



Welcoming Schools

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

A LOOK AT LGBTQ HISTORY AND PROMINENT LGBTQ PEOPLE

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 3 – 6

LENGTH OF TIME: three or four 40-minute sessions

GOALS

- + To learn about events in American history that are often omitted from textbooks.
- + To learn about prominent LGBTQ people and about historical events that were part of the LGBTQ civil rights movement.

OBJECTIVES (varies by grade level)

- + Students will listen to or read non-fiction texts for understanding.
- + Students will design a poster with key information on a prominent LGBTQ person or historical event.
- + Students will make a short presentation for the class based on their research.
- + Students will write a short essay on a key moment in LGBTQ history or about a famous LGBTQ person.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9: Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. Also, RI.4.9
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.6: Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

EDUCATORS' NOTES

June 2019 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, a significant moment in the history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement. Since that time, people have held events in June to call for equal rights and respect, increase the visibility of LGBTQ people and celebrate successes in the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ civil rights. Pride events are held across the United States and around the [world](#).

This is a flexible lesson plan for use in grades 3 – 6. The main project in this lesson plan is a short biography or history poster about an LGBTQ person or an event in LGBTQ history. Students could work individually or in pairs to do this with the attached flag template.

Included in this lesson plan are a list of books for students on LGBTQ history, a list of diverse LGBTQ people and a list of children's book biographies that feature LGBTQ people. These lists could be used for identifying read-alouds for a shorter lesson.

The lesson could also be extended by having students write a short essay about a key LGBTQ historical event or prominent LGBTQ individual. The attached listings could also help you incorporate LGBTQ people into a biography lesson that you may already have planned for your students.

In addition to threading LGBTQ people and history throughout your school year, you can use this lesson in May or June for Pride and/or during [LGBTQ History Month](#) in October. During that month, an LGBTQ icon is featured [online](#) with a video, bio, downloadable images and other resources.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- + Access to a book(s) about LGBTQ history or people (See attached list for children's books on LGBTQ history and children's book biographies on LGBTQ people.)
- + Access to the internet if you would like your students to do internet research for the project
- + The flag template for students to use to summarize and present information (Attached—scroll all the way down to see it—plus an example below that.)
- + Optional: Welcoming Schools handout [Defining LGBTQ Words for Elementary Students](#)

- + Optional: [Announcing the Stonewall Monument by the National Park Service](#) (3:41 minutes)
- + Optional: [How the Stonewall Riots Sparked a Movement](#) by History.com Rated PG (3:47 minutes)

FIRST SESSION:

INTRODUCE THE PROJECT TO THE CLASS

- + If you have not discussed LGBTQ topics or people in your classroom, you may need to begin by defining what the acronym LGBTQ stands for. (See below for definitions of each of the words.)
- + Let students know that in this project they will be choosing an important event in LGBTQ history or an LGBTQ individual to research.
- + They will then create a flag poster to highlight some of the information they found on that person or event.
- + Remind students to be respectful during your class discussions.

THE STONEWALL MONUMENT: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION (OPTIONAL)

- + If your students are not familiar with LGBTQ history or the history of Stonewall, you may want to show [Announcing the Stonewall Monument](#), produced by the National Park Service, about when the Stonewall Inn was made a historic landmark. Or, if you are allowed to show short films rated PG, you could show [How the Stonewall Riots Sparked a Movement](#).

IDENTIFYING LGBTQ PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- + Ask students to name any historical events in LGBTQ history they might know about. (For example, the Stonewall Riots or the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality.)

- + Ask students if they know of anyone in the past or present who is LGBTQ. (See the attached list of LGBTQ people.)
- + On the whiteboard or on large paper, write down the names and events as they are said.
- + After students have had a chance to respond, you can add some additional people and events that are included on the attached list. As you do this, ensure that there is a diversity of people represented.
- + Ask students to pick a person or event they are interested in learning more about.
- + Students may work individually or in pairs to research a person or event.
- + You can choose six to ten ideas for your students to include on their flag posters, generate a list of choices with your class of information they could include on their poster or use the attached note-taking template that includes some of the following questions.
- + These are some ideas to include on the flag poster.
 - > Name of person or key event
 - > When did this person live (either dates or time period) or when did the event happen?
 - > What is something the person accomplished or what was important about this event in history?
 - > An interesting fact about the person or event
 - > What inspires you about this person or event?
 - > What did you learn about this person's family or community?
 - > 2 – 3 words/qualities that describe the person
 - > Something that you learned from this person or event
 - > A picture of the person or event

- + Work with your students to identify sources for information. This could be books you have in your classroom or in your school or community library. Also, there are ideas for sources of online information below.

SECOND SESSION (OR FOR HOMEWORK)

- + Ask students to identify six points to feature on their flag poster.
- + They can use the attached note-taking template to help them organize their research.
- + Before writing directly on the flag template, students can write down the wording they want to include on each stripe of their flag.
- + Write the points on the flag poster template. Students may want to write in pencil first and then trace over with pen or marker when they are ready.
- + Optional: Have students decorate the flag poster for a creative presentation.

THIRD SESSION: METHODS FOR SHARING STUDENT WORK

- + Have each student make a short presentation to the class about the person or event they researched. (This may take two sessions.) Then, post their flag posters on a wall in your classroom or in the hallway.
- + Alternatively, post the flag posters on the wall and have students walk around in groups of two or three to look at the posters and discuss. Have only one group of students at a poster at a time.

EXTENSIONS

- + Have students write a short essay about the event or the person.
- + Have students create a digital slide presentation.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- + Can students identify some key events or significant individuals in LGBTQ history?
- + Do they understand why some of the key events occurred?
- + Do students understand that there is a diverse range of people who are LGBTQ?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM WELCOMING SCHOOLS

- + [Lesson Plans to Support LGBTQ Inclusive Elementary Schools](#)
- + [Great Diverse Books for Developing a Welcoming School](#)
- + [Resources for an LGBTQ and Gender Inclusive School](#)
- + [Welcoming Schools Professional Development Trainings](#)
- + Welcoming Schools Lesson Plan: [*Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Women of Color: The Stonewall Inn and the Modern LGBTQ Movement*](#) (Grades 5 - 8)

LGBTQ – LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER

Lesbian: People who love people of the same gender. Two women. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Gay: People who love people of the same gender. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Bisexual: People who love people of two genders. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of two genders.]

Transgender or Trans: When your gender identity (how you feel) is different than what doctors/midwives assigned to you when you were born (girl/boy or sex assigned at birth).

Queer: People use this word as a way to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other. When used in a mean way, it is a word that hurts.

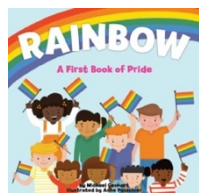
For additional definitions see: Welcoming Schools handout [Defining LGBTQ Words for Elementary Students](#)

A SAMPLE OF ONLINE RESOURCES WITH INFORMATION ON LGBTQ HISTORY

- + [Newsela](#)
- + [History.com](#)
- + [GLSEN LGBTQ History Timeline](#)
- + [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- + [Brainpop – Harvey Milk](#)

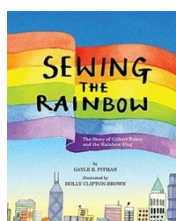


Great Books on LGBTQ History for Kids



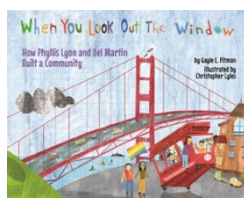
Rainbow: A First Book of Pride, Michael Genhart, 2019. (Toddler – K)

As the book reveals the colorful meaning behind each rainbow stripe, readers celebrate the life, healing, light, nature, harmony and spirit the rainbow Pride flag represents.



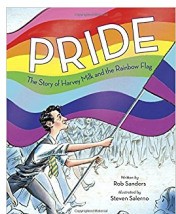
Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker, Gayle Pitman, 2018.

(Gr. K – 2) This book takes readers from Gilbert's childhood in a small town in Kansas where he didn't fit in to the creation of the rainbow flag and his historic artistic career in San Francisco.



When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community, Gayle E. Pitman. (K – 2)

Phyllis and Del point out landmarks throughout the city that can be seen out their window. This clever tribute to a notable couple introduces children to untold stories in history.



PRIDE: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, Rob Sanders,

2018. (Gr. 1 – 3) Trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. A Junior Library Guild Selection.

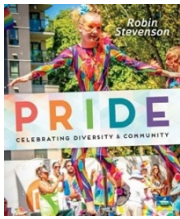


Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution, Rob Sanders, 2019.

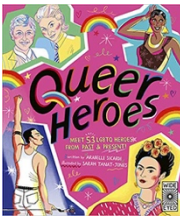
(Gr. 1 – 3) From the building's origins as a stable in the 1800s to the Stonewall Inn of the 1960s, the story captures a sense of place, community and the people who stood up for their rights at the Stonewall Riots in 1969.



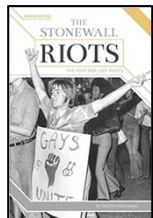
The Gay Rights Movement, Eric Braun, 2018. (Gr. 3 – 6) What has changed throughout the history of the gay rights movement? Learn about the key people and events that have paved the way for the modern gay rights movement.



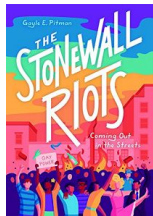
Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community, Robin Stevenson, 2016. (Gr. 4 – 8) Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community. How did Pride come to be? And what does Pride mean to the people who celebrate it? Includes extensive photos and descriptive text.



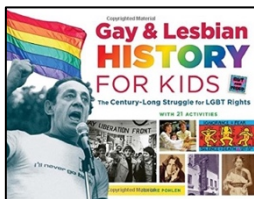
Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present! Arabelle Sicardi. 2019. (Gr. 4 – 6) Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.



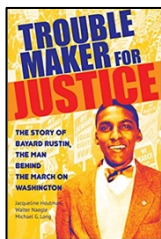
The Stonewall Riots: The Fight for LGBT Rights, Tristan Poehlmann, 2016. (Gr. 4 – 8) Discusses the 1969 Stonewall Riots, which are now commemorated each year with LGBTQ Pride. Looks at what led up to them, what happened at Stonewall, key people and how the riots launched the modern LGBT rights movement. Well-researched, engaging read.



The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets, Gayle Pitman, 2019. (Gr. 5 – 8) Learn about the Stonewall Riots by looking at the people, places, news clippings and artifacts from the time in short, readable chapters. It also covers events leading up to Stonewall, as well as the aftermath.



Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, Jerome Pohlen, 2015. (Gr. 5 – 8) This book puts the historic struggle for LGBTQ equality into perspective. Given today's news, it would be easy to get the impression that the campaign for LGBTQ equality is a recent development. This resource helps put recent events into context.



Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington, Jacqueline Houtman, 2019 (5 – 12) Bayard Rustin was one of the most influential activists of our time, who was an early advocate for African Americans and for gay rights. He was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., teaching him about the power of nonviolent direct action. A Best Book of 2019 by School Library Journal.



Transgender Role Models and Pioneers, Barbra Penne, 2017. (Gr. 5 – 8) Profiles a host of accomplished transgender people who have made their names in a wide range of fields, including sports, politics, activism, entertainment and the arts.

CHILDREN'S BIOGRAPHY BOOKS OF LGBTQ PEOPLE

Abby Wambach	<i>Forward: My Story Abby Wambach</i> , Abby Wambach, 2017.
Alan Turing	<i>Alan Turing: Master of Cracking Codes</i> , Ryan Nagelhout, 2016.
Alexander the Great	<i>Alexander the Great</i> , Demi, 2012.
Alice Walker	<i>Alice Walker: Author and Social Activist</i> , Stephanie Fitzgerald, 2008.
Alvin Ailey	<i>Alvin Ailey</i> , Andrea Pinkney, 1995.
Andy Warhol	<i>Uncle Andy's: A Faabbbulous Visit with Andy Warhol</i> , James Warhol, 2003.
Barbara Jordan	<i>What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan</i> , Chris Barton, 2018.
Baron Friedrich Von Steuben	<i>Baron Von Steuben: American General</i> , Bruce Adelson, 2002.
Bayard Rustin	<i>Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington</i> , Jacqueline Houtman, 2019.
Bill T. Jones	<i>Dance! With Bill T. Jones</i> , Bill T. Jones and Susan Kuklin, 1998.
Billie Holiday	<i>Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song</i> , Gary Golio, 2017.
Charley Parkhurst	<i>The Real Mountain Charley</i> , Ed Sams, 2014.
Ellen DeGeneres	<i>Ellen DeGeneres</i> , Tamra B. Orr, 2016.
Elton John	<i>Who Is Elton John? (Who Was?)</i> , Kirsten Anderson, 2016.
Frida Kahlo	<i>Frida</i> , Jonah Winter and Ana Juan, 2002. In English or Spanish
George Washington Carver	<i>National Geographic Readers: George Washington Carver</i> , Kitson Jazynka, 2016.
Gilbert Baker	<i>Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker</i> , Gayle E. Pitman, 2018
Glenn Burke	<i>A High Five for Glenn Burke</i> , Phil Bildn, 2020.

Hadrian	<i>Hadrian: Emperor of Rome</i> , Beatriz Santillan and Julian Morgan, 2017
Han Wu Di	<i>Han Wu Di and Ancient China (Rulers and Their Times)</i> , Miriam Greenblatt, 2005.
Harvey Milk	<i>Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag</i> , Rob Sanders, 2018.
James Baldwin	<i>James Baldwin: Groundbreaking Author and Civil Rights Activist</i> , Susan Henneberg, 2015.
Jane Addams	<i>The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams</i> , Tanya Lee Stone, 2015.
Jazz Jennings	<i>I Am Jazz</i> , Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, 2014.
Jean-Michel Basquiat	<i>Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat</i> , Javaka Steptoe, 2016.
Josephine Baker	<i>Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker</i> , Patricia Hruby Powell, 2014.
Keith Haring	<i>Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing</i> , Kay Harding, 2017.
Langston Hughes	<i>Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes</i> , Floyd Cooper, 1998.
Leonardo da Vinci	<i>Leonardo da Vinci: The Genius Who Defined the Renaissance</i> , John Phillips, 2008.
Lorraine Hansberry	<i>Lorraine Hansberry: Playwright and Voice of Justice</i> , Catherine Scheader, 1998.
Mary Fields	<i>Fearless Mary: Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver</i> , Tami Charles.
Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin	<i>When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community</i> , Gayle Pitman, 2017.
Queen Latifah	<i>The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop</i> , Carole Boston Weatherford, 2019.
Sally Ride	<i>Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman Astronaut</i> , Tam O'Shaughnessy, 2015.
Sheryl Swoopes	<i>Modern Role Models Sheryl Swoopes</i> , Karen Schweitzer, 2008.
Tomie dePaola	<i>26 Fairmount Avenue</i> , Tomie dePaola, 2001.
Zachary Quinto	<i>Zachary Quinto: An Actor Reaching for the Stars</i> , Monique Vescia, 2015.

PROMINENT LGBTQ PEOPLE

- > **Abby Wambach**: Olympic soccer player
- > **Adam Rippon**: Olympic figure skater
- > **Alan Turing**: Computer scientist and enemy code breaker
- > **Alexander the Great**: Military leader
- > **Alice Walker**: Author
- > **Alvin Ailey**: Dancer
- > **Amandla Stenberg**: Actor
- > **Amelio Robles**: Officer in the Mexican Revolution
- > **Angie Craig**: First lesbian mom in Congress
- > **Ann Bancroft**: Polar explorer
- > **Barbara Jordan**: Former Congresswoman from Texas
- > **Baron Friedrich von Steuben**: Military commander in the Revolutionary War
- > **Bayard Rustin**: Civil rights organizer with Martin Luther King, Jr.
- > **Bill T. Jones**: Dancer
- > **Billie Jean King**: Tennis champion
- > **Billy Porter**: Musician, actor
- > **Charley Parkhurst**: Stagecoach driver in 1800s
- > **Chely Wright**: Country singer
- > **Dan Choi**: Officer, served in Iraq, challenged “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy
- > **David Kopay**: Former NFL player, first pro team sport athlete to come out, 1975
- > **Deray Mckesson**: Black Lives Matter activist and organizer
- > **Ellen DeGeneres**: TV talk show host, actress
- > **Elton John**: Musician
- > **Emma Gonzalez**: Gun control activist
- > **Esera Tuaolo**: Former NFL player
- > **Frida Kahlo**: Artist
- > **Freddie Mercury**: Lead vocalist of Queen
- > **Gavin Grimm**: Transgender student
- > **Geena Rocero**: International model, transgender
- > **George Takei**: Actor, comedian
- > **George Washington Carver**: Inventor
- > **Gertrude Stein**: Author
- > **Gilbert Baker**: Designer of the Rainbow Flag
- > **Glenn Burke**: First MLB player to come out while in the majors
- > **Greg Louganis**: Olympic diver
- > **Hadrian**: Roman Emperor
- > **Han Wu Di**: Chinese Emperor
- > **Hans Christian Andersen**: Author
- > **Harvey Milk**: Former San Francisco City Councilor and LGBTQ activist
- > **Ian McKellen**: Actor
- > **Jacqueline Woodson**: Author
- > **James Baldwin**: Author
- > **Jane Addams**: Nobel Peace Prize winner
- > **Janelle Monáe**: Musician, actress, producer

- > **Janet Mock:** Writer, television host, director, producer and transgender rights activist
- > **Jared Polis:** Governor of Colorado
- > **Jason Collins:** Former NBA player
- > **Jason Wu:** Fashion Designer
- > **Jazz Jennings:** LGBTQ activist and reality TV star
- > **Jean-Michel Basquiat:** Artist
- > **John Amaechi:** Former NBA player
- > **Josephine Baker:** Performer and civil rights activist
- > **Katherine Lee Bates:** Poet, educator. Wrote the song “America the Beautiful”
- > **Keith Haring:** Artist
- > **Kim Coco Iwamoto:** Hawaii politician, transgender
- > **Lady Gaga:** Singer
- > **Langston Hughes:** Author
- > **Laverne Cox:** Actress, producer and transgender advocate
- > **Lily Tomlin:** Actress, voice of Ms. Frizzle on *The Magic School Bus*
- > **Lori Lightfoot:** Chicago’s first openly LGBTQ and Black female mayor
- > **Lorraine Hansberry:** Author
- > **Lupe Valdez:** Former Sheriff Dallas County
- > **Margaret Cho:** Comedian, actor
- > **Mark Bingham:** Helped stop the terrorists onboard Flight 93 on 9/11.
- > **Mark Takano:** First openly LGBTQ Asian American in Congress, 2012
- > **Marsha P. Johnson:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Mary Fields,** Stagecoach driver
- > **Michael Sam:** Former NFL football player
- > **Miss Major Griffin-Gracy:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Neil Patrick Harris:** Actor, author
- > **Octavia Butler:** Author
- > **Orlando Cruz:** Champion boxer
- > **Pete Buttigieg:** Mayor of South Bend, Indiana and 2020 presidential candidate
- > **Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin:** Founders of the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955
- > **Queen Latifah:** Rapper, producer
- > **Ricky Martin:** Musician
- > **RuPaul:** International model
- > **Sally Ride:** Astronaut, first American women in space
- > **Sharice Davids:** First Native American LGBTQ Congressperson, 2018
- > **Sylvia Rivera:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Tadd Fujikawa:** Professional golfer
- > **Tammy Baldwin:** Congressperson from Wisconsin
- > **Tim Cook:** Apple CEO
- > **Tomie dePaola:** Author
- > **Wade Davis:** Former NFL player
- > **Walt Whitman:** Author
- > **Wanda Sykes:** stand-up comedian and actress
- > **We’Wha: Zuni Ihamana,** Visited the White House in 1886
- > **Zachary Quinto:** Actor
- > **Zora Neal Hurston:** Author

Research about _____

When did this person live (either dates or time period) or when did the event happen?

What is something the person accomplished or what was important about this event?

An interesting fact about the person or event.

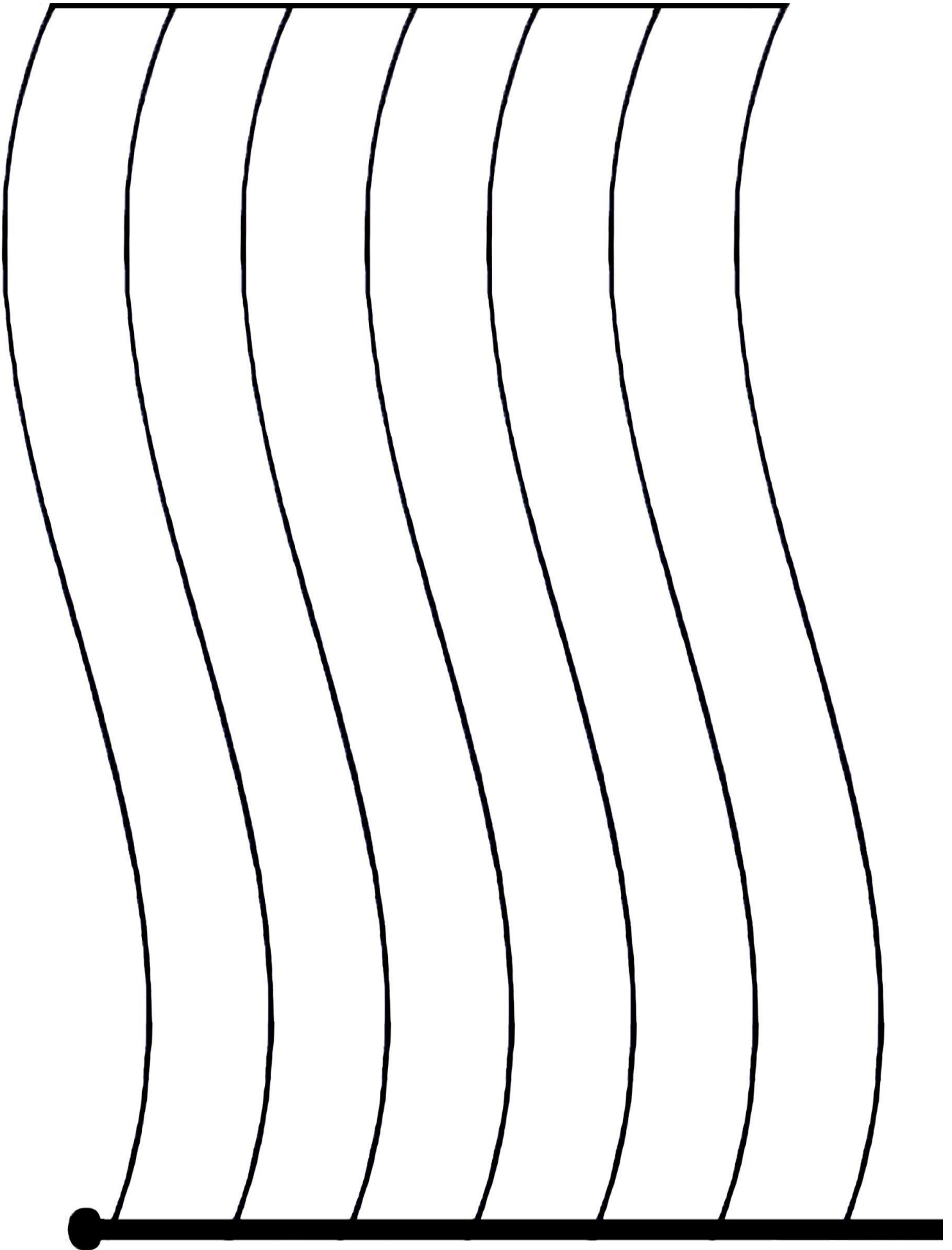
What inspires you about this person or event?

What did you learn about this person's family or community?

2 – 3 words or qualities that describe the person.

Something that you learned from this person or event.

Other information



* Bayard Rustin *

Taught Martin Luther King about non-violence.

Organized the 1963 March on Washington.

Civil Rights leader

Lived 1912 - 1987

Who taught him
about non-violence and peace.

Raised by his grandmother
about non-violence and peace.

Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.