

African American History 400+ years of Resistance, Resilience, Power, and Pride

Today you will become smarter about Angela Davis
and the movement to Abolish Prisons

Standards/SJ Standards

History Social Science Standards CA

5.4 Students understand the political, religious, social, and economic institutions that evolved in the colonial era.

6. Describe the introduction of slavery into America, the responses of slave families to their condition, the ongoing struggle between proponents and opponents of slavery, and the gradual institutionalization of slavery in the South.

Teaching Hard History Standards

Essential Knowledge 15

In every place and time, enslaved people sought freedom.

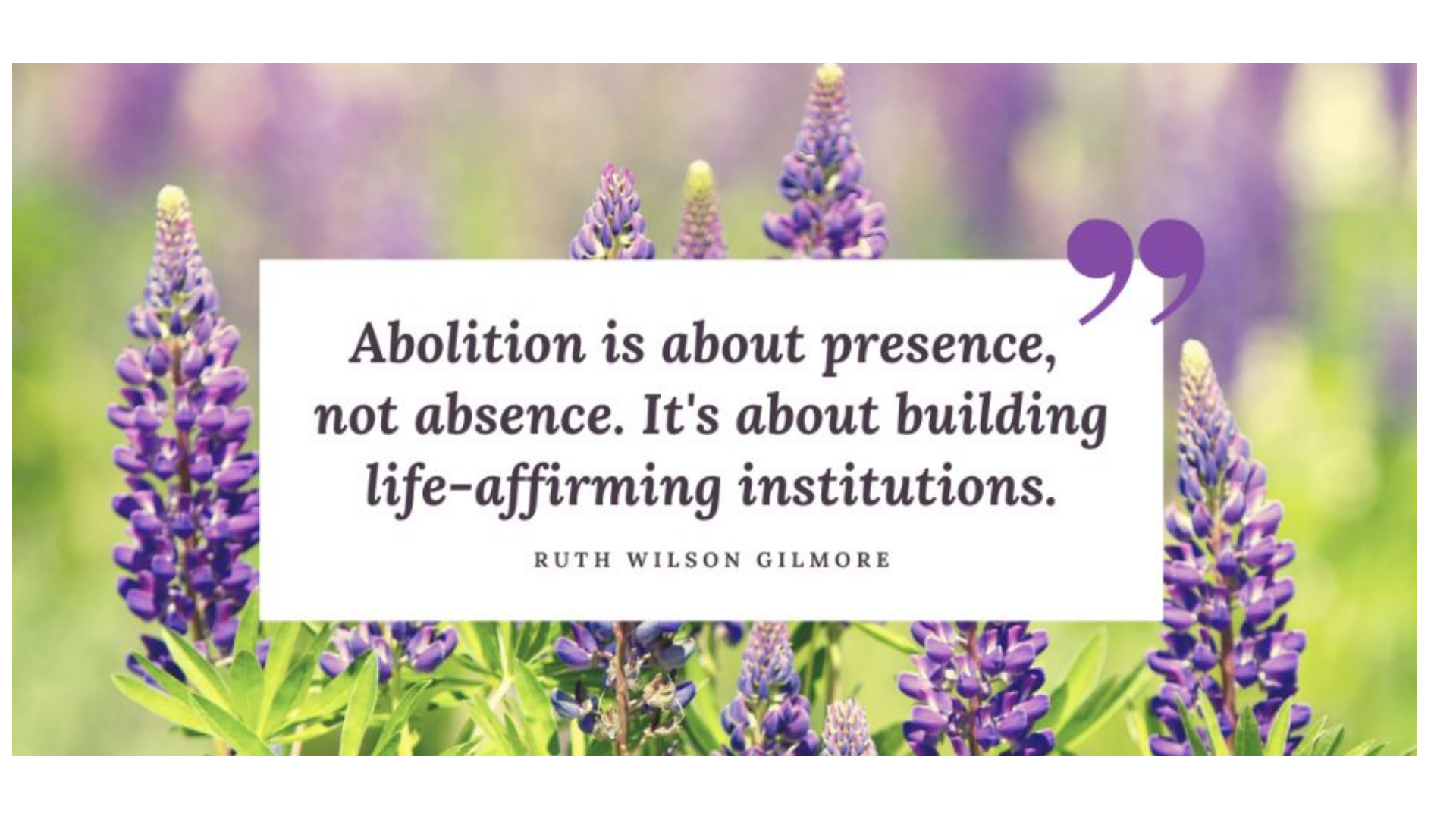
15.E Escape was difficult and rare, but some people managed to flee. Enslaved people who escaped were known as “fugitive slaves,” and people chased after them, since there was often a cash reward for returning enslaved people who ran away.

15.F Enslaved people pursued freedom in many ways other than escape, including saving money to buy their freedom and their relatives’ freedom, and turning to the courts to seek freedom.

Social Justice Standards

13. Students will analyze the harmful impact of bias and injustice on the world, historically and today.
14. Students will recognize that power and privilege influence relationships on interpersonal, intergroup and institutional levels and consider how they have been affected by those dynamics.
15. Students will identify figures, groups, events and a variety of strategies and philosophies relevant to the history of social justice around the world.

15.B Some enslaved people tried to rebel, but these actions were difficult and mostly unsuccessful because people in power wanted slavery to continue and had many more resources (including weapons) to put down rebellions.

A photograph of a field of purple lupine flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing bright yellow centers. The background is a soft-focus green field. A white rectangular text box is centered over the image, containing a quote and the author's name. A large purple quotation mark is positioned to the right of the text box.

*Abolition is about presence,
not absence. It's about building
life-affirming institutions.*

RUTH WILSON GILMORE



**It is in collectivities that we find
reservoirs of hope and optimism. -
Angela Davis**

<https://womenshistory.si.edu/herstory/activism/video/how-did-angela-davis-inspire-movement-becauseofherstory>

BECAUSE OF
ANGELA DAVIS

Angela Davis Defended Herself against Unjust Criminal Charges

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9OnR6wjKs>



A, E, I, O, U, 1, 2 Use this approach to help read words with multiple syllables.

- 1.
2. Place an X under each A, E, I, O, U
3. Count the letters between the X's
4. Split between:
(X and X) example: jo/vi/al
(X and 1) example: te/na/cious
(1 and 2) example: bal/lad

Do not separate blends or word groupings that need each other.
ous, qu, bi, cl, dr, pr, cial, tion

Choose 4 words here from the text that students might struggle to decode.

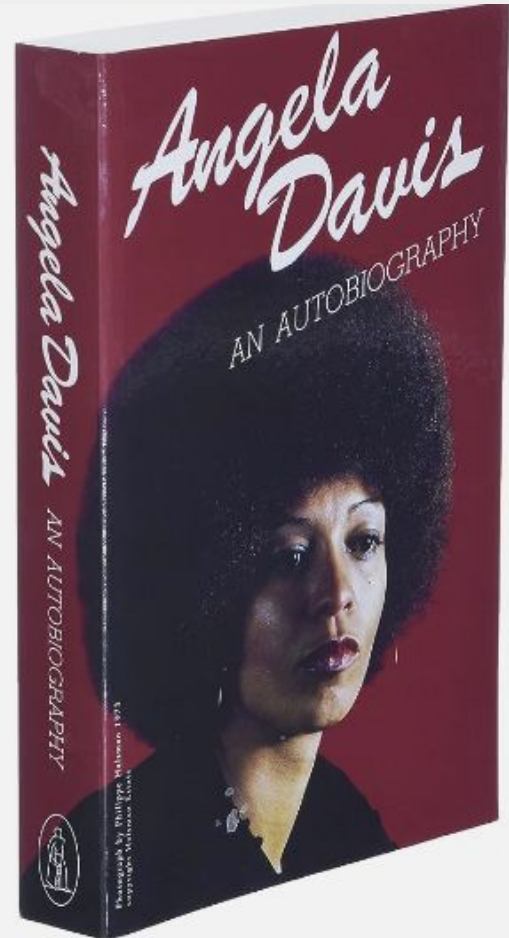
injustice
cultivate
generation
organized

Davis knew early on that she would be a fighter for justice

Davis grew up with a burning sense of justice – and injustice. She received a good education at her segregated school, where she was taught about Black history, and endowed with pride. **“The teachers felt the need to cultivate a generation who would be capable of resisting the ideological racism surrounding us.”** Her mother told young Angela that the world they were living in was not the world of the future. “She always said: never forget that that world is not organized in the way it should be and that things will change, and that **we will be a part of that change.**”

Excerpt of interview

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/mar/05/angela-davis-on-the-power-of-protest-we-cant-do-anything-without-optimism>



Abolishing prisons means transforming the way we handle people who break the law. Instead of locking them away in jails, we would focus on understanding and addressing the root causes of their actions. It involves investing in education, mental health support, job opportunities, and community programs to prevent crime and help individuals reintegrate into society positively. The goal is to create a fair and just system that promotes healing, rehabilitation, and addressing the societal issues that contribute to crime.

Angela Davis, a strong advocate for change, works to abolish prisons. She believes in a world where we help and understand each other instead of punishing. Davis thinks prisons often don't address root problems, like poverty and lack of education. She wants a fair system that focuses on rehabilitation and support. By speaking up, she hopes to create a society where we heal and understand, making a world without mass incarceration possible.

Class discussion

1. Why do you think Angela Davis believes in abolishing prisons?
2. How did Angela Davis' life experiences push her to activism?
3. What connections can you make between prisons and enslavement?

Injustice cultivate generation organized

Davis grew up with a burning sense of justice – and _____ . She received a good education at her segregated school, where she was taught about Black history, and endowed with pride. “The teachers felt the need to _____ a _____ who would be capable of resisting the ideological racism surrounding us.” Her mother told young Angela that the world they were living in was not the world of the future. “She always said: never forget that that world is not _____ in the way it should be and that things will change, and that we will be a part of that change.”

Fluency Practice Practice reading the text below with a partner. The goal is to read the text with 100% accuracy. The words in red are from the A, E, I, O, U, 1, 2 List.

Davis grew up with a burning sense of justice – and **injustice**. She received a good education at her segregated school, where she was taught about Black history, and endowed with pride. “The teachers felt the need to **cultivate** a **generation** who would be capable of resisting the ideological racism surrounding us.” Her mother told young Angela that the world they were living in was not the world of the future. “She always said: never forget that that world is not **organized** in the way it should be and that things will change, and that we will be a part of that change.”

Writing Tips Use the following tips to complete your writing using the texts and the videos. Remember to **include what you learned** about the topic. Also, **share your thinking about what you learned**.

Using the texts and videos, write about **Angela Davis and Abolitionism Today**

- Write what you learned about Abolitionism Today and Angela Davis from the examples, the reading and the videos.
- Write what you will do with what you have learned.
- What thoughts or questions do you have after today's lesson?

[Writing Structure- summary sentences](#)

Search the internet for Angela Davis Art and see which images inspire you.
Here are some examples:

