



Toolkit on Protests, Race and African American History

To help parents, teachers, students and other residents understand and discuss why demonstrations have arisen across the country in response to George Floyd's May 2020 death in police custody in Minneapolis, KERA's Education and Community Engagement staffs have curated resources to provide historical and social context. We hope these videos, essays, background papers, discussion questions, lessons and other resources will help you think about current events and provide entry points for conversations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Many of these materials contain sensitive images and information and are designed for adults and mature students in middle and high school. Materials that are suitable for younger audiences are marked with ****asterisks**** for easy identification.

Thank you.

PROTESTS

- [Youth Explain Why They March](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/60e00ed8-c0da-475b-9b58-6c247c3d60cd/youth-explain-why-they-march-in-the-current-protests/) – In his clip from a 2014 *PBS NewsHour* broadcast three young activists explain what motivated them to protest. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/60e00ed8-c0da-475b-9b58-6c247c3d60cd/youth-explain-why-they-march-in-the-current-protests/>]
- [States Mobilize National Guard Amid Protests](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/states-mobilize-national-guard-amid-protests-video/pbs-newshour/support-materials/) – This video clip from a *NewsHour* story about the recent protests in Minneapolis includes a background document and discussion questions about what choices governments have when protests include violence. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/states-mobilize-national-guard-amid-protests-video/pbs-newshour/support-materials/>]
- [What the 1960s can teach us about modern-day protests](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-the-1960s-can-teach-us-about-modern-day-protests) – This clip from a May 31 *NewsHour* interview with a Princeton assistant professor of politics provides context for the current protests. [LINK: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-the-1960s-can-teach-us-about-modern-day-protests>]

- [Death of George Floyd Sets off Massive Protests](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/death-george-floyd-sets-off-massive-protests-video/pbs-newshour/) – This May 28 video clip from the *NewsHour* about George Floyd’s death includes interviews with family members and city leaders. The page includes more information to provide context, including a link to the full video of Mr. Floyd’s death in police custody. [LINK:<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/death-george-floyd-sets-off-massive-protests-video/pbs-newshour/>]
- [The March on Washington](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/marchonwashington/) – These videos and materials examine events leading up to the 1963 march, a pivotal event in the Civil Rights Movement. Audio clips include speeches and later interviews with people who participated. [LINK:<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/marchonwashington/>]
- [Protest and Politics](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/1fdf63f7-e42a-4b04-abd9-a68efb851a4b/protest-and-politics-essential-lens/) -- This resource looks at causes of protests in 1968 that were led by young people around the world and how governments reacted. The webpage provides background information about the Civil Rights movement in the U.S., the Vietnam War, societal shifts, the media and events around the globe. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/1fdf63f7-e42a-4b04-abd9-a68efb851a4b/protest-and-politics-essential-lens/>]

****TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACE****

- [Kojo For Kids: Jason Reynolds Talks About Racism And the Protests](https://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2020-06-01/kojo-for-kids-jason-reynold-talks-about-racism-and-the-protests) -- This interview explores serious subjects in ways that children can understand and in a voice that’s conversational. The show includes call-in questions from kids. Parents of young children may want to review the transcript, which mentions beatings and other violence.[LINK: <https://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2020-06-01/kojo-for-kids-jason-reynold-talks-about-racism-and-the-protests>]
- [Martin Luther King, Jr.: Civil Rights Leader](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/americon-lp-martin-luther-king-jr/lesson-plan/) (grades 3-7) -- This lesson on Dr. King’s legacy includes information on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, background on Dr. King’s life and leadership and a video in English and Spanish on his commitment to nonviolent protest. (LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/americon-lp-martin-luther-king-jr/lesson-plan/>)
- [Martin Luther King Day](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/8cb55681-9129-467d-96e6-0bd7b5bd16e5/martin-luther-king-day-all-about-the-holidays/) (grades K-3) -- This short video in introduces young children to Dr. King’s life and legacy as a civil rights leader.[LINK: (<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/8cb55681-9129-467d-96e6-0bd7b5bd16e5/martin-luther-king-day-all-about-the-holidays/>)]
- [How Black Art Can Spark Conversations with Children](https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-black-art-can-spark-conversations-with-children) -- The arts in general, and Black art in particular, can help children resist race-based negativity, giving them strength, confidence and self-assurance that will help protect them from racial injustices for years to come. [LINK: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-black-art-can-spark-conversations-with-children>]
- [How To Teach Children About Cultural Awareness and Diversity](https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-teach-children-about-cultural-awareness-and-diversity) -- Children tend to ask hard questions at inconvenient times. Rather than trying to quiet your child, take these opportunities to help your child understand and respect differences and similarities among those in your community. [Link: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-teach-children-about-cultural-awareness-and-diversity>]

****WHEN SCARY THINGS HAPPEN – Being Sensitive to Violence & Trauma****

- [15 Tips for Talking with Children About Violence](https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/15-tips-talking-children-about-school-violence) -- This webpage has practical advice for figuring out what a child knows about an incident, how much information he or she can handle and how to provide information while assuring a child that he or she is safe. [LINK: <https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/15-tips-talking-children-about-school-violence>]
- [Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News](https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/helping-children-with-tragic-events-in-the-news) -- This page has guidance on talking and listening, answering questions, maintaining routines and reassuring children that the community has many people who work to help others in times of need. [LINK: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/helping-children-with-tragic-events-in-the-news>]

TEACHING RESOURCES – RACE, BIAS AND DIVERSITY

- [A Call to Action for White Educators Who Seek to Be Anti-Racist](https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/a-call-to-action-for-white-educators-who-seek-to-be-anti-racist) – This blog post by a teacher – and parent – advocates guiding kids to reflect on and engage with civil rights history to ensure that they don’t view what they learn as distant from their lives and communities. [LINK: <https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/a-call-to-action-for-white-educators-who-seek-to-be-anti-racist>]

- **[Talking About Racism and Violence with Students: Resources for Educators](#)**
This extensive webpage has resources for helping students deal with what they are hearing in the news about protests after George Floyd's death. It offers help in a range of areas, from dealing with trauma to discussing racism and violence to addressing sensitive issues like understanding different perspectives. [LINK: https://www.colorincolorado.org/talking-about-racism-and-violence-students-resources-educators?utm_source=The+Loop+Distribution&utm_campaign=2b93bbc09c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_07_14_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4408c463ee-2b93bbc09c-206611909]
- **[Understanding Race and Privilege](#)**
This webpage from the National Association of School Psychologists has thoughtful information on the role of privilege, the effects of privilege in school, self-reflection questions and suggestions for talking to others about privilege. [LINK: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/understanding-race-and-privilege/>]
- **[Affirming Black Lives Without Inducing Trauma](#)**
This page from Teaching Tolerance has articles to help educators engage with students about violence against black men, and the white supremacist systems that allow it to continue, in ways that guard students' mental health. [LINK: <https://www.tolerance.org/the-moment/may-8-2020-affirming-black-lives-without-inducing-trauma/>]
- **[Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators](#)**
This downloadable guide from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network has sections defining trauma and child traumatic stress, historical trauma, racial trauma, the effects of trauma by age group and recommendations for what educators can do. [LINK: <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/PDFs/FINAL-Race-and-Trauma-in-the-Classroom-Factsheet.pdf>]
- **[Confronting Bias: Ethics in the Classroom](#)** – These resources will help educators add ethics education to lessons seeking to foster civil dialogue about bias. The package includes narratives of people who have encountered bias and tools to encourage students to share their own stories. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/confronting-bias-ethics-in-the-classroom/>]
- **[**Precious Children: Insensitivity to Physical, Racial, or Ethnic Differences](#)** -- This article suggests ways to navigate the challenge of dealing with a child who is making fun of another person's race, religion, or disability. [LINK: https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/pbs_org14_prechil_soc_6/precious-children-insensitivity-to-physical-racial-or-ethnic-differences/]
- **[**Precious Children: Teaching Young Children to Resist Bias](#)** – This article reprinted from the National Association for the Education of Young Children has advice for helping children form early strong, positive self-images so they can grow up to respect and get along with people who are different from themselves. [LINK: https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/pbs_org14_prechil_soc_7/precious-children-teaching-young-children-to-resist-bias/]
- **[Supporting Marginalized Students in Stressful Times: Tips for Educators](#)** -- This excellent page from the National Association of School Psychologists has information to help adults identify stressors among students from diverse ethnic and social circumstances and provide an environment that affirms differences and fosters respect. [LINK: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/supporting-marginalized-students-in-stressful-times-tips-for-educators>]

BACKGROUND -- CIVIL RIGHTS

- **[Founding Principles | "Civil Rights"](#)** – This video narrated by a government professor looks at the origin of civil rights principles in the U.S. and how they have evolved since the country's founding. Support materials include a viewing guide for students, discussion questions, a background document on Jim Crow laws and group activities for teachers who use the video in class. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/found17-soc-civilrights/founding-principles-civil-rights/>]

- **[Declaration of Independence \(1776\) and Resource Materials](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/da6c2830-fed4-40ce-af73-3689bc0c46dc/da6c2830-fed4-40ce-af73-3689bc0c46dc/)** – This page from the National Archives includes a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a transcript of the text and a background essay. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/da6c2830-fed4-40ce-af73-3689bc0c46dc/da6c2830-fed4-40ce-af73-3689bc0c46dc/>]
- **[Teaching the Constitution](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/teaching-the-constitution/)** – These videos, essays, discussion questions and other materials explore issues involved in the creation and ratification of the United States Constitution, the new government it established and its continuing significance. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/teaching-the-constitution/>]
- **[Civil Rights](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civil/)** -- This large collection of archival news footage, primary sources and other materials captures the voices, images, and events of the Civil Rights Movement and the ongoing struggle for racial equality in America. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civil/>]
- **[Freedom Riders: American Experience](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/friders/)** – These video segments teach about the Freedom Riders, band of African American and white civil rights activists who in 1961 rode together on buses throughout the American South to challenge segregation. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/friders/>]
- **[Civil Rights: Then and Now](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civilrightsthenandnow/)** -- These videos, documents and primary sources lend context to the events and leaders that defined the Civil Rights Movement's first three decades (1954-1985). They also explore issues and activism in more recent years to examine areas of progress and continued struggle. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civilrightsthenandnow/>]
- **[Jackie Robinson](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/kenburnsclassroom/film/jackie-robinson/)** – These video clips tell the remarkable story of the famous baseball star's lifelong push for equal rights for African Americans. Support materials include background essays and discussion questions. Materials are drawn from *Jackie Robinson, A Film* by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns & David McMahon. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/kenburnsclassroom/film/jackie-robinson/>]
- **[The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/b1c251f3-8d28-482c-8ec6-b002488c9158/film-clip-1-the-black-panthers-vanguard-of-the-revolution/)** – This video from an Independent Lens documentary explores the origins of the Black Panther Party in the 1960s to organize for respect and rights for African Americans. Note: This video contains scenes of beatings. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/b1c251f3-8d28-482c-8ec6-b002488c9158/film-clip-1-the-black-panthers-vanguard-of-the-revolution/>]
- **[Austin Revealed: Chicano Civil Rights](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/austin-revealed-chicano-civil-rights/)** – These videos and lessons chronicle the rise of the Chicano (Mexican-American) civil rights movement in Austin, Texas, from the end of World War II through the late 1970s. Themes include the struggle for essential human rights and recognition, political organization and activism, educational attainment, and cultural and artistic expression. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/austin-revealed-chicano-civil-rights/>]
- **[The Dolores Huerta Collection](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/dolores-huerta/)** – These video clips from the PBS Independent Lens program *Dolores* tell about the woman who worked with César Chavez to lead the first farm workers' movement and pushed for racial and labor justice. Support materials include a discussion guide in English and Spanish and lessons for digging into issues like the complexity of identity and why groups organize. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/dolores-huerta/>]
- **[The Fight for Labor Rights](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/the-fight-for-labor-rights/)** – These videos and lessons explore the ongoing fight for workers' rights in the U.S., including the rise and fall of labor unions, the origin of the 40-hour work week, the history of the farm labor movement, and more. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/the-fight-for-labor-rights/>]
- **[Asian Americans](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/asian-americans-pbs/)** – These videos, discussion questions, background essays and vocabulary lessons tell how Asian Americans have helped shape U.S. history. The resources note the contributions of individuals, explore the discriminatory policies Asian Americans have faced and trace efforts to improve civil rights. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/asian-americans-pbs/>]
- **[Unladylike2020](https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/unladylike2020/)** -- These resources tell about 26 little-known Progressive Era women who broke barriers in then-male-dominated fields such as science, business, journalism, exploration and the arts. PBS will continue adding new resources through August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of when the 19th Amendment was signed into law. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/unladylike2020/>]

BACKGROUND -- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & AMERICAN CULTURE

- **[Black America since MLK: And Still I Rise](#)** -- These resources from a PBS series led by Harvard professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., take viewers on a personal journey through the last fifty years of African American history. Travel from the Civil Rights movement up to today, asking about the state of black America—and our nation as a whole. [LINK:<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/black-america-since-mlk-and-still-i-rise/>]
- **[The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross](#)** -- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., recounts the full trajectory of African American history in *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. The series explores the evolution of the African American people, as well as the multiplicity of cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives they developed. [LINK:<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/the-african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/>]
- **[Basic Black](#)** – These news stories, interviews and commentaries by and about African Americans are from Basic Black, which was created during the Civil Rights Movement as a response to the demand for public television programs to reflect the concerns of African Americans. Topics in this collection include arts & culture, health, education and politics. [LINK: <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/basic-black/>]
- **[Interview with Bryan Stephenson](#)** – Americans need to confront and preserve our country's history of racial oppression if we are to evolve and become a truly great nation, says Bryan Stephenson, founder and founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy*. The interview was by KQED, our sister station in San Francisco. [LINK: https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/26077/bryan-stevenson-on-why-we-cant-forget-americas-troubled-racial-history?utm_source=kqed-edu&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=floyd-protests]
- **[What is Race?](#)** – This clip from *Finding Your Roots*, the genealogy program by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., explores the meaning of race and common human ancestry in interviews with a geneticist and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick about his ancestry. [LINK:<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/fyr14.socst.us.whatrace/what-is-race/>]
- **[American Masters](#)**. This series award-winning biographies from PBS explore the lives and creative journeys of great American writers, musicians, visual and performing artists, dramatists and filmmakers from a diverse array of backgrounds, including numerous African Americans. They include [Maya Angelou](#), [James Baldwin](#), [Sammy Davis, Jr.](#), [Ralph Ellison](#), [Lorraine Hansberry](#), [Zora Neale Hurston](#), [Bill T. Jones](#), [Alice Walker](#), and [August Wilson](#).
LINKS: American Masters Collection - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/amast/>
Angelou - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/maya-angelou-and-still-i-rise/>
Baldwin - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/james-baldwin-the-price-of-the-ticket/>
Davis - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/sammy-davis-jr-ive-gotta-be-me/>
Ellison - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/ralph-ellison-an-american-journey/>
Hansberry - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/hans17-lorraine-hansberry-sighted/>
Hurston - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/zora-neale-hurston-jump-at-the-sun/>
Jones - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/bill-t-jones-a-good-man/>
Walker – <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/alice-walker-beauty-in-truth/>
Wilson - <https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/august-wilson-the-ground-on-which-i-stand/>