



## Guide for Under One Roof Virtual Tour

Chapter Three of Three: The Wong Family

The Tenement Museum's [virtual tour](http://103orchard.tenement.org) ([103orchard.tenement.org](http://103orchard.tenement.org)) of Under One Roof highlights three real families—the Epsteins, the Saez Velezes, and the Wongs—who lived in one of the Museum's historical tenement buildings and migrated from different places to settle in the Lower East Side of New York City. Their stories offer a window into New York City life during the changes of the 1950s-1980s and help us explore American identity and the ways we all shape this country and its history.

**This activity guide has three parts, each focused on one of the three families.**

***Note to Teachers and Adults:** If you are guiding a young person through this tour, consider reading the "Overview" Section before you begin this chapter.*

*Recommended time for activities: 90 minutes (70 minutes + 20 min. written reflection)*

### Chapter Three: The Wong Family

The Wong family immigrated to the Lower East Side from China in the 1960's. Mrs. Wong worked in the garment industry to support her four children, Yat Ping, Alison, Toni, and Kevin. Through their story, we can see how the end of a long history of restrictive and discriminatory immigration laws towards Asian American and Asian immigrants is experienced by one family as they build a community in a growing Chinatown. Mrs. Wong's work in the Garment industry and subsequent union activity exemplifies the power of community and democratic participation.

**Click On 1970s: CHINATOWN**

## Part 1: Arrival

*Recommended time for Part One: 20 minutes (including time watching videos)*

*This section includes:*

- Images of Mrs. Wong and her children
- Video of Alison Wong and Mrs. Wong discussing the journey to the USA
- Image of Lyndon B. Johnson signing the 1965 Immigration Bill
- Video interview with Mae Ngai, historian, and Margaret Chin, sociologist, discussing immigration laws and their effects
- Supporting text

### Vocabulary

**Quota:** a fixed number meant to minimize or maximize something. For example, the 1924 immigration law had set numbers how many people could immigrate to the United States from each country.

### Activity 1: Explore and Find

*Scroll through Part 1 and locate these elements.*

A Teddy Bear

A Birthday Celebration

The New York City Skyline

### Activity 2: Read, Watch, and Answer

*Read through Part 1, watch the videos, then answer these questions.*

What did Yat Ping insist on carrying for her mother when they were flying to the US?

How did the Hart Cellar Act affect the population of Chinese immigrants in New York City?

## Part 2: The Garment Industry

*Recommended time for Part 2: 20 minutes (including time watching videos)*

*This section includes:*

- Video of Mrs. Wong, Yat Ping and Thomas Yu describing the sights, sounds, and smells of garment factories
- Map and table showing the growth of the Garment Industry in Chinatown
- Video of Margaret Chin (Sociologist), Katie Quan (Labor Specialist) and Thomas Yu (Executive Director of Asian Americans for Equality, and Son of a Garment Worker) discussing childcare in factories
- Images of International Ladies Garment Workers Union materials and buttons
- Video of the Wong family, May Chen (Retired Union Vice President) and others discussing the importance of the ILGWU Union
- Supporting text

### Vocabulary

**Garment Industry** - An industry where people make clothing in factories that are distributed to stores to be sold

**Union** – an organized group of workers formed to protect their rights

### Activity 1: Explore and Find

*Scroll through Part 2 and find these elements.*

The number of garment shops contracted by Chinese immigrants in Chinatown in 1985

A 'Health Care for All' button

### Activity 2: Read, Watch, and Answer

*Read through Part 2, watch the videos, then answer these questions.*

How did Mrs. Wong get her job in a garment factory?

How do Yat Ping and Thomas Yu describe what the garment factories were like?

Why did the garment industry in Chinatown grow even though most of the industry had moved to the American South, China, and Vietnam?

What strategies did the workers use to get childcare for their kids?

Name three benefits workers got from joining the union.

## Part 3: Home and School

*Recommended time for Part 3: 15 minutes (including time watching videos)*

*This section includes:*

- Images of the Wong Children at home and on trips
- Video of Margaret Chin (sociologist) and Yat Ping discussing language in immigrant families
- Photograph of Alison's 1976 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class at PS 42
- Graduation photographs
- Supporting text

### Activity 1:

*Scroll through Part 3 and find these elements.*

Santa Claus

An American Flag

A Red Dress (x3)

### Activity 2: Read, Watch, and Answer

*Read through Part 3, watch the videos, then answer these questions.*

Describe the relationship between immigrant parents and oldest children, according to Margaret Chin.

What language do Yat Ping and her brothers and sisters speak together? Why?

## Part 4: 9/11

*Recommended time for Part 3: 10 minutes (including time watching videos)*

*This section includes:*

- A video of Alison, Mrs. Wong, and Thomas Yu discussing the effects of 9/11 on Chinatown.
- Photographs of Chinatown around 2001.
- Supporting text

### Activity 1:

*Scroll through Part 3 and find these elements.*

6 American flags

Nom Wah Tea Parlor

A Barber Shop

### Activity 2: Read, Watch, and Answer

*Read through Part 4, watch the videos, then answer these questions.*

Why did 9/11 have such an impact on the garment shops and economy of Chinatown?

## Part 5: The Wongs Today

*Recommended time for Part 5: 5 minutes*

*This section includes:*

- A photo of the entrance to the Wong family's building at 81 Delaney Street (103 Orchard is the same building).
- A photo of Mrs. Wong and Alison
- Supporting Text

### Activity 1: Read and Answer

Where is the Wong family now?

## Part 6: Deeper Reflection

*Recommended Time for Part 6: 20 minutes*

Watch the videos in “The Garment Industry” section. Through union membership, Mrs. Wong was able to provide for her family in more ways than one.

### Written Reflection

Write two paragraphs.

**In the first paragraph**, explain what a union is and summarize the ways it brought benefits to the Wong family.

**In the second paragraph**, think about an issue in your school, community, or neighborhood. Formulate 3 or 4 steps of a plan to bring people together and address the issue. What will your goals be? How will you bring attention to it? How would you work with others?



Visit [our website for more teacher resources](#) and activities using Tenement Museum stories!