

Exploring Pride: A Journey Through History, Identity, and Celebration

Overall Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to explain the historical origins and significance of Pride Month, focusing on key events like the Stonewall Riots.
 - Students will identify and describe the contributions of several notable LGBTQ+ figures throughout history and in contemporary society.
 - Students will recognize and interpret the symbolism of various Pride flags, understanding their evolution and meaning within the LGBTQ+ community.
 - Students will analyze the importance of Pride Month in the context of ongoing LGBTQ+ rights, visibility, and the role of allyship.
 - Students will engage in creative expression and critical thinking related to Pride Month topics.
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Materials Needed (Across all 4 lessons):

- Computer with internet access
 - Printer (optional)
 - Notebook or journal
 - Pens, pencils
 - Colored markers, crayons, or colored pencils
 - Poster board or large paper (optional, for timeline or presentations)
 - Access to online resources (documentary clips, articles, LGBTQ+ organization websites like The Trevor Project, GLAAD, PFLAG, Human Rights Campaign)
 - Presentation software (e.g., Google Slides, PowerPoint - optional)
 - Art supplies for creative activities (paper, fabric scraps for flags, etc. - optional)
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Lesson 1: The Roots of Pride - History and Significance (2 hours)

Focus:

Understanding the origins of Pride Month, key historical events like the Stonewall Riots, and why Pride Month is celebrated and remains important.

Activities:

- 1. Introduction & Brainstorm (20 minutes):**
 - Discuss: What does "pride" mean? What comes to mind when you hear "Pride Month"?
 - Student jots down initial thoughts and questions.
 - 2. Deep Dive: The Stonewall Riots (45 minutes):**
 - Watch a documentary excerpt or read an age-appropriate article about the Stonewall Riots (e.g., resources from PBS, The History Channel, or reputable LGBTQ+ archives).
 - Discuss:
 - What were the circumstances leading to the Stonewall Riots?
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- Who were some of the key people involved?
- Why is Stonewall considered a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ history?

3. **Timeline of Progress (35 minutes):**

- Research and create a timeline of significant milestones in LGBTQ+ rights history, both before and after Stonewall. This can be done digitally or on paper.
- Include events like the first Pride marches, decriminalization of homosexuality in various places, legal recognition of same-sex marriage, etc.

4. **Reflection: Why Pride Matters (20 minutes):**

- Journaling prompt: "Based on what I've learned, why is celebrating Pride Month important today? What does it mean to have pride?"
- Optional: Share thoughts if comfortable.

Materials for Lesson 1:

- Computer with internet access
- Access to documentary clips/articles on Stonewall (e.g., search for "Stonewall Uprising PBS," "History Channel Stonewall Riots for teens")
- Timeline creation tools (digital software, or poster board/large paper and markers)
- Journal or notebook

Lesson 2: Icons and Trailblazers - Notable LGBTQ+ Figures (2 hours)

Focus:

Learning about influential LGBTQ+ individuals who have made significant contributions to various fields and to the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

Activities:

1. **Introduction: The Power of Individuals (15 minutes):**

- Discuss: How can one person's actions create change or inspire others?
- Briefly introduce the idea that many individuals have paved the way for LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.

2. **Research: Choosing Your Icons (60 minutes):**

- Provide a list of potential figures or allow student to research freely. Suggestions: Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Harvey Milk, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde, James Baldwin, Alan Turing, Sappho, Christine Jorgensen, Laverne Cox, Elliot Page, Lil Nas X, Oscar Wilde, Frida Kahlo.
- Student selects 2-3 figures to research in more detail.
- Focus research on:
 - Their life and background.
 - Their contributions (to society, their field, or the LGBTQ+ community).
 - The challenges they faced.
 - Their impact and legacy.

3. **Creative Showcase Preparation (30 minutes):**

- Student decides how they want to share their findings: a short oral presentation, a mini-poster, a slideshow, a written report, or even a creative piece (e.g., a poem or artwork inspired by the figure).
- Begin working on their chosen format.

4. **Sharing Insights (15 minutes - can extend if needed, or carry over):**

- Student presents their findings/creations.
- Discuss what was most inspiring or surprising about the figures researched.

Materials for Lesson 2:

- Computer with internet access
- Biographical resources (online encyclopedias, LGBTQ+ history websites, articles)
- Materials for presentation (paper, markers, poster board, or presentation software if desired)
- Journal or notebook

Lesson 3: Weaving Rainbows - Pride Flags and Symbols (2 hours)

Focus:

Exploring the diversity and symbolism of various Pride flags and understanding their importance in representing different identities within the LGBTQ+ community.

Activities:

- 1. Introduction: The Power of Symbols (15 minutes):**
 - Discuss: What are symbols? Why do groups use them (e.g., national flags, logos)?
 - How can symbols create a sense of identity and community?
- 2. A Spectrum of Flags (60 minutes):**
 - Introduce the original Rainbow Flag (Gilbert Baker flag). Discuss its history and the meaning of its colors.
 - Explore other Pride flags:
 - Progress Pride Flag
 - Transgender Pride Flag
 - Bisexual Pride Flag
 - Pansexual Pride Flag
 - Asexual Pride Flag
 - Non-binary Pride Flag
 - Intersex Pride Flag
 - Lesbian Pride Flag
 - Others as interest dictates (e.g., Genderfluid, Agender)
 - For each flag (or a selection): research its designer (if known), year of creation, and the symbolism of its colors and design.
 - Discuss: How do these flags show the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community?
- 3. Creative Design: Your Own Symbol (30 minutes):**
 - Activity: Design a personal flag. This could be:
 - A flag representing values important to the student (e.g., kindness, learning, creativity).
 - A flag representing allyship.
 - A flag for a cause they care about.
 - Student should be prepared to explain the symbolism of their colors and design choices.
- 4. Sharing and Discussion (15 minutes):**
 - Student shares their flag design and its meaning.
 - Discuss: How do these visual symbols contribute to visibility and belonging?

Materials for Lesson 3:

- Computer with internet access
- Images of various Pride flags (easily found online)
- Information on the history and meaning of flags (e.g., Human Rights Campaign, Wikipedia with citations, LGBTQ+ resource sites)

- Art supplies: paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons (optional: fabric scraps, glue, if making a physical flag)

Lesson 4: Pride in Action - Allyship, Issues, and Celebration (2 hours)

Focus:

Understanding current issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, an introduction to intersectionality, the importance of allyship, and how to be a supportive and informed individual. Concluding with how Pride is celebrated.

Activities:

1. Current Landscape (30 minutes):

- Discuss: What are some of the challenges the LGBTQ+ community still faces today? (e.g., discrimination, legal protections, mental health disparities).
- Briefly introduce the concept of intersectionality: how different aspects of a person's identity (race, gender, sexuality, class, ability) can combine to create unique experiences of discrimination or privilege.
- Research a current issue in more detail (student can choose based on interest, e.g., state legislation, rights of transgender youth, LGBTQ+ representation in media).

2. What is Allyship? (30 minutes):

- Define allyship. What does it mean to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community?
- Read or watch resources on allyship (e.g., from PFLAG, GLAAD, The Trevor Project).
- Brainstorm concrete actions an ally can take (e.g., listen and learn, speak out against prejudice, use inclusive language, support LGBTQ+ organizations and creators, educate oneself and others).

3. Celebrating Pride & Looking Forward (40 minutes):

- Explore different ways Pride Month is celebrated around the world (parades, festivals, educational events, community gatherings, online activism).
- Discuss the tone of Pride: Is it just a party? (No, it's a commemoration, a protest, and a celebration of identity and resilience).
- Culminating Creative Reflection: Student can choose one:
 - Write a short piece (poem, essay, blog post) on "What Pride Means to Me Now."
 - Create a small "Allyship Action Plan" for themselves.
 - Design a poster or infographic summarizing 3 key things they learned during these lessons.

4. Wrap-up and Q&A (20 minutes):

- Share reflections or creative pieces.
- Open floor for any remaining questions or thoughts about the entire unit.
- Discuss how they can continue learning and engaging with these topics.

Materials for Lesson 4:

- Computer with internet access
- Access to articles/videos on current LGBTQ+ issues and allyship (e.g., Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD, PFLAG, The Trevor Project news sections or blogs)
- Materials for creative reflection (paper, pens, markers, digital tools as preferred)

This lesson plan is designed to be flexible and can be adapted to the student's specific interests and

learning pace. Encourage curiosity, open discussion, and respectful engagement with the material throughout.