ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI...

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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PARALLEL LIVES

SEPARATE BUT [UN]EQUAL

INTRODUCTION

Often the most wealthy and famous in our society have their pick of luxurious lodgings, fine dining and the best accommodations that money can buy. But in 1964, if you were famous and Black, your money couldn't buy you a room at certain hotels and you weren't going to be served a meal at a 'Whites Only' counter, regardless of your financial status or fame. The seminal case *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 created the separate but equal doctrine in American constitutional law created a racially divisive system of segregation. Based on this doctrine, states could legally require separate facilities, services and accommodations, as long as they were of equal quality for people of color, without violating the 14th amendment. Though the doctrine required 'equality,' the reality was that many facilities, services and accommodations offered to Black Americans were in fact of a much lower quality than those offered to White Americans. Thus, the separate but equal doctrine disenfranchised Black Americans. In response, high-quality hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues that catered to the excluded Black community began to develop and grow. In Miami Florida, The Hampton House was one such hotel and was a hot spot for Black Civil Rights leaders, famous entertainers, and sports icons.

In 1960, Miami was still segregated, and Jim Crow laws were strictly enforced. Mohammed Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) was not allowed to stay overnight in Miami Beach. But just outside of the mainland, in Brownsville, the Hampton House Motel welcomed Black Americans. Ali chose the Hampton House to celebrate his star-making win as heavyweight world champion with his closest friends; Malcolm, Jim, and Sam. The Hampton House became known as the jewel of the Black community. Sammy Davis, Jr., Joe Louis, Nat King Cole, Althea Gibson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others also made the Hampton House their home away from home when visiting Miami. A known hotspot for entertainment and Civil Rights meetings in the early sixties, after the passage of the Civil Rights act, many Black families moved to other areas of Miami and the Hampton House eventually closed its doors in 1976. It fell into disrepair in the years that followed. In 2002, the Hampton House was slated for demolition until an advocacy group, led by Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney, worked to have the motel and surrounding area deemed a historical sight.

Today, the Hampton House has been restored and in 2015 it re-opened as both a museum and a cultural center, which houses a café, a jazz club and a gift shop. There were no plans for a full renovation of the hotel but certain guest rooms, including the room where Mohammed Ali stayed and the suite where Martin Luther King, Jr. frequented, were restored as part of the museum. The Hampton House is the last hotel that was originally segregated for Black clientele in existence in Miami today and remains an iconic symbol of Miami's Black history.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *What was the separate but equal doctrine? How does the separate but equal doctrine avoid violating the 14th amendment?*
- *How did segregation and Jim Crow laws inadvertently create a rapid growth of Black-owned business and businesses that catered to Black clientele? What happened to many of these businesses when segregation and Jim Crow laws were abolished? What events have occurred within the last five years to cause a resurgence of Black-owned businesses?*
- *Why is the preservation of Black history and architecture important?*

DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

>> *The separate but equal doctrine was made law in 1896 with the Supreme Court case,* Plessy v. Ferguson *and remained in place for 58 years until it was overturned by the Supreme Court in the landmark case* Brown v. Board of Education *in 1954.*

>> *The Hampton House was originally named the Booker Terrace Motel but changed its name in 1961 when it was sold, renovated and rebranded as the 'social center of the South.'*

>> *Every state in the United States had segregation laws during the early 60s. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 overrode all state and local laws that required segregation.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 6

In the film One Night In Miami, the character Jim Brown, visits a family friend in St. Simons, GA. They have a friendly conversation on the porch but when Jim offers to help move a heavy piece of furniture inside the house, his White friend reminds him that he is not allowed inside the house because he is Black.

>> What does this exchange tell you about the complexities of friendships between Whites and Blacks in the early 60s when segregation was still enforced? How does it demonstrate that separate was never equal?

In the film One Night In Miami, the character Mohammed Ali, is swimming at the pool at the Hampton House in Brownsville, Florida.

>> What do you notice about most of the motel guests depicted in the video clip? Many aspects of Black life were controlled by segregation laws during this time.

>> Why does Ali emphasize that he has full control over his finances? Why might it be important for him to establish who controls his money? What would economic freedom mean for Black Americans during segregation?

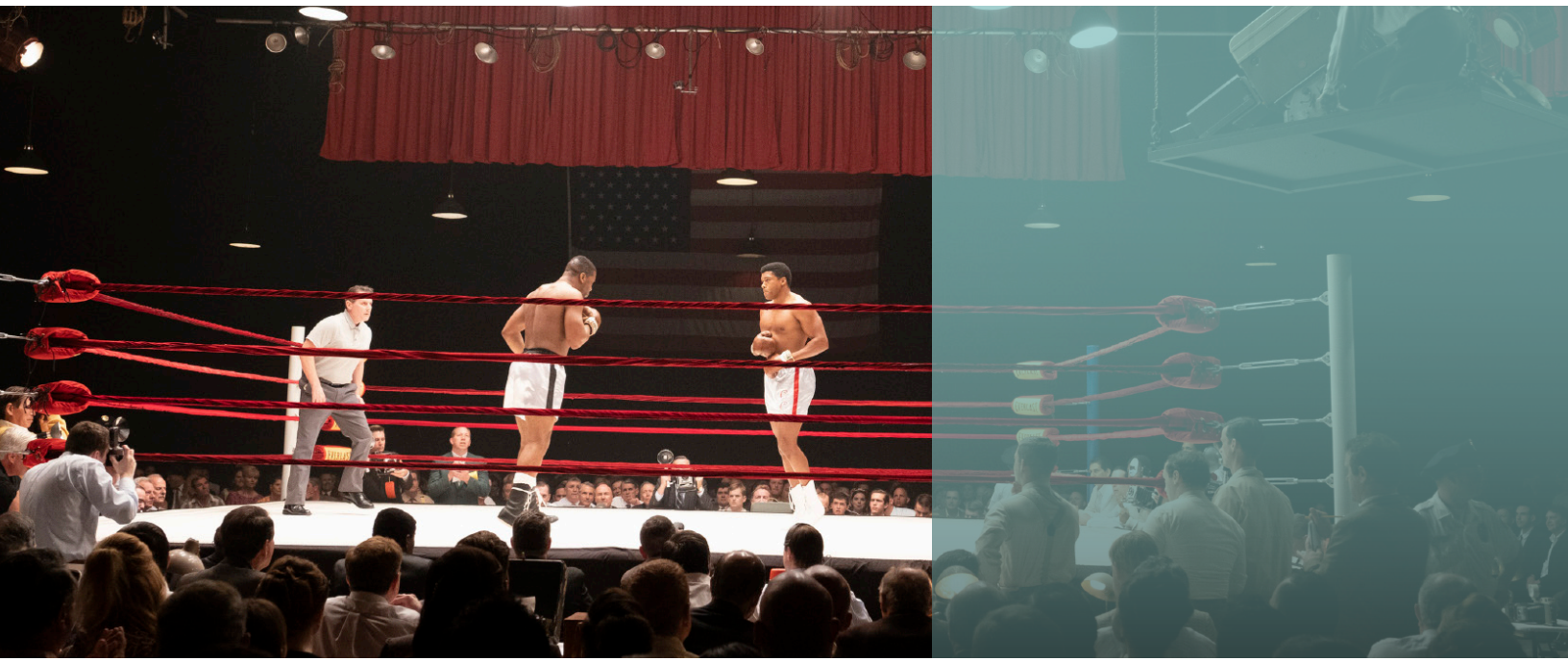
In the film One Night In Miami, the character Sam Cooke, informs his friends that he was hoping they would all celebrate Ali's win at the Fountain Blue hotel in Miami, FL. Malcolm responds by asking how he acquired the room, to which Sam responds that his White agent booked the room for him.

>> Why does Sam need his White agent to make the hotel arrangements for him? In what ways were affluent Black Americans trapped by segregation?

PAST IS PRESENT

Read the article, *'Re-segregation' trend: 60 years after ruling, dozens of Miami-Dade schools remain 'isolated'* and the *New York Times* article, *Still Separate, Still Unequal: Teaching about School Segregation and Educational Inequality.* Complete the six activities in the *New York Times* article that explore segregation in schools today. Reflect on these three key questions:

- *How and why are schools still segregated today?*
- *What repercussions do segregated schools have for students and society?*
- *What are potential remedies to address school segregation?*



DIG DEEPER

- Watch the video, The forgotten "wade-ins" that transformed the US, which highlights how the beaches across America, especially in Florida, started as the sites of peaceful protests aimed at ending segregated beaches and pools in the state and ended with violent opposition from segregationists and police. Ultimately, the horrifying images of racial brutality would help propel the Civil Rights Acts into law. What is non-violent resistance? Why do people peacefully protest and how is it protected by the 1st amendment? Why might the founding leaders of the United States have included the right to join with fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly in the constitution? Why is peaceful protest critical to a functioning democracy?

- When practicing the right to peacefully protest, reaction and response to these demonstrations can sometimes turn a peaceful protest violent. What is the difference between a peaceful protest and unlawful assembly? What responsibility do police have to respond and manage peaceful protests appropriately? If police behaviors escalate protests or incite violence, how should they be held responsible?

- While segregation separated White Americans from Black Americans, it also was used to separate other ethnic minorities from White Americans as well. Visit the History Channel website and read *The 8-Year-Old Chinese-American Girl Who Helped Desegregate Schools—in 1885.* Why were there historically anti-Chinese sentiments in California? Visit the PBS website and read *The Story of Chinatown.* In what ways were Chinese-Americans' experiences similar to Black Americans experiences in the U.S. during segregation? How was it different?

RESOURCES

Articles

- Film Breathes New Life Into Miami's Historic Hampton House https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/film-breathes-new-life-into-miamis-historic-hampton-house/2387807/
- Historic Hampton House Restoration https://www.linkconstructiongroup.net/project-post/historic-hampton-house-restoration/
- Florida History: Racism, Resentment and the Extent of Jim Crow https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20190411/florida-history-racism-resentment-and-extent-of-jim-crow
- Group Journeys Back to 'A Painful Time' in Miami's History https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/coral-gables/article8916899.html
- Florida Schools Growing More Segregated https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article175987981.html
- America's Segregated Shores: Beaches' Long History as a Racial Battleground https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/12/americas-segregated-shores-beaches-long-history-as-a-racial-battleground
- Miami Black History: 1940s to 1960s https://thenewtropic.com/miami-black-history-1940s-1960s/
- The New Golden Era: A Resurgence of Black Businesses https://www.encounteryourpotential.com/post/the-new-golden-era-a-resurgence-of-black-businesses
- The Decline of Black Business https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/marchaprilmay-2017/the-decline-of-black-business/
- The Roots of Anti-Asian Violence Can be Found in California History https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-03-22/anti-asian-violence-california

Books

- McLeod, Y.G. (2018). *The Miami Times and the Fight for Equality*. Lexington Books. https://www.amazon.com/Miami-Times-Fight-Equality-1948-1958/dp/149857663X
- Dunn,M. (2016). *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century (Florida History and Culture)*. University Press of Florida. https://www.amazon.com/Twentieth-Century-Florida-History-Culture/dp/0813062985
- Absher, A. (2014). *The Black Musician and the White City: Race and Music in Chicago 1900-1967*. University of Michigan Press Ann Arbor. https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/id/b4a53f2c-8648-45f1-9b20-a364b0913c99/648333.pdf

Film Clips and Videos

- **One Night In Miami** - four minutes and 55 seconds film clip (8:02-12:57)
- **One Night In Miami** - three minutes and 40 seconds film clip (16:50-19:10)
- **One Night In Miami** - one minutes and 13 seconds film clip (36:42-37:55)
- *Inside Brownsville's Historic Hampton House* (1:48 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnNBg3jDqFs
- *Historic Hampton House Motel reopens in Miami* (3:28 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niy5NA6_csE
- *Introduction to The Historic Hampton House* (4:27 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF-l0tYkcEY
- *Legacy of Sundown Towns: Miami* (3:50 minutes) https://www.nbcmiami.com/investigations/sundown-towns-a-look-at-south-floridas-legacy-of-segregation/2386799/

PUSH US FORWARD

IDEALS, DREAMS AND TACTICS

INTRODUCTION

The Civil Rights Movement (1954 – 1968) was a fight for Black Americans to obtain equal rights under the law in the United States. Even after the Civil War, Black Americans continued to experience unjust treatment including harassment, prejudice and violence. Jim Crow laws were written and enforced as early as 1865 to legalize racial segregation and limit political, social and work opportunities for Black Americans. These laws were deliberately written to ensure that White Americans and Black Americans were not considered equals. Black Americans were limited to where they could work and live, could not vote, and faced segregation through the use of White versus Colored water fountains, rest rooms, restaurants, theaters, schools, and even cemeteries. Black Americans who rebelled against and/or defied these laws were subjected to arrest, jail time, beatings and even death. Black Americans were often run off their land, constantly harassed or threatened, and sometimes even lynched by White Americans enacting their own form of justice.

Racial tension and violence continued to escalate reaching a breaking point in 1955 with two significant events. The first occurred in August when Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy, was abducted, beaten, mutilated and killed for allegedly whistling at a White woman. Four months later in December, NAACP activist Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a White man on a public bus. Outraged by the young boy's death and fed up with unfair, hostile treatment, Black Americans began to mobilize, march and speak out demanding equality. It was time for change. The movement gained momentum, growing to include many White Americans and resulting in the rise of many prominent civil rights leaders including Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, John Lewis and Ida B. Wells.

Black Americans were often divided in the right approach in the fight for equality. Varied strategies included lawsuits, non-violent protest, lobbying, black militancy and cultural assimilation. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) filed lawsuits to counteract the effects of the Jim Crow laws. The biggest divide may have been between the militant or Black Power approach adopted by Malcolm X and his followers that often-utilized anger-driven rhetoric and self-defense, versus the cultural assimilation approach in which Black Americans preferred to take on the traits and behaviors associated with White culture in order to be accepted and therefore more successful. Proponents of the assimilation approach reasoned that they were still making progress toward equality but without the confrontation.

The Civil Rights Act was signed into law in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson finally ending legal segregation. Many laws to establish equality followed including the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. However, it took approximately forty years for the U.S. to elect Barack Obama the 1st African American to hold the office of the presidency.

Progress has been made but the fight against prejudice, discrimination and hostility still continues today. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement is the modern-day counterpart to the Civil Rights Movement. Black Lives Matter started in 2013 when it was used as a hashtag following the acquittal of George Zimmerman who shot and killed a 17-year-old unarmed Black youth named Trayvon Martin. The BLM movement's main objectives are to end police brutality against Black people, fight prejudice, fight for voting rights and to continue pushing for Black advancement.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *How have Black Americans tried to secure freedom, gain civil rights and counteract racism in both the past and the present?*
- *Why did the different approaches used in the fight for equality cause tension between Black Americans?*
- *What responsibility do all Americans have to push racial equality forward?*

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DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

- *Black Americans only make up 13.4% of the total population in America.*
- *1 out of every 3 Black children lived in poverty in 2019 compared to 1 out of every 10 White children.*
- *Interracial marriage in the United States was banned in 1664 and not overturned until 1967 with the court ruling in Loving v. Virginia.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 10

- Throughout the film **One Night In Miami**, Malcolm X expresses his frustrations with what he sees as a passive fight for Black rights. He strongly believes that all Black people should be actively fighting oppression and admonishes those who don't stating, "You are too happy with your scraps." What does he mean by this statement? What actions does Malcolm X consider passive and what actions does he consider active in the fight for equality? Malcolm goes on to state, "[It's] called struggle 'cause we are fighting for our lives." Later in the film, Malcolm expands on this notion when speaking to Jim Brown saying, "You all are our greatest weapons." Jim replies, "We are not anyone's weapon" to which Malcolm admonishes, "You need to be Jimmy, you need to be for us to win." Based on this exchange, what events were happening during the early 1960's and what was the Black experience during this time that caused Malcolm to feel such an urgent need for less passive action and a more active fight for equality? And why do you think Malcolm referred to Jim as a weapon?

- In one of the opening scenes in the film **One Night In Miami**, we are introduced to Sam Cooke who is performing at the Copacabana after achieving a #1 single on the Billboard pop charts with his hit *You Send Me*. The all-White audience appear fully engaged by the previous White performer. However, once Sam comes on stage the demeanor of the audience shifts, they appear disinterested and distracted. What does this tell you about the climate of race relations during that time period in 1964? In response to the crowd's apparent disdain, Sam decides to perform a popular song by the White, female singer Debbie Reynolds, rather than sing one of his own songs. Why might he have made such a decision and what does it suggest about Sam's thoughts on how to relate/win over a White audience? How might other prominent, famous and successful Black entertainers have used similar tactics to navigate success in a segregated White dominated entertainment industry? In what ways has this conformity mindset changed today and in what ways does it remain the same?

- In the film **One Night In Miami**, a pivotal exchange occurs between Malcolm and Sam. Malcolm plays Bob Dylan's song, *Blowing in the Wind* for his four friends. He repeats the lyrics, "How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?" then modifies the line stating, "How much do the oppressed have to do before they can be recognized as human beings?" He points out to the group that Bob Dylan's song touches on the heart of the Black struggle, yet he is White. He then contrasts that with the music Sam has been creating, and questions the depth of its message, suggesting it was designed to keep the peace and please White audiences. Malcolm chastises Sam stating, "The White boy has written a song that speaks more to the struggle and movement of Black people even though he has nothing to gain from it." Sam responds by explaining how his record company is funded by White patronage and how that funding is then put back into the Black community. Why is Malcolm opposed to Sam's approach of appealing to White audiences and gaining White patronage? Compare and contrast the two approaches. In what ways does this exchange examine the racial equality process of Black Americans in a White dominated society in 1964? Consider these transitional phases in the approach to the fight for equality: Separation, Adaptation, Integration, Acculturation, Assimilation? Where might Malcolm's approach fall on this spectrum? What about Sam's? Also consider Mohammad Ali's and Jim Brown's approach. What are the arguments for and against each approach?

- In the movie **One Night In Miami**, Malcolm says that he is only one voice in the struggle. He goes on to say that Muhammad Ali "pushes us forward with his fists and his words", and that Jim "pushes us forward with his fearlessness". He then asks how Sam is pushing the movement forward. What responsibility does each Black Americans have to "push forward" the cause for racial equality? What is the responsibility of White Americans to do the same?

PAST IS PRESENT

The video *Systematic Racism Explained,* shows how systemic racism affects every area of life in the United States. What is systemic racism? How does systematic racism impact Black American's lives on a daily basis? Explain how systemic racism creates a cycle in which the past affects the future.

DIG DEEPER

The Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) is a modern-day network formed by Patrisse Cullers, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi to continue the fight against racism, unjust treatment and the oppression of Black Americans. Similar to the Civil Rights Movement, BLM has faced controversy and split support with only 55% of Americans saying they agree with the movement. Is this split caused by the racial issues they aim to address, by the ways in which the issue has been protested, or by another factor? If so, what factor? What can be done to garner more support and bring opposing sides together for a common cause?

SOCIAL MEDIA

- *14 Anti-Racism Educators & Activists to Follow and Support Online* https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/anti-racism-activists
- *Join #TogetherAgainstRacism on March 21st of every year to stand in solidarity against racism.*
- *College students can check out #BlackInTheIvory where Black students and professors share their struggles, successes and professional advice.*
- *Go to #blklivesmatter for the official Black Lives Matter site and call to action.*

ACTIVISM

- **9 Anti-Racism Resources for Your Activism** http://therepresentationproject.org/9-anti-racism-resources-for-your-activism/
- **10 Steps Toward Bridging Our Painful Racial Divide** https://www.niot.org/blog/ywca-10-steps-toward-bridging-our-painful-racial-divide?gclid=Cj0KCQiAyoeCBhCTARIsAOfpKxiKY_Bd18HwkKQTLjFfCVr6rHqdQ5vgusdXrn3HFH-YqlAVuHhdxJMaAs6FEALw_wcB

- **As a single individual, how can you help to change systematic racism?**
  1. Acknowledge the truth about racism.
  2. Take a stand against racism.
  3. Educate yourself and others about racism.
  4. Advocate for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and support the businesses they own.
  5. Vote for leaders who will work for change.
  6. Be aware of your own prejudice and bias.
  7. Work with others to create solutions for racial justice and equality.
  8. Support systematic changes that advance BIPOC.

RESOURCES

Articles

- Jim Crow Laws https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws
- Black Lives Matter https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter
- Introduction to the Civil Rights Movement https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/civil-rights-movement/a/introduction-to-the-civil-rights-movement
- Ten Little Known Black History Facts http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history-little-known-facts/
- Are You Complicit in Systematic Racism? Here's How to Change. https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnrex/2020/07/15/ive-been-complicit-in-systemic-racism-heres-what-im-doing-to-change/?sh=3862ba075078
- Systematic Racism Explained: Four Dimensions of Racism and How to be Part of the Solution https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnrex/2020/07/15/ive-been-complicit-in-systemic-racism-heres-what-im-doing-to-change/?sh=3862ba075078

Books

- DiAngelo, R. (2018). *White Fragility*. Beacon Press. https://www.amazon.com/White-Fragility-People-About-Racism/dp/0807047414/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiA4feBBhC9ARIsABp_nbW1Y5qHpPgkP8xMi8AUVOWi28cZjB4H11r1ZHAEHgMwDm9KSlegqj0aAq3CEALw_wcB&hvadid=323217388272&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9010944&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=b&hvrand=6428893899514504816&hvtargid=kwd-806623497992&hydadcr=20617_10166973&keywords=white+fragility+by+robin+diangelo&qid=1614700459&sr=8-1
- Kendi, I. (2019). *How To Be An Antiracist*. Bodley Head. https://www.amazon.com/How-Be-Antiracist-Ibram-Kendi-ebook/dp/B07D2364N5/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1622085718&sr=1-1

Film Clips and Videos

- **One Night in Miami** - two minute film clip (58:45 - 1:00:45 minutes)
- **One Night in Miami** - one minutes and 14 seconds film clip (1:02:34 - 1:03:48)
- **One Night in Miami** - one minutes and 9 seconds film clip (1:16:24 – 1:17:33)
- **One Night in Miami** – two minutes and 44 seconds film clip (1:23:13 – 1:25:57)
- *Systemic Racism Explained* (4:23 minutes) https://youtu.be/YrHIQI0_bdQ
- *The Civil Rights Movement* (3:07 minutes) https://blackhistoryintwominutes.com/the-civil-rights-movement/
- *History of the Civil Rights Movement* (5:52 minutes) https://youtu.be/URxwe6LPvkM

HOLD THE PRESSES

HISTORY, AUTHORITY & PERSPECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

The media is a popular and powerful entity, it includes all forms of communication that channel news, facts and/or information to the public. The influence of the media has grown over the years with the advancement of communication technology, allowing individuals to find and consume content easily and more rapidly. But reporting the news, telling a story and/or delineating a subject is not always a straightforward endeavor. Bias and perspectives can be intentionally or unintentionally imbedded in the content and the resulting impact can range from affecting a change in an individual's beliefs to skewing a person's knowledge of a specific topic or person.

The image created by the media can also result in a negative connotation and/or long-lasting stereotype of the subject matter or person of focus. Newspapers, magazines, television and radio made Malcolm X into a well-known speaker and popular activist, but they also often portrayed him as an extremist and a renegade. Malcolm X was also often compared to Martin Luther King Jr, another well-known leader in the fight for civil rights. This comparison of the two activists emphasizes the power the media had in creating images or perceptions that persists. Throughout his lifetime and even today, Malcolm X is still often regarded as a controversial figure.

As a media consumer it is important to understand that history, and the stories embedded, are being retold through the lens of whomever is recounting them. In the film **One Night In Miami**, first-time director Regina King presents the character of Malcolm X as a fiercely intelligent, passionate man with an emotional and vulnerable side that he shows to family, friends and close confidants. The study Malcolm X and the Mass Media: Creation of a Rhetorical Exigence examines the media coverage of Malcolm X from 1963 through 1965 using the top newspaper and magazine sources during that time period. Using cluster analysis, the researchers identified key words and/or phrases used to describe Malcolm X based on how frequently they were used and how emotionally charged the terms were in nature. The key words identified for Malcolm X were extremist, power, violence and desperado all of which reinforce a staunch militant representation.

It has been 56 years since Malcolm X was assassinated but the controversy and mystery surrounding his murder still remains. At the time of his assassination most Americans assumed that his death was a direct result of Malcolm's ongoing tension with and separation from the Nation of Islam (NOI). The media reinforced this theory with coverage pointing toward several NOI Muslim members. Although three members of the NOI were convicted, questions have remained around what really happened. Perspectives and opinions vary as to who may really be responsible as new evidence and theories continue to emerge. Malcolm X was an outspoken and controversial figure whose growing popularity coupled with the violent, power-hungry portrayal often assigned him by the press made him a target powered by fear and misunderstanding. An inflammatory example occurred shortly after Malcolm's death with Time magazine publishing an article entitled *Races: Death and Transfiguration* describing him as "a pimp, a cocaine addict and thief" and "an unashamed demagogue." This is in stark contrast to the same magazine naming *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as one of the ten "required reading" nonfiction books in 1998.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *How does the media's perspective impact how they present content?*
- *What role did the media play in the rise of Malcolm X and the many perceptions that surrounded him?*
- *How can you examine resources and media content to determine truth from fiction?*

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DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

- *Malcolm X first came known as a public figure due in part to a 1959 TV documentary on Black Nationalism entitled* The Hate that Hate Produced.
- *In the 1970's Americans trust of the media ranged between 68% and 72%, in contrast to the 40% in 2020 who said they trust the media "a great deal" or "a fair amount."*
- *Malcolm X called the media "the most powerful entity on earth" stating that they could make the innocent guilty and the guilty innocent.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 14

- In the video *Who Can You Trust? Crash Course Navigating Digital Information #4* John Green speaks about how perspective can influence sources of information. How does the media's perspective impact how content is presented? How does bias differ from perspective?

- In the study Malcolm X and the Mass Media: Creation of a Rhetorical Exigence researchers Kimberly Powell and Sonja Amundson explore a theory by Shah and Thornton (1994) that argues that media imagery is created through 3 components: 1) essentializing: assigning only one or more stereotypical traits to a person or group in which those traits are then deemed representative of their quintessence 2) totalizing: using only a few characteristics to represent the totality of an individual or group and 3) exoticizing: assigning characteristics to an individual or group to make them appear different or strange. How did the media use essentializing, totalizing and exoticizing to create a specific image of Malcolm X? Give specific examples of each component.

- In the article *Propaganda as a Form of Manipulation*, Alexandra Iorgulescue states that propaganda "addresses the individual and the mass simultaneously, uses all the technical means available (press, radio, television, posters, brochures, cinema), it is continuous and permanent in order to cause adhesion and to urge the receiver to act." Iorgulescue goes on to identify the five "laws" of propaganda: 1) the rule of simplification: simple topics that focus energy toward a specific target 2) the rule of thickening and disfigurement: exaggerating facts 3) the rule of orchestration repeating messages and adapting them toward a specific audience 4) the rule of transfusion (discounting the beliefs of an individual using their own prejudices) and 5) the rule of unanimity and contagion: appealing to an individual's need for conformity. Looking at these laws, find one specific instance or story in the media that has used at least 3 of the 5 laws. Why specifically do these tactics work?

PAST IS PRESENT

A recent study *Young Adults' Interaction with Online News and Advertising,* concluded that young adults ages 25 - 34 tend to use "news snacking" or consuming news or information on a mobile phone or app via notifications while engaging in other activities. This rushed, unplanned "snacking" carries the negative consequence of causing "more limited awareness of public affairs and lower level of civic engagement." Do you think this conclusion is true? If so, what factors have contributed to this trend? When the current generation of young adults do consume media content do you believe they are more easily influenced or less likely to be influenced than previous generations?

BACKTRACK JOURNAL

Information moves, it travels through social media, news outlets and email. Journalist Andrew Revkin created an exercise called a "backtrack journal" to help his graduate students understand and identify how online communication travels. For one week document the information you receive. What type of information was it? What platform was it received on? Who created the content? Is the content valid? How do you know? Identifying who and where your content comes from can help you determine what information is worthy of consuming and sharing.

PERSPECTIVE MATTERS

Read Time (short story told from two perspectives) *by Kate Murray.*

>> What are the yearly visits to the diner like for the older man? Assign 3 words to describe his perspective on his experience.

>> What does the waitress think of the older man's yearly visit to the diner. Assign 3 words to describe her perspective on what she has observed.

ACTIVISM

>> **6 Questions That Will Tell You What Media to Trust**
https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/publications/six-critical-questions-can-use-evaluate-media-content/

>> **How to Spot Real and Fake News: Critically Appraising Information**
https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/fake-news.htm

>> **Bias in the media can be seen in the tone used during the reporting and/or by how the media chooses what information to report. With the media's perceptions, bias and selective nature driving the content, how can *you* be informed about what media to trust?**

1. Explore the authority of the person or organization creating the content by examining their background and experience.
2. Use lateral reading to investigate the original sources credibility.
3. Consider what might be the author's perspective when assessing the content.
4. Understand what type of content you are consuming, if marked 'opinion,' 'analysis' or 'viewpoint' it is coming from the author's perspective and is probably a persuasive piece .
5. Look to see what sources are cited and whether they are known and/or reputable.
6. Make sure to look for solid evidence that supports the author's claim.
7. Think about not only what is there, but also what information might be missing from the content. Gaps in the story and/or reporting could mean an unreliable source.

RESOURCES

Articles

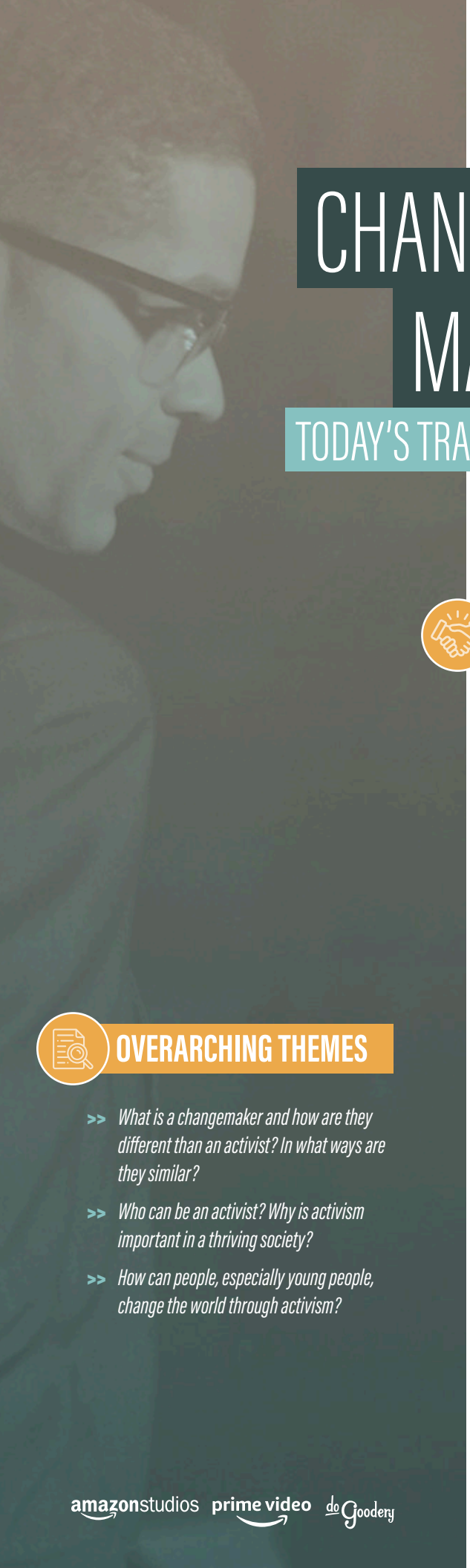
- Six Questions That Will Tell You What Media to Trust
  https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/publications/six-critical-questions-can-use-evaluate-media-content/
- The Day Malcolm X Was Killed
  https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/the-day-malcolm-x-was-killed
- Malcolm X and the Mass Media: Creation of a Rhetorical Exigence
  http://www2.edutech.nodak.edu/ndsta/powell.htm
- 40 Fascinating Facts About Mass Media
  https://factrepublic.com/40-fascinating-facts-about-mass-media/
- Young Adults' Interaction with Online News and Advertising
  https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1211824.pdf
- Trust in Media is Important, it is also Very Problematic
  https://medium.com/@preciousolu/trust-in-media-is-important-it-is-also-very-problematic-1b57df6b3325
- Americans Remain Distrustful of Mass Media
  https://news.gallup.com/poll/321116/americans-remain-distrustful-mass-media.aspx
- Propaganda as a Form of Manipulation
  https://sserr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/3-1-101-105.pdf

Books

- Payne, L. (2020). *The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X*. Liveright.
  https://www.amazon.com/Dead-Are-Arising-Life-Malcolm/dp/B08L9M2W7L/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=The+Dead+Are+Rising&qid=1622131401&sr=8-2
- Bartlett, B. (2017). *The Truth Matters: A Citizen's Guide to Separating Facts from Lies and Stopping Fake News in Its Track*. Ten Speed Press.
  https://www.amazon.com/Truth-Matters-Citizens-Separating-Stopping/dp/0399581162

Film Clips and Videos

- *Who Can You Trust? Crash Course Navigating Digital Information #4* (14:45 minutes)
  https://youtu.be/o93pM-b97HI
- *How to Choose Your News* (4:48 minutes)
  https://youtu.be/q-Y-z6HmRgI
- *How False News Can Spread* (3:41 minutes)
  https://youtu.be/cSKGa_7XJkg
- *New Information Released Regarding the Death of Malcolm X* | GMA (3:20 minutes)
  https://youtu.be/N_-bX7SyOtM



CHANGE MAKERS

TODAY'S TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS

INTRODUCTION

A changemaker is an activist who not only identifies a social or political problem, but analyzes the problem and then takes courageous and creative action to solve it for the betterment of society as a whole. Changemakers often start as, and work in tandem with, other activists who participate in movements that bring public awareness to socio-political issues. These charismatic leaders sometimes become famous and yet often are also sources of tension within the process of social and political change. Some of the mostly widely and well-known changemakers of all time include Harriet Tubman, Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Jr, and Rosa Parks. But there have been many others throughout history. Anyone, young or old, can become an activist and most are inspired by their own lived experiences or the injustices they witness in society.

Activism is an important part of building a better and more ideal and just society. It is the catalyst for large-scale societal shifts. Changemakers often transform the entire climate of a society and advance all of humankind by changing the attitudes, beliefs, and ultimately the actions of those around them. This can lead to changes in laws, policies and practices that alter the way a society functions. Many young people today want to be a part of this change. There are many ways that young people can become activists for the causes they care about, including voting, using social media to educate, writing lawmakers to make their voices heard and engaging in community service, just to name a few.

Too often the media's portrayal of activism is distorted, focusing mostly on violent outcomes rather than peaceful and nonviolent actions that make up much of the process of activism. Activism includes many different activities like community organizing, peaceful protests and marches, fundraising, civil disobedience through noncompliance, boycotts and educating others. Much like Malcolm X, Sam Cooke, Mohammed Ali and Jim Brown, today's most influential changemakers use their unique talents to make a difference in the world. Amanda Gorman uses her words to fight for racial and gender equality. Professor Ibram X. Kendi is an author and antiracist activists who educates for social change. Co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Alicia Garza, helped organize and lead a global movement. The Emmy-nominated actress Laverne Cox uses her media platform to advocate for trans rights. Today's transformational leaders continue on the legacy of the great changemakers who came before them. What legacy will you leave behind?

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *What is a changemaker and how are they different than an activist? In what ways are they similar?*
- *Who can be an activist? Why is activism important in a thriving society?*
- *How can people, especially young people, change the world through activism?*

DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

>> *One of the most famous Civil Rights Movements was the **March on Washington**, which took place on August 28th, 1963.*

>> *The Black Lives Matter protests on **June 6th, 2020** occurred in **550 places across the United States** and over half a million people participated in response to **the killing of George Floyd**. Many more gathered to protest his death **around the world**.*

>> *In 1995, over 1 million men participated in the Million Man March in Washington, D.C. marking it as the largest activist march in American history at the time.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 18

Visit the Digital Public Library of America exhibition titled, Activism in the US. Explore the digital exhibition.

>> While racial injustice continues today, the exhibition argues that protests against segregation were successful on many levels. Why do you think this argument is made and is this argument valid? Why or why not?

>> How did the Freedom Rides, SCOPE Project and Poor People's Campaign move the Civil Rights fight forward? How were these social justice initiatives met with opposition and how did they push through barriers?

>> How was the treatment of Black Americans different based on the different regions in the United States? In what ways were the treatment of Black people similar across regions?

>> Consider the protests and activism that followed the Civil Rights Movement in: Education Equality, Anti-War, Women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights. In what ways did the Civil Rights Movement create a path for social change for other citizen's concerns? How are all of these movements similar?

In the TEDx Talks video, *Let's Get To The Root of Racial Injustice,* Professor Megan Ming Francis shares the story of a police encounter her brother had in 2011. As she continues her presentation, she also shares a story about her own harrowing encounter with racism in 2016. Today, in 2021, over a decade later, many of the same racial injustice issues and brutalities are still being experienced by people of color. Professor Francis makes a compelling argument that racial injustices continue because we have "misdiagnosed the problem and the cure".

>> What does she mean by this statement? In what ways is "Black skin" equated to "criminality"? Why does she suggest that as a society we must address a fear of Black skin to address the root of the problem? What does she mean when she says this is an "everyone" problem?

>> In what ways can activism be used to address the issue of racial injustice? If you could change one thing about the world for the betterment of society, what would it be?

In the Entertainment Tonight (ET) video and article titled, Regina King Discusses the Anxiety of Making History With 'One Night in Miami' (Exclusive), author John Boone (01/13/21) writes about King's challenge creating a 'period piece...and a film that could not be more timely, that speaks directly to what's going on nearly 50 years removed from that one night'. In what ways do Black Americans continue to face racial injustice almost 60 years after the Civil Rights Act? A goal of both director Regina King and screenwriter and playwright Kemp Powers was to show the humanity of the 4 great icons featured in the film One Night In Miami. In this ET interview Kemp states, "...we always say that we have to be so superhuman to be Black and American, we can sometimes take that to the point where people forget about our humanity and forget that we have emotions and that we feel pain." What do you think Kemp means by this statement? Why do you think it is important to reveal the vulnerability of these icons?

BE THE CHANGEMAKER

- *Take a look at these 10 films meant to inspire burgeoning activists to action. Consider the social or political causes that you are passionate about and curate your own list of 10 films to inspire social action for the cause of your choosing. Share your list on your favorite social media outlet.*
- *Read the article, So You Want to Be an Activist? 8 Ways to Get Involved in Causes You Care About, by Jena Mazzio. Add at least 3 additional ways to get involved as an activist that were not mentioned in the article.*
- *There are many ways in which someone can take action. Protests, rallies and demonstrations are just a few ways. What are some additional ways that changemakers take action to raise awareness, voice their protest, and aim to change the world?*
- *Watch activist Amanda Gorman recite her poem, The Hill We Climb. What do you think the author intent is? In what ways is this poem a call to action? In the article, 'Not Broken But Simply Unfinished': Poet Amanda Gorman Calls For A Better America, Author Camila Domonoske highlights key moments within the inaugural poem that echo the message of President Biden. What moments in the poem stand out to you? What makes these moments powerful?*

DIG DEEPER

Can social media create change? Read *Activism on Social Media: The Good, The Bad and How it Can Create Change.* Author Erin Kenney points out criticisms that activism on social media is often limited to hashtags and does not seem to lead to actual change. How can social media be used in a way that is meaningful? In the article, *How to Ensure Your Online Activism Has an Offline Impact*, Natasha Pinon, highlights the power of story to effect change. Think about a social or political cause that you are passionate about. How might story bring an emotional and meaningful element to your social media campaign?

RESOURCES

Articles

- Hollywood So Often Gets Black History Wrong. Black Filmmakers Are Setting the Record Straight https://time.com/5932844/black-history-movies/
- 10 Different Ways to Look at Iconic Black Pioneers http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-new-ways-to-look-at-black-pioneers/
- How to Change the World: Five Persuasive Strategies from MLK https://read.activelylearn.com/#teacher/reader/authoring/preview/1117755/notes
- Activism is Politically Essential to Society https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/02/08/can-activists-be-politicians/activism-is-politically-essential-to-society
- 9 Young Activists Who Are Making A Difference In The World Today https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/7-badass-youth-activists-you-didnt-know-are-changi/
- How to be an Activist for Causes You Believe In https://www.nbcnews.com/better/pop-culture/7-ways-be-better-activist-ncna791856
- From Esmeralda Simmons to Laverne Cox, Here are 19 of the Most Influential Civil Rights Leaders of Today https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/06/07/19-of-the-most-influential-civil-rights-leaders-of-the-21st-century/111907158/
- 'The Humanity of Blackness' Missing From History Classes: How to Transform Black History Education in Schools https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/national-international/how-to-transform-black-history-education-in-schools/2450465/

Books

- Mina, A.X. (2019). *Memes to Movements: How the World's Most Viral Media is Changing Social Protest and Power*. Beacon Press. https://www.amazon.com/Memes-Movements-Worlds-Changing-Protest/dp/0807056588/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=
- Kaba, M. (2021). *We Do This 'Til We Free Us': Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*. Haymarket Books. https://www.amazon.com/This-Til-Free-Abolitionist-Transforming/dp/164259525X/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1618865264&sr=1-3-spons
- Brown, A.M. (ed.)(2019). *Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good*. AK Press. https://www.amazon.com/Pleasure-Activism-Politics-Emergent-Strategy/dp/1849353263/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1618865530&sr=1-2
- Jackson, S.J., Bailey, M., & Brooke, F.W. (2020). *Hashtag Activism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice*. The MIT Press. https://www.amazon.com/HashtagActivism-Networks-Gender-Justice-Press/dp/0262043378

Film Clips and Videos

- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI**...*Full Conversation* (19:40 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXMhdsREetY
- *Regina King and 'One Night in Miami' Cast Talk Recreating History at Variety's Virtual TIFF Studio* (13:28 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FneK97Jz7V4
- **One Night in Miami**...*by Kemp Powers* (1:00:00 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-jJv2ZBFKE
- *Women Change Makers: Taking Action for Social Justice* (3:56 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5hzeQ5-VS0
- *The Difference Between Being "Not Racist" and Antiracist* – Ibram X. Kendi (51:14 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCxbl5QgFZw
- *An Interview with the Founders of Black Lives Matter* – Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi (16:05 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbicAmaXYtM
- *It Got Better Featuring Lavern Cox* – L/Studio created by Lexus (8:29 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MfxtM9N3fw

PUSH US FORWARD

IDEALS, DREAMS AND TACTICS

INTRODUCTION

"There will be a day sometime in the near future when this guide will not have to be published. That is when we as a race will have equal opportunities and privileges in the United States. It will be a great day for us to suspend this publication for then we can go wherever we please, and without embarrassment."

-Quote from the *Negro Motorist Green Book*, 1948

By the late 19th Century, prosperous Black Americans who had been freed or escaped from slavery had established businesses, distinguished careers, and impressive incomes during 1890-1945. They had begun enjoying vacations, recreation and leisure activities, including traveling across the United States. However, some White Americans found being in the company of well-dressed, successful and prosperous Black Americans enjoying their leisure time, offensive. In a social climate ripe with racism and bitterness over the fight to end slavery, some White Americans called for separate public accommodations so that the two racial groups would be segregated. While Jim Crow laws had been in existence since 1877, racist social attitudes led to the Supreme court upholding the constitutionality of racial segregation in the 1896 seminal court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Establishing the separate but equal doctrine, segregation became a stronghold in America. For decades, Black codes and Jim Crow laws were strictly enforced, restricting and privatizing formerly public spaces where Black Americas had once pursued leisure activities. It would take over 100 years before de jure segregation would become illegal in the United States with the introduction of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act a year later, and the Fair Housing Act two years later.

Travel for Black Americans across Jim Crow America was a potentially life-threatening and dangerous venture. While there is a misconception that Jim Crow predominately existed only in the Southern states, in reality Jim Crow was enacted across the entire United States. In fact, lack of 'Whites Only' signage in the West and North made travel there more dangerous as Black Americans were unsure of where they were allowed to go and where they were not. Imagine for a moment, planning to travel to a neighboring state only to realize that the numerous gas stations, restaurants and hotels would not welcome you and where great harm might be inflicted upon you and any loved ones in your company if you dare to stop for service. The realities of Sundown Towns and segregation cast a dark and dangerous shadow over the prospects of travel, leisure and vacation for Black Americans for many decades in America. *The Green Book*, named after the author Victor Green, helped Black travelers find safe accommodations, entertainment, services and Black-owned businesses across the United States. Many activists also use the *The Green Book* to find locations where they could hold Civil Rights meetings. For nearly thirty years *The Green Book* aimed to help with traveling safely, finding welcoming accommodations and entertainment. In 1964 the Civil Rights Act was passed banning racial segregation. Two years later, *The Green Book* ceased publication.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *How did the increasing number of prosperous Black Americans in part influence the creation of Jim Crow Laws and Black Codes?*
- *What is a* Green Book, *who came up with the concept, and why was it necessary? What role did it play in the life and culture of Black Americans?*
- *Jim Crow existed throughout the United States. What were some of the dangers of traveling through Jim Crow America? How do the historical racist attitudes and perils of traveling through Jim Crow America still impact Black Americans today?*

DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

- The Green Book *was named after the author, Victor Hugo Green, who worked as a postman in Harlem, NY and was a veteran of World War I.*
- The Green Book *did more than map out safe travels for Black Americans. It also provided lists of night clubs and entertainment, as well as motels, restaurants and beauty salons that served Black patrons.*
- *At the peak of its popularity,* The Green Book *sold over 2 million copies.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 21

In the film One Night In Miami, the character Mohammed Ali, breaks the tension in the conversation between the four men by revealing Jim Brown's plans to leave his career in football to become an actor.

- In response to this revelation, Sam Cooke supportively states that in Los Angeles "We can do whatever we want to out there." He goes on to say, "Don't need no Green Book telling you where you can and can't go..." What is meant by this statement? In what ways was the Green Book more than a travel guide? How did the Green Book provide a measure of safety to the Black traveler in the United States? Malcolm X then reminds him that this statement isn't true and points out that Hollywood remains off limits to Black residents in 1964. While today, California is often considered progressive, what is the history of Jim Crow in California?
- How was the treatment of Black Americans different based on the different regions in the United States? In what ways were the treatment of Black people similar across regions?

In the film, the character Malcolm X exclaims to his friends, "Our people are literally dying in the streets every day. Black people are dying every day." Decades of police brutality, violence at the hands of segregationist, and the rampant murders of Black people perpetrated by the Klu Klux Klan had created an intense climate of danger, trepidation and anger for the Black community.

- What dangers did Black people face in 1964?
- How did the Civil Rights Act provide much needed protections for Black people in 1964?
- In what ways has the Civil Rights Act been limited in providing protections for Black people today?

In the video, *Traveling with "The Green Book" during the Jim Crow era* Black Americans who used the Green Book to safely travel throughout Jim Crow America share their experiences. What are the common themes shared in the video? What did you find most compelling? What was most surprising about what they had to say?

In the article, *A look inside the Green Book*, USA Today authors George Petras & Janet Loehrke (02/19/2021) write about the prevalence of Sundown Towns around the United States. They provide a map of these towns. What do you notice about where the vast majority of Sundown Towns were located? Why do you think there were so many of these towns in these locations? Which states had the least amount of Sundown Towns? Why do you think this might be the case? Compare this map to a map of racial disparity across the United States. What similarities are there between the states which historically were considered Sundown Towns and the states with the greatest racial disparity today? Which states are considered the best for supporting racial equality. Which states on this list surprised you? Which states on list used to be considered Sundown Towns? Based on your comparisons, create an updated page for a modern-day Green Book that highlights best states to visit for racial equality.

PAST IS PRESENT

Read the article, *Traveling While Black: The Green Book's Black History.* The article points out how segregation made normal everyday activities very dangerous for Black Americans. Some of these activities continue to pose dangers for Black Americans today. The term "driving while Black" refers to the potential dangers of Black Americans being unlawfully stopped by law enforcement while driving, based solely on racial profiling. Such practices raise the question, is it safe for Black Americans to travel freely around America? Some authors suggest that a new green book is needed. Read the article, *A Revival of the 'Green Book' for Black Travelers* and *'Digital Green Book' Aims to Create Safer Travel for Black People.* Based on what you have read, do you think a modern-day Green Book might be necessary? Why or Why not? Support your position with facts.

DIG DEEPER

Watch the PBS documentary, *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America*. In this film, mobility is considered essential to freedom, yet the notion of driving while Black is explored in a manner that reminds us that this freedom is not yet available to all Americans. In what ways has systemic racism restricted the mobility, leisure, and recreation of Black Americans? What needs to change in order for everyone in America to enjoy the freedoms of mobility without fear?

SOCIAL MEDIA

In an article written by Nneya Richards, she lists fifty Black travel influencers you should follow on Instagram. The author points out how important it is that you "diversify your [social media] feeds with Black content creators" in this time of social change and racial activism. Author, entrepreneur and fashion icon, Victoria Magrath echoes these sentiments in her web post titled, *Why We Must Diversify Our Social Feed.* Consider these authors' points of view and then create your own post on Instagram that is guided by these questions: Why is it important to diversify your social media feed? How can diversifying your feed democratize representation? In what ways is social media a powerful tool for amplifying the voices of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) who are creators?

RESOURCES

Articles

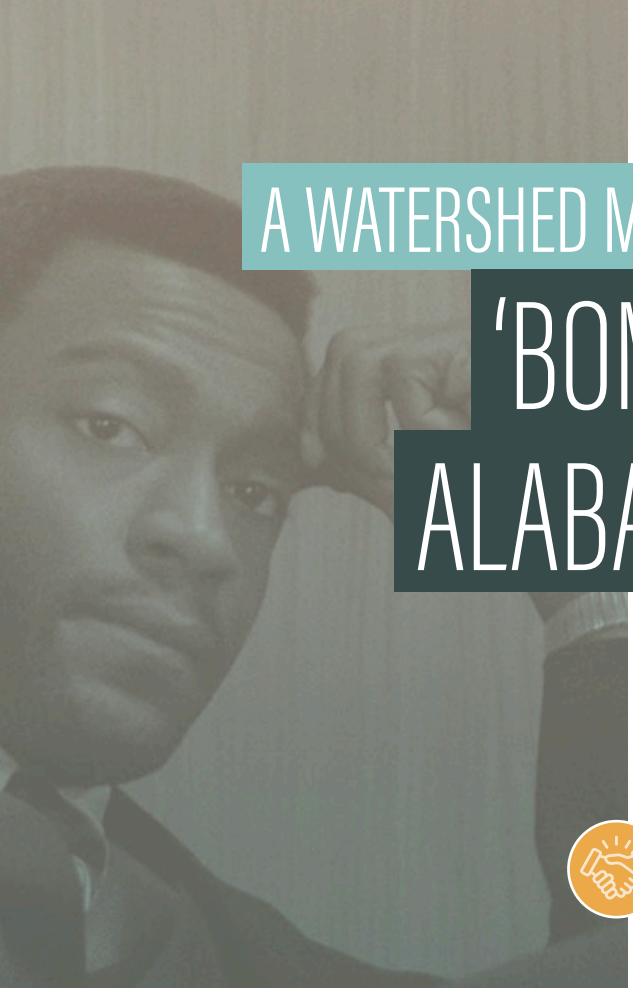
- Jim Crow Laws https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws
- Black Lives Matter https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter
- Introduction to the Civil Rights Movement https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/civil-rights-movement/a/introduction-to-the-civil-rights-movement
- Ten Little Known Black History Facts http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history-little-known-facts/
- Are You Complicit in Systematic Racism? Here's How to Change. https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnrex/2020/07/15/ive-been-complicit-in-systemic-racism-heres-what-im-doing-to-change/?sh=42c21c615078
- Systematic Racism explained: Four Dimensions of Racism and How to be Part of the Solution https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/systemic-racism-explained-the-four-dimensions-of-racism-and-how-we-can-all-be-part-of-the-solution/283-fbc489ea-bbb1-4e49-b319-9deb5d01519b

Books

- DiAngelo, R. (2018). *White Fragility*. Beacon Press. https://www.amazon.com/White-Fragility-People-About-Racism/dp/0807047414/
- Kendi, I. (2019). *How To Be An Antiracist*. Bodley Head. https://www.amazon.com/How-Be-Antiracist-Ibram-Kendi/dp/0525509283

Film Clips and Videos

- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI** - two minute film clip (58:45 - 1:00:45 minutes)
- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI** - one minutes and 14 seconds film clip (1:02:34 - 1:03:48)
- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI** - one minutes and 9 seconds film clip (1:16:24 – 1:17:33)
- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI** - two minutes and 44 seconds film clip (1:23:13 – 1:25:57)
- Systemic Racism Explained (4:23 minutes) https://youtu.be/YrHIQI0_bdQ
- The Civil Rights Movement (3:07 minutes) https://blackhistoryintwominutes.com/the-civil-rights-movement/
- History of the Civil Rights Movement (5:52 minutes) https://youtu.be/URxwe6LPvkM



A WATERSHED MOMENT IN 'BOMBINGHAM' ALABAMA

INTRODUCTION

At 10:00 A.M. on the morning of September 15th, 1963 the ground shook and the walls cracked and tumbled down at the 16th Street Baptist Church. The dynamite blast injured over twenty people and killed four young girls, aged 11 to 14, burying them in the rubble and debris and marking one of the darkest days in Civil Rights history. National outrage over the church bombing and the death of the 4 young girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, became one of the key catalysts that led to the passing of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964.

The church was not only a place of worship, but also a common meeting space for Civil Rights Leaders. Alabama was considered a stronghold of segregationists and the home to one of the most violent White Supremacist groups in America during this time. In September of 1963 the violence had taken on a fevered pitch in response to the Federal mandate desegregating state schools. By this time, Birmingham, AL was already known by its nickname, 'Bombingham' as a result of over 50 bombings by White supremacist groups between 1947 and 1965, which specifically targeted Black Americans. This terror campaign against Black families included drive by shootings of their homes, bombings of their homes and lighting the front doors of their homes on fire. From the late 1940s until the early 1960s there were over 40 unsolved bombing attacks against Black Americans in Birmingham, AL. In fact, the use of dynamite in the state of Alabama became a common tactic to keep Black residents from moving into all White neighborhoods. In the district of Smithfield, located primarily on Center Street, so many Black-owned homes were bombed that the area became known as Dynamite Hill.

Two years after the bombing of the church, FBI investigation led to four suspects, but there were no files charged and in 1968 the FBI closed the case. However, in 1971, Alabama's Attorney General reopened the case. Robert Chambliss was tried and convicted of murder six years later. The case was not reopened again until 1980 and then again eight years later, but no additional charges were filed. Then almost 9 years later, at the urging of Black ministers, the FBI reopened the case. By this time one of the suspects had died, but the remaining two suspects, Thomas Blanton and Bobby Cherry were indicted, tried and found guilty. Bungled investigations, stall tactics from J. Edgar Hoover, and a cover-up of informants on FBI payroll, who were secretly embedded in the Klan and also suspected of being involved in the church bombing, all played a key role in delaying justice for the four little girls.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *What events, in the early 60s, led to the numerous bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, earning it the nickname, 'Bombingham'?*
- *What is the story behind 'Dynamite Hill'? What role did the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) play in perpetrating violent crimes against Black Americans in Alabama during the 60s?*
- *Who were the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and why was this specific church attacked?*
- *What role did law enforcement and the FBI play in the prosecution of the perpetrators and why did it take over 40 years for almost all of the perpetrators to be tried in a court of law?*

DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

>> *In 1963, Black Americans in Alabama were forbidden to gather anywhere, except inside a church.*

>> *There were actually 5 girls in the bathroom when the explosion detonated. One young girl, Sarah Collins, survived but lost an eye and had to have many reconstructive facial surgeries. Sarah Collins, now 70 years old, received a formal apology from the Governor of Alabama, at the request of her attorneys, in October of 2020.*

>> *The four accused members of the Ku Klux Klan who bombed the church planted 19 sticks of dynamite under the church.*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 26

In the film One Night In Miami, the character Mohammed Ali and Sam Cooke talk about Ali's decision to convert to Muslim. Cooke warns Ali that such a decision may have dangerous consequences and Ali reminds Cooke that just being Black has dangerous consequences as he recounts the death of the four little girls in the 16th Street Church bombing. He concludes that all Black people want "is the power to be safe to be to be ourselves. To look like we want. To think like we want. Without having to answer to anybody for it."

>> Why was it dangerous to be a Black American in 1963? Why was the 16th Street Church bombing referenced in context to the dangers of being Black in America in the early 60s? Why might Black Americans in the early 60s have lacked the power to be themselves and look and think like they chose to? In what ways were they 'powerless' and in what ways were they 'powerful'?

One Night In Miami, depicts the night in 1965 when Malcolm's home is fire bombed in Queens, NY, while he and his family slept. No one was ever charged in the fire-bombing and 11 days later Malcolm was assassinated in front of hundreds of people, including his wife. The KKK has a long history of using fire as a tool to scare and intimidate people of color. This scare tactic is most familiar in the form of a burning of a cross, often at the residence or on the land owned by Black Americans. In 2003, the legality of burning a cross, as one's 1st Amendment right to free expression was questioned in the Supreme Court. Read the Supreme Court proceedings and final ruling. Do you agree with the findings of the Supreme Court? Why or Why not? How might giving precedence to the 1st Amendment right to free expression in these two cases simultaneously strip those persons who are being intimidated of their rights to live free from intimidation? Read Threats of Violence Against Individuals. Why are threats of violence considered outside the protections of the 1st Amendment? Should the 9th Amendment provide such guarantees?

Watch the video, A KKK Church Bombing in Birmingham. With a long history of so much racial violence in AL, why do you think this tragedy at the 16th Street Church caused a national outcry? Why do you think so many people across the globe made an emotional connection to the tragic deaths of the four little girls? In what ways can tragedy force us to reflect on our humanity? In what ways can it propel us towards action?

PAST IS PRESENT

Read the article, *A Very Abbreviated History of the Destruction of Black Neighborhoods.* The article begins by recounting the 1985 air bombing of a row house in West Philadelphia that resulted in the death of 6 adults and 5 children and destroyed over 65 neighboring homes in this Black community. It then gives a brief history of how and why Black neighborhoods have been destroyed throughout the United States since the 1800s. In the past, many Black neighborhoods were targeted by the KKK or other hate groups and destroyed. Today, however, destruction of Black neighborhoods has happened in the form of 'urban renewal' and the building of the interstate highway system. As part of the Federal Highway Act of 1956 states were incentivized to tear down areas deemed as 'slums' in order to build highway infrastructure. This practice ultimately displaced 475,000 families and over a million Americans and destroyed one of the most important forms of intergenerational wealth for Black Americans. In what ways has the destruction of Black neighborhoods in the past been different from today? In what ways is it similar? What is the financial cost to the homeowner and their future generations? In what ways do the destruction of Black neighborhoods perpetuate institutional racism?

DIG DEEPER

Watch the DC History Center video, White Men's Roads Thru Black Men's Homes. The story of how a group of activists in the 1960s fought the freeway plan and won, preventing the leveling of More than 5,000 homes and displacement of more than 20,000 people. How has systematic discrimination against the Black population in the past been justified in the name of progress? In what ways does the development of urban cities continue along racial lines? What is gentrification and how does it impact

ACTIVISM

- >> *Review these vintage photos depicting the aftermath of several bombings of Black-owned homes in Alabama and watch the Shore sisters describe what it was like to live on 'Dynamite Hill.'*
- >> *How do the photos and the video elicit emotion from the viewer? Why do you think visual storytelling facilitates the viewer making an emotional and personal connection with the content? How might this be a catalyst that leads a viewer to action?*
- >> *Instagram is a platform that is built on visual storytelling.*
- >> *Take a look at these six social justice accounts on Instagram, read the article titled, How Social Justice Slideshows made by Activists Took Over Instagram, and then create your own social justice slideshow on Instagram that raises awareness about the Black experience in Alabama during the 60s.*

RESOURCES

Articles

- Baptist Street Church Bombing
  https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/baptist-street-church-bombing
- Never Forget the Birmingham, Alabama Church Bombing. Or the Mother Who Held Her Fead Child's Shoe
  https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2019/09/15/never-forget-the-birmingham-alabama-church-bombing-or-the-mother-who-held-her-dead-childs-shoe-opinion/
- Justice Delayed? Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church
  https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1997-08-03-1997215001-story.html
- Roads to nowhere: How Infrastructure Built on American Inequality
  https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/feb/21/roads-nowhere-infrastructure-american-inequality
- How Highways Destroyed Black Neighborhoods in the '60s, as told by Elders Who Were There
  https://www.dispatch.com/in-depth/lifestyle/2020/12/03/black-columbus-ohio-homes-impact-highways-east-side/3629685001/
- Tearing Down Black America
  http://bostonreview.net/race/brent-cebul-tearing-down-black-america

Film Clips and Videos

- **One Night In Miami** three minutes and 10 seconds film clip (1:23:41-1:26:51)
- **One Night In Miami** four minutes and 33 seconds film clip (1:44:47-1:48:20)
- *The Ballad of Birmingham* (3:07 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXpOI8WSiB0
- *Bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church* (3:16 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5KqCMsHlq0
- *MLK's 1963 Eulogy After the Birmingham Church Bombing* (2:40 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKxb0FuFlTA
- *1963 Excerpt Church Bombing* (8:56 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8A6rJoNeTgk
- *Joseph Lowery: Growing Up in a "Segregated Alabama Jim Crow Town"* (11:35 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCbOjJmfyLI
- *The Tragedy of Urban Renewal* (6:23 minutes)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWGwsA1V2r4

CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

THE RISE & RHETORIC OF DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

The Nation of Islam was founded in the 1930's by Wallace D. Fard, whose main objective was to gather like-minded people to fight against oppression and speak out for justice and equality for those of African descent. Fard's message was considered controversial by many as Fard claimed Islam as the one true religion for Black Americans, referenced Christianity as the religion of 'White devils,' and claimed that White Americans were inferior to Black Americans. His stance was a form of Black supremacy that embraced Black separatism principles. Elijah Muhammad took over as Fard's successor in 1934 and was a strong advocator of Black-owned and Black-operated business and institutions. Like his predecessor, Muhammed also believed that Black Americans should have their own religion separate from White Americans. The Nation of Islam flourished from 1934 – 1975 under Muhammed's leadership, growing to include not only a temple but also a newspaper, a university and several apartment buildings, grocery stores and restaurants.

Elijah Muhammad also had his followers adhere to a strict, rule-based way of life. Certain foods, including pork were forbidden to be consumed. Members of the Nation of Islam had to be well groomed, dress in a conservative manner and could not engage in behaviors deemed unbecoming including drinking, smoking, profanity, gambling and dancing. Muhammad also revised the founding principles of the religion to include an even more radical theology. Muhammed's teachings stated that Black people were the original human beings, that Fard was the Allah incarnate and that a mad Black scientist named Yakub had created White people through genetic manipulations. Even though the White people had been given temporary rule of the world, Muhammad taught his followers that the time had come for Black people to take back the role of rulers by any means necessary including war. These Black Muslims set themselves apart from mainstream Muslims who reject these teachings to follow the traditional Islamic theological beliefs.

Malcolm X became a devout follower of Elijah Muhammad and a charismatic speaker for the Nation of Islam in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Following the burning of his childhood home by the Ku Klux Klan and the murder of his father allegedly by another racist terrorist group, Malcolm's criminal activities eventually resulted in a 10-year prison sentence for larceny and breaking and entering. Malcolm converted to Islam while in prison and became one of the movements most well-known leaders. In stark contrast to Martin Luther King Jr's message of change through peaceful demonstration, Malcolm X preached Black separatist ideals. His teachings emphasized that White people could not be trusted, and that Black Americans should establish a separate state where they could rely on themselves and regain what had been taken from them. Malcolm believed that violence should be answered with violence and often urged his followers to use "any means necessary" to defend themselves and further the cause.

Malcolm's ties to the Nation of Islam began to unravel in early 1963 amid allegations of Muhammad's infidelity, a transgression that directly conflicted with the moral guidelines of the organization. Conflict further erupted in December of 1963 when Malcolm X made a statement to the press in reference to John F. Kennedy's assassination likening it to "chickens coming home to roost." Seeing this statement as an embarrassment to the Nation of Islam, Muhammad placed Malcolm X on a 90-day silence that restricted him from publicly speaking for the Nation of Islam. After the restriction was lifted Malcolm X expressed in a press interview that his statement had been distorted. But it was too late, the relationship between the two leaders was irrevocably damaged and Malcolm X formally split from the Nation of Islam in March of 1964. Tensions remained high between the two leaders up until the assassination of Malcolm X in February of 1965, allegedly by several members of the Nation of Islam.

OVERARCHING THEMES

- *Who founded the Nation of Islam and what principles did the organization embrace?*
- *Malcolm X was a controversial figure who was often viewed as both a champion for the rights of Black Americans and as a unpatriotic spreader of divisive speech. What role did Malcolm's choice of words and style of rhetoric play in forming each of these perceptions?*
- *What caused the conflict between and ultimately the separation of Malcolm X from Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam?*

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DISCUSSION SPARKS

Did you know...

- *After Malcolm was released from prison in 1952, he successfully sued the penal system with the help of the NAACP in order to continue visiting, teaching and recruiting inmates for the Nation of Islam.*
- *Even though their theology differs, the Nation of Islam and historic Orthodox Islam both use the Quran, the central religious text of Islam.*
- *During the peak of his leadership with the Nation of Islam Elijah Muhammad was called "the most powerful Black man in America."*

DISCUSSION

Find video & article resources on pg. 30

- Malcolm X was silenced for 90 days by the Nation of Islam after using the phrase "chickens coming home to roost" while referencing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In the video *Chickens Coming Home to Roost | Malcolm X,* Malcolm is interviewed in his first public statement following the silence. During the interview Malcolm is asked if he thinks progress is being made [in the fight for Civil Rights]? Malcolm replies "No, I will never say that progress is being made. You stick a knife in my back 9 inches and pull it out 6 inches there's no progress. If you pull it all the way out that's not progress. The progress is healing the wound that the blow made... And they haven't even begun to pull the knife out, much less heal the wound. They won't even admit the knife is there." What is Malcolm trying to say about the Civil Rights Movement by using this analogy?

- In the film **One Night in Miami,** Malcolm X is telling Jim Brown, Muhammed Ali and Sam Cooke about his upcoming pilgrimage to Mecca. In the scene Malcolm is trying to convince Sam to come along stating "One can never be too busy for some added perspective." Sam replies that he can't go because he is trying to plan for his second visit to the Copacabana where he initially "bombed" in front of the White audience. This reply irritates Malcolm who then asks Sam "Do you think your energy is misdirected trying to tap into White people's souls"? How does this statement reflect Malcolm's stance at the time that a separatist viewpoint was the ideal viewpoint? After Malcolm's spiritual journey to Mecca, known as the Hajj in Islam culture, Malcolm changes his stance on Black Separatism for a more unified approach. Compare and contrast Malcolm's rhetoric pre-Hajj and post-Hajj. List evidence that shows this change.

INTERPRET THE MEANING

>> **Research direct quotes attributed to Malcolm X. You can use the following sites:**
https://www.keepinspiring.me/malcolm-x-quotes/
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/17435.Malcolm_X
https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/malcolm-x-quotes
https://www.malcolmx.com/quotes/

>> **Choose a quote in which the idea being expressed is one that either resonates with you or is one with which you disagree. Interpret and explore the meaning of the quote. Why did you choose this quote? What point do you think Malcolm was trying to make when he made the statement? Do you agree or disagree with the ideas expressed in the quote and why have you taken this position?**

THE ART OF RHETORIC

>> According to Aristotle, **rhetoric** is "the ability, in each particular case, to see the available means of persuasion." He describes three types of rhetoric: Ethos, Logos and Pathos.

>> Read the document ***The Art of Rhetoric*** paying particular attention to the descriptions of Ethos, Logos and Pathos rhetoric.

>> Analyze Malcolm's rhetoric against each type stating whether or not each type applies to Malcolm's speaking style, give examples and/or explain why you are taking this position.

PAST IS PRESENT

Malcolm X's ideas during his time with the Nation of Islam were often considered radical and controversial. Malcolm's most notable ideas were:

>> Believed that Black Americans were God's chosen people

>> Believed in Black Americans separating from White Americans

>> Wanted a separate nation for Black Americans

>> Believed Black Americans should fight for change "by any means necessary" including violence if necessary

Most of these ideas have become almost obsolete in the modern-day continuation of the fight for racial equality and social justice, yet Malcolm's legacy lives on. How do the work and principles that Malcolm revered and embodied live on in present day Black empowerment movements and speeches?

ACTIVISM

In the TED Talk, *Decoloniser*, Olivia U. Rutazibwa refers to decolonization as "de-silencing." She explains that a colonized mind is a mind that silences people and stories. She says about the colonized mind that it is a "mindset that is very much alive and still very much present in our society today. It's the mindset that makes types of discrimination and racism not only possible but also acceptable to many people, but also [makes it] invisible." What impact does a colonized mind have in today's society? What are ways in which you can be a decolonizer?

RESOURCES

Articles

- Nation of Islam (1930 -) https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/nation-islam-1930/
- Elijah Muhammad https://biography.yourdictionary.com/elijah-muhammad
- Dr. King and Malcolm X agree on Kennedy's Death https://blackleaderanalysis.com/2019/01/14/dr-king-and-malcolm-x-said-the-same-thing-about-kennedys-death/
- Nation of Islam https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nation-of-Islam
- 5 Things You Never Knew About Malcolm X https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/5-things-you-never-knew-about-malcolm-x-n310161
- 10 Facts About the Nation of Islam https://thewitnessbcc.com/10-facts-nation-islam/
- Malcolm X in Mecca https://www.thoughtco.com/malcom-x-in-mecca-2353496
- Cultural Pathways for Decolonization https://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/visions/aboriginal-people-vol5/cultural-pathways-for-decolonization
- The Revolutionary Legacy of Malcolm X https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/the-revolutionary-legacy-of-malcolm-x/
- The Nation of Islam's Economic Program, 1934 – 1975 https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/the-nation-of-islams-economic-program-1934-1975/
- Muslims See Contrasts With Nation of Islam: Beliefs: Core Tenets of Farrakhan's Group Have Historically Differed From Mainstream Islam's. Publicity of Upcoming Million Man March Accents Distinctions https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1995-10-14-me-56851-story.html

Books

- Gibson, D. (2012). *A History of the Nation of Islam: Race, Islam, and the Quest for Freedom*. ABC-CLIO. https://www.amazon.com/History-Nation-Islam-Quest-Freedom/dp/0313398070
- X, Malcolm & Haley, A. (1964). *The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley*. Ballantine Publishing Group. https://www.amazon.com/Autobiography-Malcolm-Told-Alex-Haley/dp/0345350685
- III, C.A.C. (1997). *An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad*. St Martins Press. https://www.amazon.com/Original-Man-Times-Elijah-Muhammad/dp/0736643729

Film Clips and Videos

- **One Night in Miami** - two minutes and 23 seconds film clip (57:33 - 59:56)
- *Chickens Coming Home to Roost | Malcolm X* (1:16 minutes) https://youtu.be/oD6aX3dHR2k
- Malcolm X – Interview at Berkeley (1963) (40:58) https://youtu.be/FZMrti8QcPA
- Elijah Muhammed: Biography, Quotes, Controversy, Facts, Malcolm X (1997) (57:21) https://youtu.be/vUEQSTT0zRQ
- *TEDxFlanders – Olivia U. Rutazibwa - Decoloniser* (18:16 minutes) https://youtu.be/z0b6wfDGseU

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI...

DoGoodery would like to thank the amazing in-house team that came together to develop the **One Night in Miami** learning materials.
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