

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

Today you will become smarter about the origins and impact of the Black Panther Party and the Black Power 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.



“One of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn is how to see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself. Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself.”
- Malcom X

The Black Panther Party

[The Birth of the Black Panthers](#)

(This 2 min. Video gives an overview of the practical activities of the Black Panther Party as well as the ongoing legacy of their community activism).

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Black Panther Party Members teach young people (6 min. video)



The Health Programs created by the Black Panthers



Black Power

“But at a rally in 1966, words were used as armour to fight against racism. Stokely Carmichael, the bold, new young leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), shouted....”Black Power!” These words connected to Blackness not to negativity but to strength. “Black Power” was new language that empowered the Black community and sparked a new movement. Here’s what Carmichael meant by Black Power: Black people owning and controlling their own neighborhoods and futures, free of White supremacy. Here’s what racist White people heard: Black Supremacy! See what was happening? People afraid of antiracist ideas purposely twisted Carmichael’s message of empowerment into racist ideas. “ -*Stamped for Kids*

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.

advocacy

disparities

nutritious

initiatives

The Black Panther Party (BPP) was a revolutionary social and political organization in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to their advocacy for civil rights and self-defense, the BPP also established various health programs to address the healthcare disparities faced by African American communities.

The BPP launched initiatives like the Free Breakfast for Children Program in 1969 to provide nutritious meals to children in impoverished neighborhoods before school. At its peak, the program fed thousands.

The BPP established community health clinics, commonly known as "People's Free Medical Centers," which provided medical services, health screenings, and education to underserved neighborhoods.

The BPP engaged in community outreach and education to empower African American communities with knowledge about healthcare and their rights.

The health programs of the Black Panther Party exemplify their belief in the interconnections between health and social justice. By addressing healthcare disparities, they sought to uplift oppressed communities.

What were the goals of the Black Panther Party?

- We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.
- We want full employment for our people.
- We want an end to the robbery by the Capitalists of our Black Community.
- We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.
- We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society.
- We want all Black men to be exempt from military service.
- We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people.
- We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.
- We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.
- We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace.

Because of its practice of armed self-defense against police, as well as its Communistic and revolutionary elements, the BPP was frequently targeted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's COINTELPRO program as well as by state and local law enforcement groups. However, despite its militant stance, the BPP also provided free breakfast for school children, sickle cell anemia screening, legal aid, and adult education.

The National Archives and Records Administration contains over 2,400 records relating to the Black Panther Party. Most of these records are textual records, but there are also motion pictures, sound recordings, and photographs.

conductor enslaved network fugitives disguises

The Underground Railroad was not a real railroad. It was a _____ of people, both black and white, who helped _____ *people*, people forced to perform labor and services against their will, escape from their *enslavers*, people who enslave another person. This network was called “Underground” because it was top secret, and “Railroad” because terms like “” and “depot” were used as codes for helpers and safe places. People who escape slavery were considered _____, because it was against the law to escape. Many fugitives went to the northern United States and Canada where they could be free. Many of the fugitives that came to Michigan were _____ in Kentucky. Escaping was dangerous. Fugitives were determined, cautious, and courageous. They knew that the punishment was harsh if they were caught. Many _____ that were caught were whipped, beaten or even made to wear chains. Traveling north was also very dangerous. Fugitives had to be careful not to be noticed, so many wore _____. They traveled mostly by foot, but sometimes by horse, train or even fancy carriages. _____ on the Underground Railroad helped them find routes and ways to escape to the north.

Discussion

Why do you think the Black Panther Party chose to start a breakfast program for children?

How do you think this program impacted the communities it served?

Why do you think access to healthcare was a priority for the Black Panther Party? How does access to healthcare impact the well-being of a community?

How do you see the relationship between health and social justice? How can addressing healthcare disparities contribute to a more equitable society?

disparities advocacy initiatives nutritious

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The BPP launched _____ like the Free Breakfast for Children Program in 1969 to provide _____ meals to children in impoverished neighborhoods before school. At its peak, the program fed thousands.

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The health programs of the Black Panther Party exemplify their belief in the interconnections between health and social justice. By addressing healthcare **disparities**, they sought to uplift oppressed communities.

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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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 the Black Panther Party

- 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](#)

Activism and music

Elaine Brown was the only female leader of
the Black Panther Party.
She was also a talented musician.

Click the album cover to see her performing
seize the time!

Today she is an activist, writer, and singer
<https://elainebrown.org/>

