citizen**. In 1876, he married Mary Louise Kellogg, a white teacher from Connecticut. They had two sons together, Morrison and Bartlett.

However, Yung Wing's later life was full of challenges. He traveled between the U.S. and China often, sometimes for years at a time. Once, while in China, his wife became very ill. He returned to the U.S. to stay by her side. She died in 1886, and he remained in the U.S. to look after their sons until 1895.

During this time, the **Chinese Exclusion Act** changed everything: it became difficult for Yung Wing and other Chinese to enter the U.S. Eventually, in 1898, his **citizenship** was taken away. Yung Wing found it hard to balance his feelings of pride for the United States with the reality that he would not be allowed back into the country legally. In 1902, he was forced to enter the U.S. secretly to attend his son Bartlett's graduation from Yale.



Photograph of Yung Wing in Shanghai around 1907. Source: Washington State University Collections.



Photograph of Mary Louise Kellogg in her wedding dress, 1876. Source: Washington State University Collections.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Chinese Exclusion Act was a discriminatory law that banned Chinese people from moving to the U.S. for over 60 years simply because they were Chinese.

### CONSIDER THIS!

How do you think Yung Wing felt being separated from his family? What would you do if you were him? Does his story remind you of anything that is happening today?

In his last days, Yung Wing still cared deeply for China. In 1912, when the **Republic of China** was founded, President Sun Yat-sen invited him to go back and work in the new government. Yung Wing turned down the offer. He died soon after, that same year.

Although Yung Wing didn't get to serve the new Republic of China, many of the CEM boys ended up doing great things for the country. Yung Wing passed down his **legacy** through his students and his sons. Both of his sons ended up going to China to serve as missionaries and engineers.

Today, people still remember Yung Wing. A statue of him stands outside the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University, reminding all students of the very first Chinese student to graduate from an American university.

### GLOSSARY

**citizen:**

a person recognized by law to live in a country

**Chinese Exclusion Act:**

a law passed in 1882 that banned almost all Chinese people from entering and living in the U.S. until 1943

**citizenship:**

having the rights and privileges of a citizen

**Republic of China:**

democratic government founded in mainland China by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1912

**legacy:**

something good about a person that is passed on



# YUNG WING'S JOURNEY

**1828**

Yung Wing is born.

**1847**

Yung Wing travels to America for the first time.

**1852**

Yung Wing becomes an American citizen.

**1854**

Yung Wing graduates from Yale University.

**1876**

Yung Wing marries Mary Louise Kellogg.

**1871**

The Chinese Educational Mission (CEM) is founded.

**1863**

Yung Wing volunteers to fight for the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War, but his offer is declined.

**1861-1865**

U.S. Civil War

**1881**

Zhan Tianyou, a CEM student, graduates from Yale University.

**1882**

The Chinese Exclusion Act is passed, stopping the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. It is the first U.S. restriction on immigration based on race and nationality.

**1883-1895**

Yung Wing's wife becomes ill. He goes back to America to take care of her and his sons.

**1886**

Yung Wing's wife, Mary Louise Kellogg, dies.

The Chinese Educational Mission ends.

**1888**

The Scott Act expands on the Chinese Exclusion Act, banning Chinese residents in the U.S. from re-entering the country after traveling abroad. All Chinese people, regardless of their citizenship, are now subject to exclusion.

**1895-1902**

Yung Wing is in China.

**1892**

The Geary Act renews Chinese exclusion for another 10 years and requires Chinese residents of the U.S. to carry a resident permit to identify themselves.

**1898**

Yung Wing's citizenship is revoked due to the Chinese Exclusion Acts.

**1902**

Chinese Exclusion is renewed without an end date.

**1912**

Yung Wing dies in New Haven, Connecticut.

**1943**

The Magnuson Act ends Chinese exclusion, but permits only 105 Chinese immigrants to enter the U.S. each year.

Yung Wing sneaks back to America illegally.

# MEET THE CEM STUDENTS!

Who were the CEM students and what did they do?



詹天佑 Chan T'ien-yu (Zhan Tianyou)

When the CEM ended, only two students were lucky enough to have finished college. One of them was Zhan Tianyou, who graduated from Yale in 1881. At Yale, Zhan won multiple math awards and was an excellent baseball player. He went on to become one of China's best railroad **engineers** and built the country's first independently designed railroad.

Photograph of Zhan Tianyou in Shanghai between 1905 and 1909. Source: National Library of China.



鍾文耀 Chung Wenyao (Zhong Wenyao)

Photograph of Zhong Wenyao in his coxswain uniform, 1883. Source: Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University.

Many Americans believed Chinese students couldn't be good at sports. Zhong Wenyao proved them wrong! For two years, Zhong Wenyao **coxswained** for the Yale **crew** team. The team beat Harvard University both times in their annual game. Zhong was an amazing coxswain and became very popular with his classmates. He later held important leadership positions in both China's old and new governments.



唐紹儀 T'ang Shao'i (Tang Shaoyi)

Photograph of Tang Shaoyi (on the left) with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the 1st provisional president of the Republic of China (on the right) in 1912. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Nicknamed "Ajax" after the mythical Greek hero, Tang Shaoyi was known for his big **biceps** and his readiness to fight bullies in high school. He got into Columbia University, but couldn't finish college there because the CEM ended. Tang ended up becoming one of China's best **diplomats** and later, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of China. He was also good friends with U.S. President Herbert Hoover, when they both lived in Tianjin around 1900.

## GLOSSARY

### engineer:

a person who designs and builds machines

### coxswain:

a person that controls the direction of a boat

### crew:

the sport of boat racing; crew games consist of two or more teams of rowers racing against each other; Yale had the first college crew team in the U.S.

### bicep:

a muscle in the upper arm

### diplomat:

a person whose job it is to represent their country's government in another country

### educator:

a person who teaches



唐國安 T'ang Kuo'an (Tang Guo'an)

Tang Guo'an followed in Yung Wing's footsteps as an **educator**. In 1909, a few decades after the CEM ended, he co-led another group of 47 students to study in American schools. Later, Tang Guo'an realized how important it was for China to have its own universities and founded Tsinghua College in Beijing, serving as its first President. Tsinghua College, now Tsinghua University, is one of China's best universities today.

Photograph of Tang Guo'an in the early 1910s. Source: Wikimedia Commons.



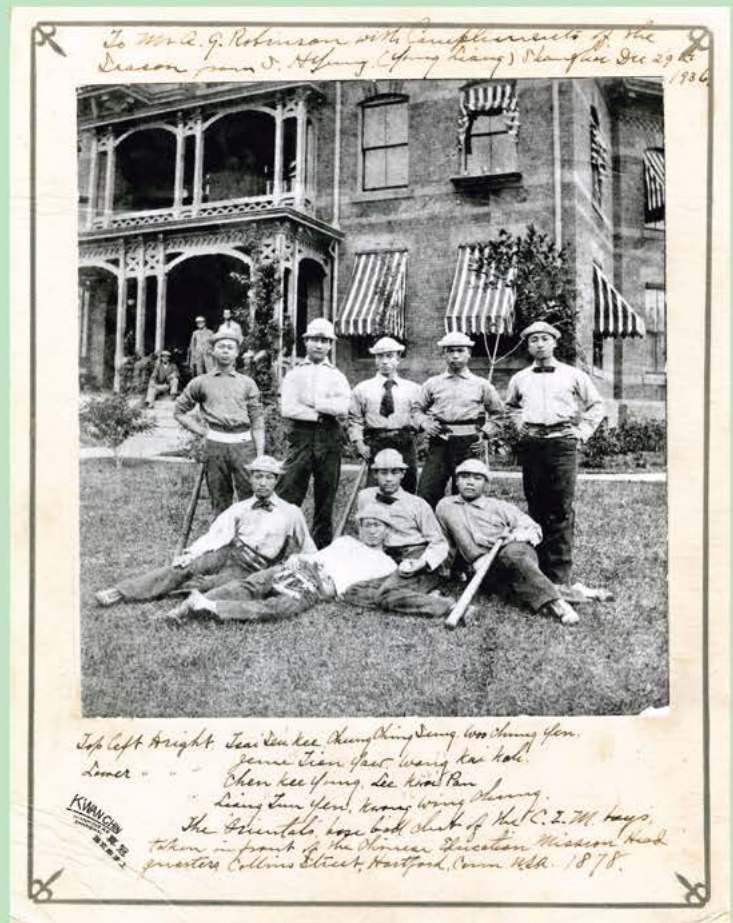
## EXTRA! EXTRA! The Great American Pastime

Not only did the CEM boys play sports, they were also pretty good at them! Nine CEM boys from the first group founded a baseball team, the "Orientals," and won many games.

Their most memorable game happened in 1881, right before the boys left the U.S. A baseball team in Oakland, CA challenged them to a match. The Oakland team expected them to be weak, but the Chinese boys ended up winning! Quite a few CEM students recorded this exciting victory in their journals and letters home.

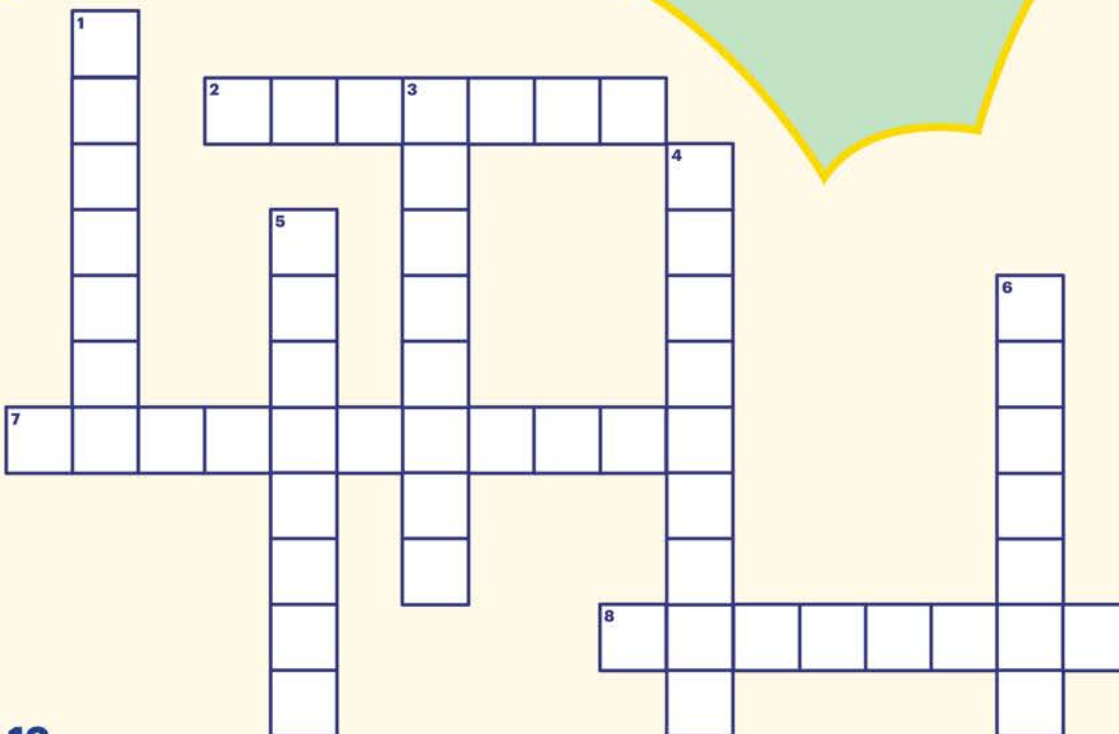
**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Words matter.** Today, the word "Oriental" is considered an offensive term. It makes Asian cultures seem exotic, or unfamiliar, and takes away their individuality.



The "Orientals" Baseball Club at the Chinese Educational Mission Headquarters in Hartford, Connecticut, 1878. Source: Washington State University Collections.

## Mini Crossword



Spell out Yung Wing's Journey! Complete the crossword puzzle using the hints below.

### ACROSS

- 2** The job of Mary Louise Kellogg, Yung Wing's wife.
- 7** Name of the CEM graduate who designed China's first independently built railroad.
- 8** The place where Yung Wing had his first job after college.

### DOWN

- 1** The subject Yung Wing was best at in college.
- 3** Zhong Wenyao's role/ position on the crew team.
- 4** The Chinese [ ] Act resulted in Yung Wing losing his American citizenship.
- 5** Name of the town which housed CEM's headquarters.
- 6** Yung Wing's hometown.