

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

Today you will become smarter about the origins and impact
of the Black Lives Matter movement

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.


The cry for Black Lives Mattering

[President Obama: Trayvon Martin Made America Confront Its Original Sin | NYT Opinion](#)



Origins of Black Lives Matter (7 min) (start at 1:15 to avoid language)

Alicia Garza on her Facebook post that started Black Lives Matter



Alicia Garza

0:05 | 1:44 Black Lives Matter

USA TODAY

This woman helped create Black Lives Matter a year before Ferguson

Alicia Garza talks to USA TODAY about how she came to create the Black Lives Matter slogan a year before reaction to the Michael Brown shooting caused #blacklivesmatter to spike.

The image shows a video player interface. The main video frame displays Alicia Garza, a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a black top and a necklace, speaking. Below the video frame is a control bar with a play button, a volume icon, a progress bar showing 0:05 out of 1:44, and the text 'Black Lives Matter'. To the right of the progress bar is the USA TODAY logo and a share icon. Below the video frame is a bold headline: 'This woman helped create Black Lives Matter a year before Ferguson'. Underneath the headline is a short paragraph of text: 'Alicia Garza talks to USA TODAY about how she came to create the Black Lives Matter slogan a year before reaction to the Michael Brown shooting caused #blacklivesmatter to spike.'

#BlackLivesMatter

Jessica Guynn

USA TODAY (MArch 4th 2

Alicia Garza was watching television news in an Oakland, Calif., bar with friends when neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman was acquitted of murder in the killing of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old African-American.

"It was as if we had all been punched in the gut," she recalled. She pulled out her phone to check Facebook. "What I saw was really disappointing," Garza said.

Many of the responses "were blaming black people for our own conditions," she said. "It wasn't Trayvon Martin's fault that (Zimmerman) stopped him and murdered him. ... It really has to do with a society that has a really sick disease and that disease is racism."

Martin could just as easily have been her brother, a gentle, 6-foot, 25-year-old with a big Afro "who could never hurt a fly," Garza said.

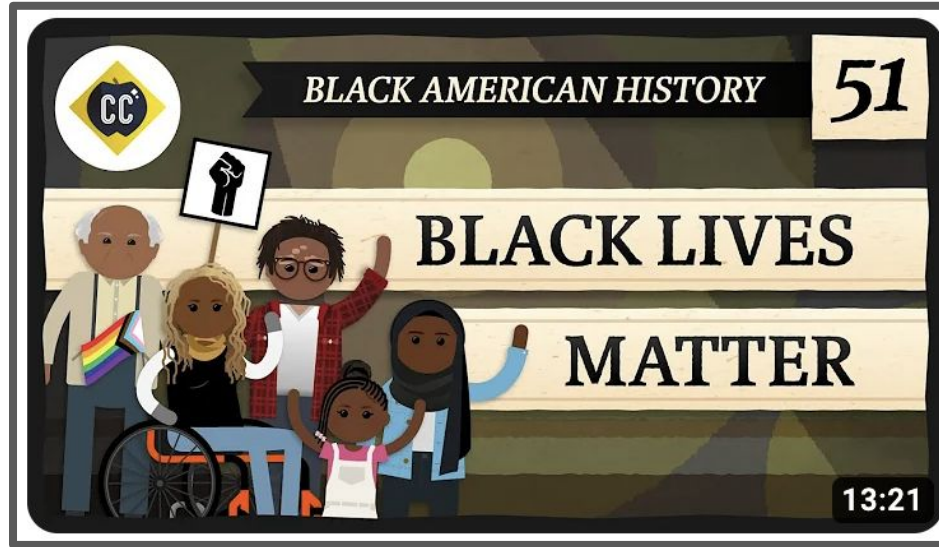
"I felt not only enraged but a deep sense of grief that I can't protect him. I can't protect him against this cancer," she said.

So she composed a love note to black people on Facebook, urging them to come together to ensure "that black lives matter."

Her friend, Patrisse Cullors, a community organizer from Los Angeles, spotted the Facebook post and put a hashtag in front of those three words. #BlackLivesMatter was born.

The hashtag spread so quickly on social media because it distilled the complexities of police brutality, racial inequality and social justice "into a simple, easy to remember slogan that fits in a Tweet or on a T-shirt

Crash Course-Black Lives Matter



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

Intervening

reimagine

Breathable

foundational

Black Lives Matter has 6 pillars:

[POLICY](#)

[ARTS](#)

[HEALING JUSTICE](#)

[FRONTLINE ORGANIZING](#)

[RESEARCH & EDUCATION](#)

[CULTURE](#)

Here is a statement about what BLM is doing in the area of POLICY

We are intervening on existing and new policies that reimagine a world without punitive measures and create a world where Black people have all that we need: food, education, housing, health care, clean water, breathable air, and everything that is foundational to personal and community safety.

The Black Lives Matter movement helps fight **discrimination** toward people of color. The movement began in 2013 in response to a court case. It is sometimes called BLM.

In 2012 an African American teenager named Trayvon Martin was killed by a man named George Zimmerman in Florida. Martin was just 17 years old. A dispute started when Zimmerman saw Martin walking in his neighborhood. Zimmerman called the police because he thought Martin looked suspicious. The police told Zimmerman not to do anything, but he did not listen to them. He followed Martin and got into an argument with him. Zimmerman then shot and killed Martin. Zimmerman was not charged with a crime at first. After many people protested, however, he was charged with murder. He went to court and said he acted in self-defense. He was found not guilty. People were angry. They thought Zimmerman killed Martin because the teen was Black. They thought Zimmerman should have been found guilty of murder. People started using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media. In 2014 two other African Americans—Eric Garner

They thought Zimmerman should have been found guilty of murder. People started using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media. In 2014 two other African Americans—Eric Garner and Michael Brown—were also killed unjustly. In both cases they were killed by police. People began to protest in the name of Black Lives Matter. Since then, the movement has spread to other countries.

The Black Lives Matter movement has many goals. The movement works to fight **racism** and to help make sure that Black people are treated fairly. The movement also works to help end violence toward Black people. Injustice toward Black people has been going on for a long time. One example is **police brutality**. Several Black people have been killed by the police. In 2020 a man named George Floyd was unjustly killed by the police. The Black Lives Matter movement organized protests in cities throughout the world, and these protests helped to identify the need for justice and change. For example, police officers were charged in Floyd's death. Cities began to look at how to change unfair police practices. The movement has caused people to talk about how to make the world a more just and equal place for people of color.

Poetry of the movement

'*little prayer*' by Danez Smith (picture below) was published in 2017 in *Don't Call Us Dead*. It is an [elegy](#), written in honor of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old Black man who was shot in August 2014. The event birthed the slogan "Hands up, don't shoot," which's still used to this day during protests (also picture below)



Photo credit: David Hong



let ruin end here

let him find honey

where there was once a slaughter

let him enter the lion's cage

& find a field of lilacs

let this be the healing

& if not let it be

systemic societal solidarity marginalized

In recent years, the world has witnessed the emergence of a powerful movement called Black Lives Matter. This movement emerged as a response to the longstanding racial injustices faced by Black communities. Black Lives Matter is not just a phrase but a resounding call for justice, equality, and human rights.

Through peaceful protests, activism, and social media, people from all walks of life have come together to raise their voices and demand change. The movement aims to shed light on _____ racism, police brutality, and the need for _____ eforms that treat everyone with fairness and respect, regardless of their skin color.

Black Lives Matter stands for unity and _____ , empowering voices that have been _____ for far too long. It is a reminder that we must confront America's hard histories, learn from them, and build a brighter future together.

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.

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Black Lives Matter stands for unity and solidarity, empowering voices that have been marginalized for far too long. It is a reminder that we must confront America's hard histories, learn from them, and build a brighter future together.

Class Discussion

What is the purpose of the Black Lives Matter organization?

Why have so many people participated in protests related to Black Lives Matter?

How is the Black Lives Matter movement of the 2020s similar to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s

How is it different?

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 Black Lives Matter

- Write what you learned about (topic) 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](#)

Many places across the world have used art to proclaim support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

This example is from St. Petersburg, Florida

Can you find local examples?

