

TEACHING BLACK HISTORY

Blacks in Canadian
Human Rights and Equity History
Grades 5 to 8



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Want more resources to help you teach Black History?

Visit us at: <http://turnerconsultinggroup.weebly.com/inclusive-schools.html>

See the Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History timeline at:
<http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/305051/Blacks-in-Canadian-Human-Rights-and-Equity-History/>

Introduction

Canada's Human Rights and Equity Movement

Canada has changed a great deal since the 1800s. At that time, there were no computers, no cars, and no cell phones. Imagine living in that world!

And at that time, we also didn't have laws to protect our human rights. This means that if someone didn't like you because of the colour of your skin, gender, or other characteristic, they could refuse to sell you food or not hire you for a job. And even if they did hire you, they could pay you less than they paid others.

At that time, many people were treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin. Instead of accepting things the way they were, Black Canadians and others decided to take a stand and fight for equality. But they didn't fight with guns or knives. They used non-violent actions and fought through education, the media, the courts, to change laws and public opinion.

There were many activists who helped change Canada during the Human Rights and Equity Movement. Activists are people who fight to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for others as well. An activist is not usually motivated by power, or money, or fame. An activist sees an injustice or something that is unfair, and wants to make it right.

Some of our heroes are on television or in the movies. Some of them are superheroes who save the world from alien invasions. But our real life heroes are often activists who risk a lot to make the world a better place. The Canadian Human Rights and Equity heroes have made this country a better place for everyone.

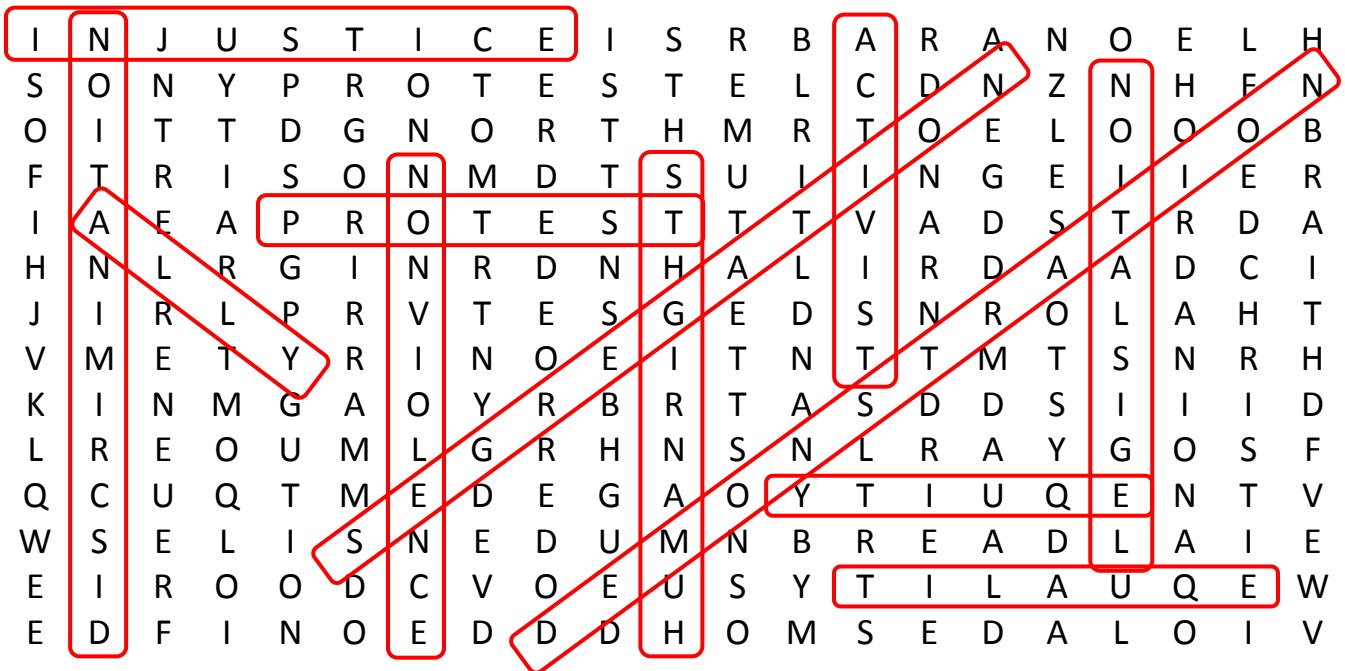
Human Rights and Equity Vocabulary

I N J U S T I C E I S R B A R A N O E L H
S O N Y P R O T E S T E L C D N Z N H F N
O I T T D G N O R T H M R T O E L O O O B
F T R I S O N M D T S U I I N G E I I E R
I A E A P R O T E S T T T V A D S T R D A
H N L R G I N R D N H A L I R D A A D C I
J I R L P R V T E S G E D S N R O L A H T
V M E T Y R I N O E I T N T T M T S N R H
K I N M G A O Y R B R T A S D D S I I I D
L R E O U M L G R H N S N L R A Y G O S F
Q C U Q T M E D E G A O Y T I U Q E N T V
W S E L I S N E D U M N B R E A D L A I E
E I R O O D C V O E U S Y T I L A U Q E W
E D F I N O E D D D H O M S E D A L O I V

- Protest** Action expressing disapproval of or objection to something
- Human rights** Rights that belong to every person
- Demonstration** An event such as a rally or march to protest against something
- Nonviolence** The act of trying to bring about change without using violence
- Segregation** To separate a group of people by a particular characteristic, such as race
- Activist** A person who tries to make some kind of social change
- Legislation** Laws
- Ally** Someone who cooperates with another to achieve a particular purpose
- Injustice** Lack of fairness or justice
- Equity** Fairness that recognizes the differences between individuals
- Equality** Being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities
- Discrimination** Treating someone unfairly by denying them a privilege, benefit or opportunity enjoyed by others, because of a personal characteristic such as race or gender

Human Rights and Equity Vocabulary

ANSWER SHEET



- Protest** Action expressing disapproval of or objection to something
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Blacks in Canadian Human Rights & Equity History

D H V M D A E C I O B H G B W E D C N K C
 A S R C I B R Y U I O U B G O G F A Q W O
 H K A Y S C A F E T S M I E R B J R C E M
 D E U T C C E E X E O A D D L I F P O D M
 F R L I R D R E S D E N S M D N D E M C U
 C E W N H C O U S T B C T P W S Y N M V N
 L R T U U N O R C U U B I A A P T T U F I
 A C O M M U M H T Y R R U Y R I R E N R T
 W U G M A U R P E T N A T R I I E R I R E
 I V Y O N A U E I V E V A B I E O D D F T
 D I S C R I M I N A T I O N M E S E E F I
 N Z S F I P K T O R T L H I D B V N S E A
 D X V I G K A Y S O A C Q U R R I U M D W
 A Q A O H U Y N C O V A C E G A R U O C H
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 D E D D S I A R M S T R O N G E Y E D E I
 Y R F F E V W E R I W O R L D W E A R U A
 I T G E O O E S O N D B R A I T H W A I R
 D Y A N P N O N A R M S T R A P P L T Y B

Discrimination
 Community
 Human Rights
 Education
 Moore

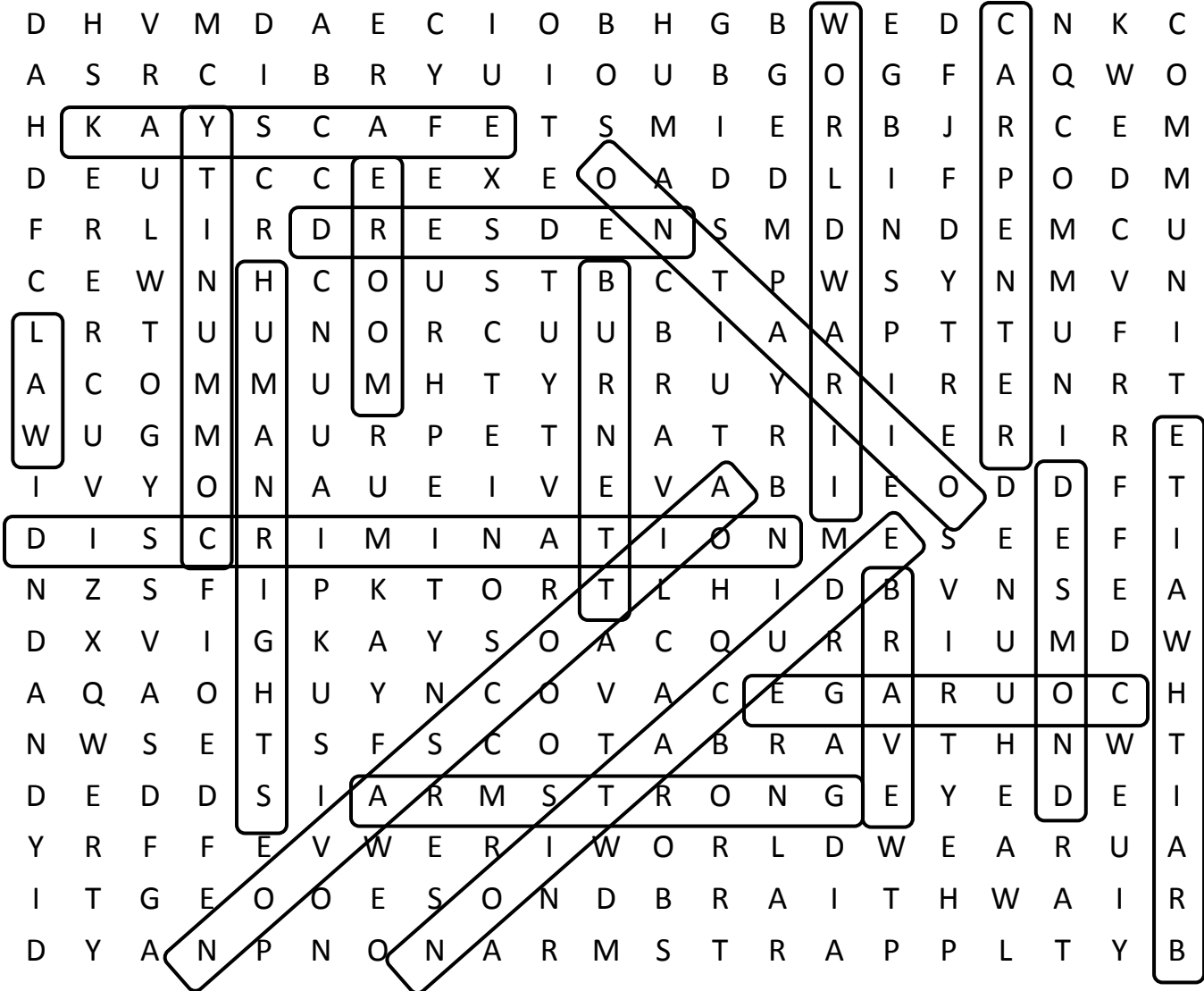
Burnett
 Dresden
 Carpenter
 Kays Café

Braithwaite
 Armstrong
 Desmond
 Nova Scotia

Brave
 Courage
 Ontario
 World War II



Blacks in Canadian Human Rights & Equity History



Discrimination
Community
Human Rights
Education
Moore

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Kays Café

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Armstrong
Desmond
Nova Scotia

Brave
Courage
Ontario
World War II



CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Fred Christie

The Montreal Forum was the home of Montreal's hockey team, *Les Canadiens*. On July 11th, 1936 Fred Christie and his friends watched a hockey game and then went to the tavern with some friends to talk about the game.

When Fred Christie put down 50 cents and ordered three drinks, the server refused to serve him. When the assistant manager was called, he explained that the "house rules" said that they couldn't serve Black people.

Fred Christie said that the "house rules" were not fair. He told them that he expected to be served like everyone else, but they still refused to serve him. Fred Christie called the police. But the police couldn't do anything because the tavern wasn't breaking the law. He and his friends went home, but the discrimination still bothered him.

Fred Christie decided to sue the tavern for discrimination. He sued for \$200 in damages for being discriminated against and for being humiliated in front of so many people.

Fred Christie won his case. The judge ruled that the tavern had broken the law.

The tavern appealed the judge's decision. The lawyer argued that because the tavern was a private business it could do what it wanted to protect its business. The Court of King's Bench agreed with the tavern.

Despite this ruling, Fred Christie pursued his case to the Supreme Court of Canada.

On December 9, 1939, three years after the original incident, the Supreme Court of Canada made its ruling (*Christie v York*). The Supreme Court ruled that the general principle of the law in Quebec is complete freedom of business. This means that businesses were free to refuse to serve anyone the manager chooses.

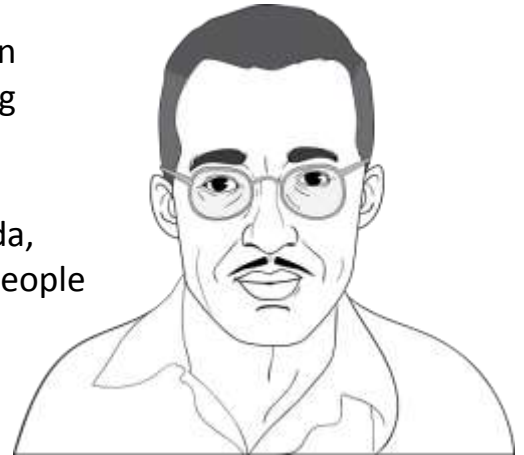
It is only after human rights legislation was established that Canada saw a shift from the rights of businesses to discriminate to the rights of people to be treated with equity and fairness.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Hugh Burnett

Hugh Burnett was born in Canada and was a carpenter in Dresden, Ontario. He joined the Canadian military during World War II.

At that time, in Dresden and some other towns in Canada, businesses regularly refused to serve Blacks and other people of colour in restaurants, barber shops and stores. When he returned to Dresden, Hugh Burnett went with some friends to eat at Kay's Café. But he found that even though he was in his Canadian military uniform, and willing to fight for his country and for freedom in Europe, he would not be served in the restaurant because of the colour of his skin.



Hugh Burnett thought that this was not fair, so he wrote to the federal Justice Minister about the situation. He was shocked to receive a reply stating that racial discrimination was not illegal in Canada.

He petitioned and lobbied throughout the 1940s to end racial discrimination in his hometown. But Ontario Premier Robert Frost ignored the issue. He decided to form the National Unity Association (NUA) to fight discrimination in Dresden and other towns in the area such as Chatham and North Buxton.

The NUA began to pressure the Dresden town council for equality bylaws. The town council did not want to make such a big change and decided to allow city residents to vote on the issue. A referendum was held in 1949 to allow city residents to decide if they wanted businesses to continue to discriminate. Residents voted that businesses should be allowed to discriminate.

Hugh Burnett realized that if the city wouldn't change its bylaws, he needed to get the province to change its laws. This time he worked with allies to take this issue to the provincial government. With the support of various individuals and organizations in Toronto, Hugh Burnett and the NUA, they took the issue to Ontario Premier Leslie Frost. Their effort got the provincial government to pass the Fair Accommodation Practices Act in 1951 making it illegal to discriminate in restaurants, stores and other public-access areas. Later, the Fair Employment Practices Act was passed, making workplace discrimination illegal.

The Fair Accommodation Practices Act meant that Hugh Burnett could now get served at Kay's Café. But the owner, Mr. McKay still refused to serve Hugh Burnett and other Black people. The people in Dresden were not happy with the law and continued to discriminate against Black people. Someone even threatened the life of Hugh Burnett's young daughter.

In 1954, Hugh Burnett decided that the government needed to do more to enforce the law. So he organized sit-ins with Bromley Armstrong and Ruth Lor from Toronto. They brought a reporter with them when they came to Kay's Café to make sure their story got in the newspaper. The newspaper story allowed more people to know about the unfairness that some Canadians faced. This led the Ontario government to charge Morely McKay, the owner of the restaurant, with violating the Fair Accommodation Practices Act. In the first trial the judge sided with Mr. McKay. When the case was appealed, the judge convicted Mr. McKay. This was the first time in Canada that racial equality was ruled to be a human right and racial discrimination was found to be illegal.

Despite the victory, the residents of Dresden were still not happy with Hugh Burnett. They boycotted his carpentry business and forced him to leave town.

Hugh Burnett was living in London, Ontario when the first Black people were served in the Dresden restaurant.

The efforts of Hugh Burnett and the NUA led to significant change in the course of Canadian law and history. Because of their work, the government of Ontario brought in the first human rights legislation in Canada. This legislation protects the rights of people to be treated fairly regardless of their personal characteristics such as colour of their skin, their gender, or whether they have a disability. After Ontario passed its human rights legislation, other provinces and the federal government followed. In 1982, the federal government entrenched human rights in the Canadian Constitution through the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Viola Desmond

Born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Viola Desmond owned a beauty parlor and beauty college. She decided to expand her business across the province.

In 1946, was travelling in New Glasgow when her car broke down. While she waited for it to be repaired, she decided to go to see a movie. She asked to buy a ticket for a main floor seat, but they gave her a ticket for the balcony. When she sat downstairs, she was told that she had to sit in the balcony. She told them that she wanted to sit downstairs and asked for a ticket for a main floor seat. But the cashier refused to sell her a ticket for a downstairs seat. She didn't know that the theatre was segregated and that the main floor was the "Whites only" section.



When Viola Desmond refused to move to the balcony, the manager called the police. Viola Desmond was dragged from the theatre by the police, arrested and put in jail.

She was tried and convicted of not paying the one-cent in tax owed on a main floor theatre ticket. The issue of discrimination was not brought up in court because there were no laws that said that discrimination was wrong.

When Carrie Best found out about the situation, she used her newspaper The Clarion to publicize the situation. The Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People helped to raise the money to pay Viola Desmond's fine and raise public attention about segregation in Nova Scotia.

With community support, Viola Desmond fought her conviction. But she lost her case. Even though she lost, Viola Desmond's case showed many people that some Canadians were treated unfairly in Nova Scotia. This inspired others to fight for equal freedom and opportunities for all Canadians.

In 2010, she was pardoned and the province issued an apology for her arrest. In the apology, Premier Darrell Dexter said, "This is a historic day for the province of Nova Scotia and a chance for us to finally right the wrong done to Mrs. Desmond and her family. This is also an opportunity for us to acknowledge the incredibly brave actions of a woman who took a stand against racism and segregation."

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Donald Moore

Donald Willard Moore came to Canada from Barbados at the age of 21.

He found work with the Canadian Pacific Railway as a sleeping car porter. After dropping out of the dentistry program at Dalhousie University for health reasons, he moved back to Toronto and worked as a tailor.

In 1951 he founded the Negro Citizenship Association to change the immigration laws that did not allow Blacks and other people of colour to migrate to Canada.



On Tuesday, April 27, 1954 he led a delegation to Ottawa. The delegation included representatives from the Negro Citizenship Association, as well as from unions, labour councils, and community organizations. They presented a brief to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Here is some of what they wrote:

The Immigration Act since 1923 seems to have been purposely written and revised to deny equal immigration status to those areas of the Commonwealth where coloured peoples constitute a large part of the population. This is done by creating a rigid definition of British Subject: 'British subjects by birth or by naturalization in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand or the Union of South Africa and citizens of Ireland.' This definition excludes from the category of 'British subject' those who are in all other senses British subjects, but who come from such areas as the British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Africa, etc...Our delegation claims this definition of British subject is discriminatory and dangerous.

Because of his efforts, the Canadian government changed the immigration laws to allow more people from across the world to migrate to Canada. Now, people come to Canada from not just Europe, but also from the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

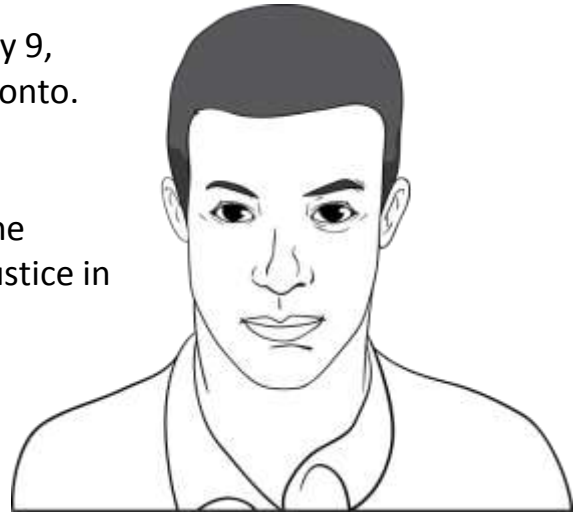
CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Bromley Armstrong

Bromley Armstrong was born in Jamaica on February 9, 1926. He came to Canada in 1947 and settled in Toronto.

Bromley Armstrong became an insurance agent and started his own company. He also got involved in the community to help get rid of discrimination and injustice in society.

When he heard that some stores and restaurants in Dresden would not serve Black people and other people of colour, he got involved with the National Unity Association and Hugh Burnett. He helped to lobby the provincial government to get laws changed so that people would not be discriminated against.



But even when the Fair Accommodations Practices Act said that Kay's Café could not discriminate, Morely McKay, the restaurant owner, still refused to serve Blacks and other people of colour.

In 1954, Hugh Burnett decided that the government needed to do more to enforce the law. So he organized sit-ins with Bromley Armstrong and Ruth Lor from Toronto. They brought a reporter with them when they came to Kay's Café to make sure their story got in the newspaper. The newspaper story allowed more people to know about the unfairness that some Canadians faced. This led the Ontario government to charge Morely McKay with violating the Fair Accommodation Practices Act. In the first trial, the judge sided with Mr. McKay. When the case was appealed, the judge convicted Mr. McKay. This was the first time in Canada that racial equality was ruled to be a human right and racial discrimination was found to be illegal.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Leonard Braithwaite

Leonard Braithwaite was born in 1923 in Toronto to parents who came to Canada from the Caribbean.

In World War II, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, in the 6th Bomber Group.

After the war, he went to the University of Toronto and received a B.A. in 1950 and received an M.A. from the Harvard Business School in 1952. In 1958 he graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School with a law degree and opened a law practice in Toronto.



In 1960 he went into politics and was elected as a school trustee. He was elected to a City Council in 1962. Due to his popularity in his riding, he was asked to run for the Ontario Liberal Party in the 1963 provincial election. He won the election and became the first Black Canadian elected to a provincial legislature.

He served as a Liberal member of the Ontario legislature from 1963 to 1975.

At that time, Ontario and Nova Scotia were the only two provinces that legally allowed schools to have segregated schools for Black and White students. Leonard Braithwaite thought this was wrong and wanted this law changed in Ontario.

In his first speech to the legislature he spoke out against racial segregation in Ontario schools. In 1965, the Ontario government repealed the law that allowed for segregation in public schools.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES



A person does not have to be famous to be a hero. Some heroes aren't even seen at heroes when they try to make change.

Some heroes are initially seen by society as troublemakers and some even break the law in order to change society. It is only later that they are seen as heroes. Think about people like Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Mahatma Gandhi. Even these heroes were put in prison for challenging discriminatory laws.

Use the "Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History" poster or the timeline (<http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/305051/Blacks-in-Canadian-Human-Rights-and-Equity-History/>), other sources on the internet, and other resources to research one of Canada's human rights and equity heroes. Write an essay that answers the questions below.

Think about what makes a hero. What heroic qualities does the person you select have?

What law or practice did this person challenge?

What difficulties did they face?

What, if anything, did they risk?

How was this person viewed by society at that time?

How did society benefit from their courage?

How have you, your family, and other Canadians benefited from their courage?

Acrostic Poem

Acrostic poems are fun and easy to write. An acrostic is formed when the first letter in each line spells out a word. The message could be a single word or even a whole sentence.

In Canada's human rights and equity history, there are many activists that helped change the laws to make Canada a great place to live. For this acrostic poem, think of a word or sentence that starts with each of the letters in "activist," then write it on the line next to that letter.

A	is for	_____
C	is for	_____
T	is for	_____
I	is for	_____
V	is for	_____
I	is for	_____
S	is for	_____
T	is for	_____

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A

C

T

I

V

I

S

T

The Fight for Human Rights

Sometimes when things are unfair, activists have to fight to change rules or laws to make things fair for everyone. But they don't fight with guns or knives. They use non-violent actions, such as education, the media, and the courts to change laws and change public opinion.

For each of these activists, identify the non-violent actions they used in their fight to make social change.

Fred Christie	Viola Desmond
Hugh Burnett	Donald Moore
Bromley Armstrong	Leonard Braithwaite



H is for Human Rights

There was a time when the laws did not protect Canadians from discrimination. Businesses were allowed to decide who they wanted to serve or hire. If they didn't want to, it was ok to not serve or hire you because of your gender, the colour of your skin, or if you had a disability.

Black Canadians helped to change the laws to protect all Canadians from discrimination and make things fair for everyone.

Because of the activism of Black Canadians and their allies, we have human rights laws. This means that businesses can't refuse to serve you because of the colour of your skin or your gender. These laws mean that you can sit where you want in a movie theatre. They also mean that everyone can go to school together. It also means that businesses have to make restaurants and stores accessible for people with disabilities.

Draw a picture to show what human rights means to you.

Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History

Use the "Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History" poster or the timeline (<http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/305051/Blacks-in-Canadian-Human-Rights-and-Equity-History/>) to fill in the blanks.

1. In 1978, Stanley Grizzle became the first Black _____ court judge in Canada.
2. In 1962, Dr. Dan Hill was hired as the first full-time director of the _____.
3. Viola Desmond was arrested in _____ for sitting in the "Whites only" section of a movie theatre.
4. Leonard Braithwaite helped to end the 114-year practice of _____ schools by race in Ontario.
5. The Black Action Defence Committee was cofounded by _____ to address police shootings of Black people in Toronto.
6. Bromley _____ was a union activist who advocated for human rights and better _____ conditions.
7. _____ and _____ are two provinces which had legally segregated schools.
8. Prime Minister _____ recognized the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society with the Multiculturalism Policy.
9. The _____ guarantees certain political and civil rights for all Canadians through the Canadian Constitution.



Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History

ANSWER SHEET

1. In 1978, Stanley Grizzle became the first Black citizenship court judge in Canada.
2. In 1962, Dr. Dan Hill was hired as the first full-time director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.
3. Viola Desmond was arrested in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia for sitting in the “Whites only” section of a movie theatre.
4. Leonard Braithwaite helped to end the 114-year practice of segregating schools by race in Ontario.
5. The Black Action Defence Committee was cofounded by Dudley Laws to address police shootings of Black people in Toronto.
6. Bromley Armstrong was a union activist who advocated for human rights and better working conditions.
7. Ontario and Nova Scotia are two provinces which had legally segregated schools.
8. Prime Minister Trudeau recognized the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society with the Multiculturalism Policy.
9. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees certain political and civil rights for all Canadians through the Canadian constitution.

Active and Passive Roles in Human Rights and Equity

In situations where there is unfair treatment or discrimination happening, the people involved take different roles. These can include:

Bully	The person who is discriminating or treating someone unfairly.
Victim	The person being discriminated against.
Active participants	These people see the discrimination that is happening and support the discrimination.
Passive participants	These people see the discrimination and do nothing to stop it.
Ally	These people support the victim to make change.
Activist	The person who tries to change society.

Pick one Human Rights story and identify who is the:

Bully	
Victim	
Active participant	
Passive participant	
Ally	
Activist	

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Read the clues below and find the names of Canada's Human Rights and Equity Heroes in the word search.

1. She was put in jail for sitting in the "Whites only" section of the movie theatre.
2. He came home from fighting in World War II to find that he didn't have freedom and equality in Canada
3. After a hockey game, he went out with friends, but wouldn't be served.
4. He helped get the government to change the laws, and was a tester in Dresden.
5. He was a politician who wanted all children to be able to go to school together.
6. He went to Ottawa to lobby politicians to change the immigration laws.

A E T I A W H T I A R B D R A N O E L H
 S N Y B R O M N O M E L S D V Z N H F E
 O T T D G N O R T S M R A Y E L M O R B
 F R I S O E M D T D U I A N G E P D E R
 I E A E L R E S E G R E G A D S D R D A
 H P R G I C R D N D N L E R D S O D C I
 J R B R K I C I R N E D T N A O M A H T
 V E T E R A N O U O T N A A M T Y N R H
 K N M G I C Y O B M T A D D S X I I D
 L E O A M T H R H S S C L R A Y E O S F
 Q U O T M I D E G E D A L E Y L D N T V
 W R L I N V E D U D N B R E A D C A I E
 E R O O D I V O H O S G F H J Y C J E W
 E F I N O S D N D N O M S E D A L O I V
 T I V Y I T O I M M I G R A T I O N X A

Viola Desmond

Hugh Burnett

Fred Christie

Bromley Armstrong

Leonard Braithwaite

Donald Moore

Entrepreneur

Immigration

Activist

Politician

Veteran

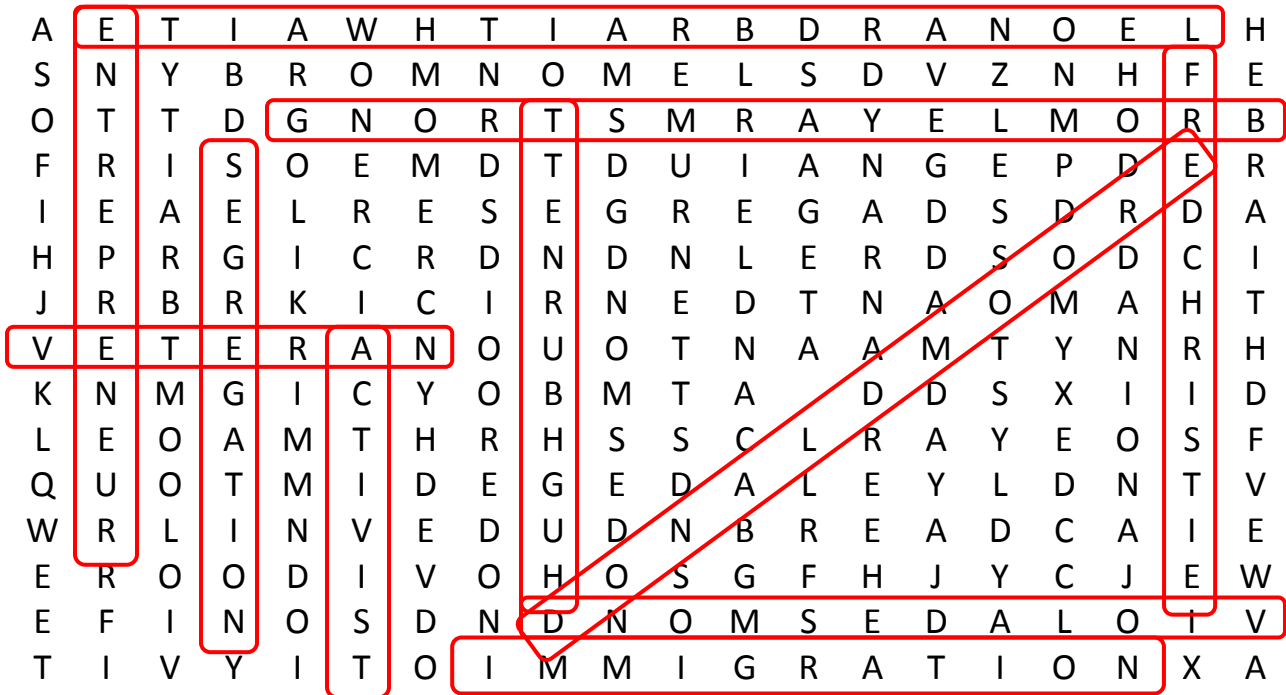
Segregation

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

ANSWER SHEET

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Viola Desmond

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Entrepreneur

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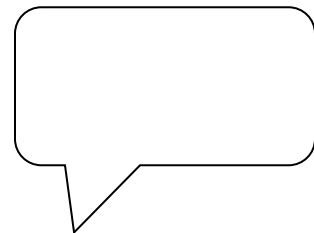
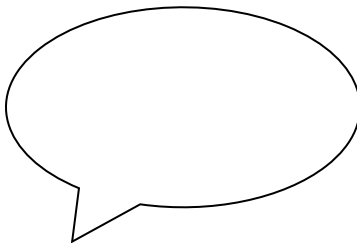
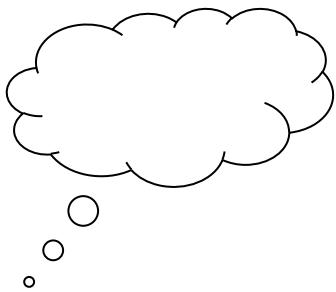
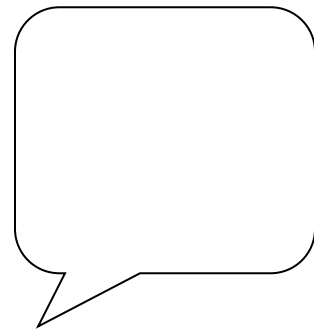
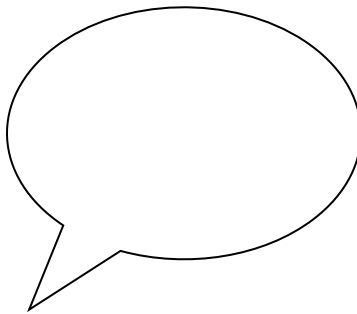
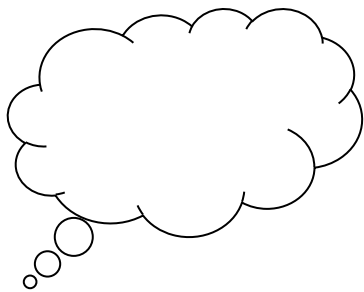
CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Draw Your Own Comic

Pick one of Canada's human rights and equity heroes. Write and illustrate a comic about what make them a hero.

A few hints:

- Write out the story ahead of time.
- Use additional sheets if you need more panels.
- Draw your comic lightly in pencil first. Once you're satisfied, you can go over what you've drawn in marker or pencil crayons.
- Draw your speech and thought balloons lightly too. You can trace or cut out the ones below.



Title of your comic

Your name

Date

--	--

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Hugh Burnett

Hugh Burnett was born in Canada and was a carpenter in Dresden, Ontario.

Before World War II, in Dresden and some other parts of Canada, businesses were allowed to discriminate and refuse to serve people they didn't want to. Some businesses chose not to serve Black people and other people of colour.

Hugh Burnett returned to Dresden after leaving the military in World War II. In his military uniform he went to Kay's Café for a coffee with his friends. But the owner would not serve him.



Angry that Blacks were fighting their country and for freedom in Europe, but they don't have human rights at home, he began to fight discrimination in Dresden. He formed the National Unity Association to organize the community and to ask the provincial government to change the law. Because of his efforts, the Government of Ontario passed legislation that protects all people from discrimination.

D H V M D A E C I O B H G B W E D C N K
A S R C I B R Y U I O U B G O G F A Q W
H K A Y S C A F E T S M I E R B J R C E
D E U T C C E E X E O A D D L I F P O D
F R L I R D R E S D E N S M D N D E M C
C E W N I C J U S T B C T P W S Y N M V
L R T U G N C R C U U B I A A P T T U F
A N T M H S T O O R R R U Y R I R E N R
W U G M T U R P E T N A T R I I E R I R
I V Y O S A U E I V E V F B I E O D T F
D I S C R I M I N A T I O N M D S E Y F
N Z S F I P K T O R T L H I C B V N R E

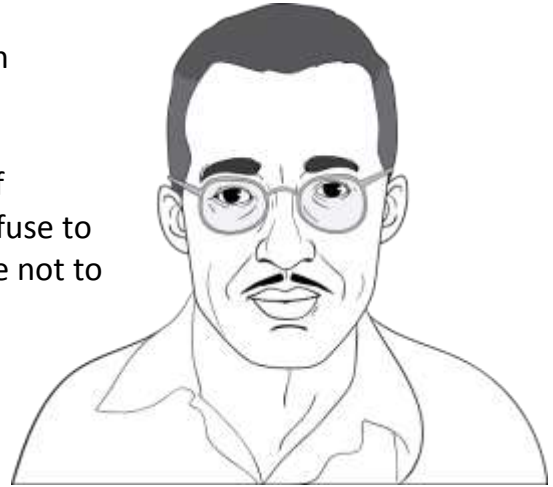
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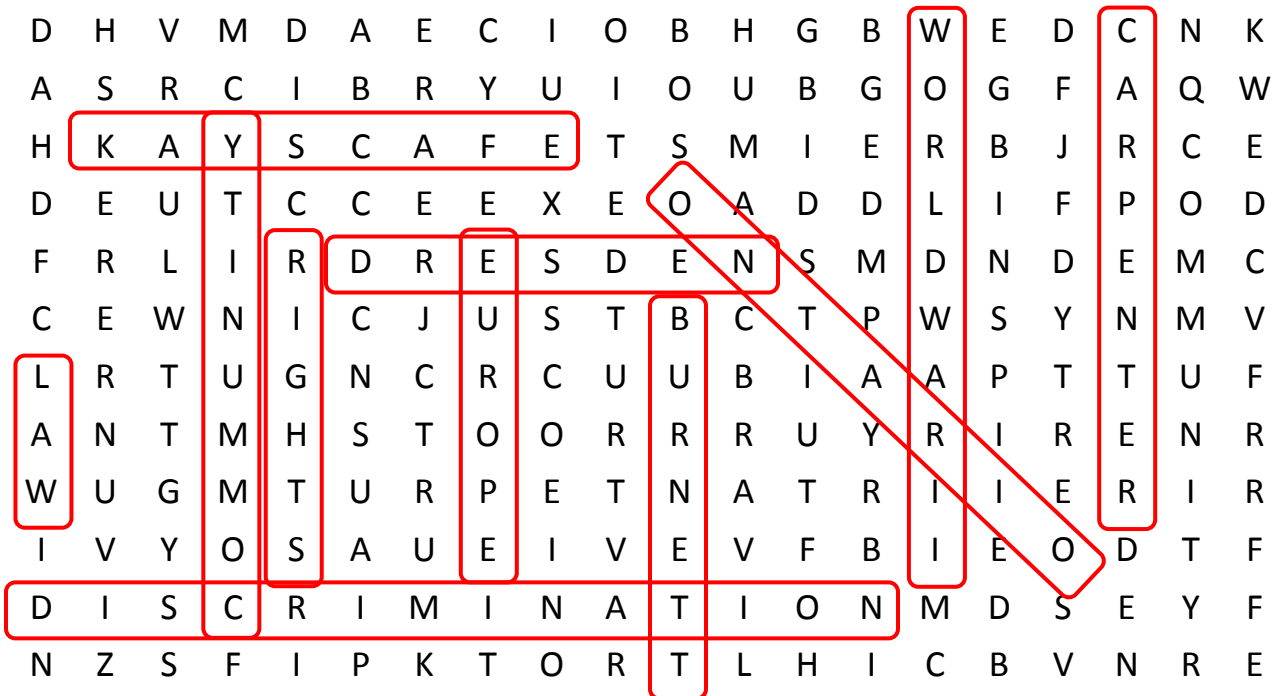
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CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Viola Desmond

In Nova Scotia in 1946, Viola Desmond went to the Roseland Theatre to see a movie. She wanted to sit downstairs so that so could see the movie screen better. But they sold her a ticket for a balcony seat. She didn't know that this theatre had segregated seating. The main floor seating was for White people and the balcony seats were for Black people.

The owner of the theatre called the police and had Viola Desmond arrested. She spent a night in jail. She was arrested and charged for not paying the one-cent tax on the main floor movie ticket. She was convicted for tax evasion by the judge. The real issue of segregation and discrimination were not addressed by the court.



In the newspaper, The Clarion, Carrie Best wrote about this discrimination. The community gave money to help Viola fight her conviction. With support from a community organization, NSAACP (Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People), she bravely fought her conviction in court. But she lost. Even though she lost her case, this case inspired others to fight for human rights and equal opportunities for all Canadians.

A S R C V B R Y U I O O B G F G F S Q W
H U M A N R I G H T S U I E V B J E C E
D E U R D C E E X E C A D D P I F G O D
F R L R F V I O L A D E S M O N D R M C
C E W I N C X A S T D C O P L S Y E M V
L R T E O N A E C U A B I T I P T G U F
A N T B V S L O O R B R U Y C I R A N R
R O S E L A N D T H E A T R E R E T I R
I V Y S A A U R I A W V F B N E D I T F
O A J T S C I N A E X E G V M D S O Y F
N Z S F D P K T O R Q L H I N S P N R E
F D E X G Y R X I H P Y J K L C X P O F

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

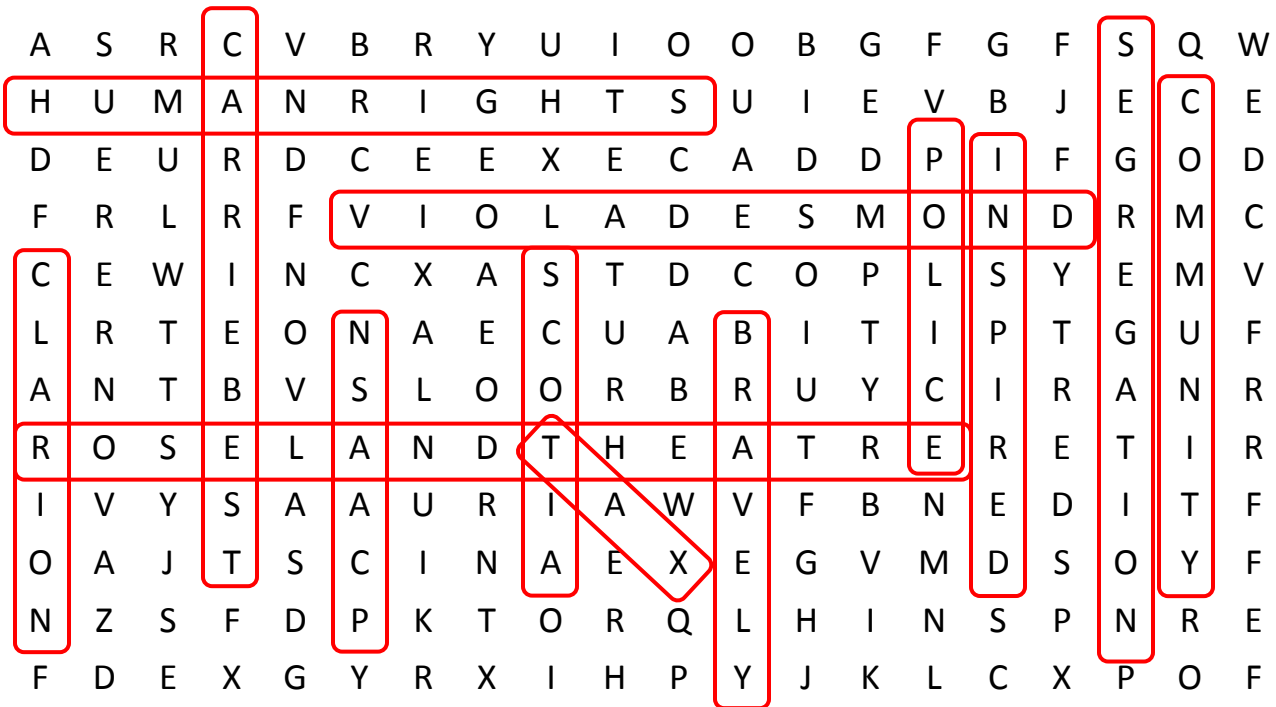
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CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Letter to the Editor: 1946

Imaging that you are living in 1946. You read in the newspaper that in Dresden, Ontario the owner of Kay's Café refused to serve Hugh Burnett because he is Black. The newspaper article says that it is legal for businesses to refuse to serve anyone they want, for whatever reason.

In the space below, write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Explain why you believe the law should be changed. Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Letter to the Editor: 1947

Imaging that you are living in 1947. You read in the newspaper that in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia the owner of the Roseland Theatre was making Black and White people sit in different parts of the movie theatre. The newspaper article says that it is legal for businesses to do this and that Viola Desmond, a Black woman, was arrested for sitting in the Whites-only section.

In the space below, write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Explain why you believe the law should be changed. Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Letter to the Editor: 1954

Imagine that you are living in 1954. You read in the newspaper that Donald Moore and a coalition of Black community leaders and others were going to Ottawa to meet with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The newspaper article says that Canada's immigration policy has a preference for immigrants from Europe and that the government doesn't want immigrants from other parts of the world, such as the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Middle East to come to Canada.

In the space below, write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Explain why you believe that Canada's immigration policy should be changed. Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion.

CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY HEROES

Comparing Past and Present Activists

Eve Ensler defines an activist as:

Someone who cannot help but fight for something. That person is not usually motivated by a need for power, or money, or fame, but in fact driven slightly mad by some injustice, some cruelty, some unfairness - So much so that he or she is compelled by some internal moral engine to act to make it better.

Use the "Blacks in Canadian Human Rights and Equity History" poster or the timeline (<http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/305051/Blacks-in-Canadian-Human-Rights-and-Equity-History/>) to research one of the individuals or groups named on the poster.

Compare and contrast that person or group with present day a present day activist or group. You can choose any individual or group, such as Occupy Wall Street / Toronto, Idle No More, Sierra Club, We Day, or someone in your local community.

Write an essay to compare and contrast these people or groups. You should cover all of these questions or points.

Describe the individuals or groups you've selected.

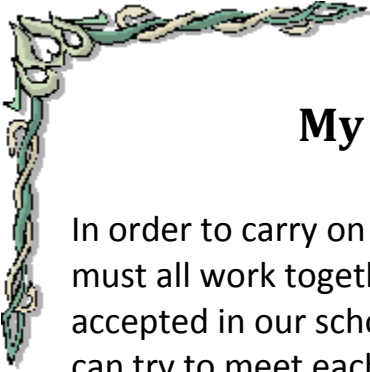
What are the injustices they wanted to change?

Describe their methods / tools for creating change or influencing decision makers.

What difficulties did they face? What, if anything, did they risk?

How are / were they viewed by society?

What has changed because of their activism (short-term versus long-term change)? Did they make all the changes they wanted?



My Human Rights and Equity Pledge

In order to carry on the legacy of the Human Rights and Equity Movement, we must all work together to make sure that every person feels welcome and accepted in our school and community. In the space below, list ways in which you can try to meet each goal.

I, _____, pledge to:

Treat everyone fairly and with respect.

Learn about people from other cultures and backgrounds.

Stand up to injustice and question rules or actions that are unfair.

Be open to new ideas and respect other people's opinions, even if I don't agree with them.

When we all work together, we can keep the spirit of Canada's Human Rights and Equity Movement alive and make the country a great place to live for all Canadians!

