

PRIDE IN POSTCARDS: 2SLGBTQ+ HISTORY

OVERVIEW:

In this lesson, students will engage with postcards describing significant moments in Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ history through group discussion. They will reflect on the impact of these events on 2SLGBTQ+ rights, societal attitudes, and their own lives. Students will then be encouraged to create their own postcards by researching other significant moments in 2SLGBTQ+ history.

OBJECTIVES:

- Reflect on the significance of moments in 2SLGBTQ+ history in the context of 2SLGBTQ+ rights and its relevance to contemporary issues and their own lives. Practice conducting research to gather information on a specific historical moment.
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SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Postcards
- Paper
- Pencils
- Colouring materials
- Computers or phones

INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW:

Consider arranging your student's desks in a circle or another formation appropriate for group discussion. You can choose to pass out the postcards to have the students view and read each postcard or present each postcard individually to the group before using the discussion questions below to encourage conversation and reflection. If you have a large group of students, consider splitting them into smaller discussion groups and assigning 1-2 postcards to each group. You can then have each group discuss their postcards with the relevant questions. Provide the groups at least 5-10 minutes per post card. Once they have discussed, provide an opportunity for each discussion group to share with the wider group what they discussed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Decriminalization of homosexuality – May 14, 1969

- If you could have a conversation with someone from the past who fought for the decriminalization of homosexuality, what questions would you want to ask them and why?
- Considering the progress made since decriminalization, what do you envision for the future of 2SLGBTQ+ rights in Canada? What issues still need to be addressed?

First Gay Rights Protest – August 28, 1971

- How do you think the sense of community among participants in the protest contributed to the strength of the movement? What role does community play in activism today?
- Why do you think visibility and
- representation are important in the
- fight for rights? How might the 1971
- protest have helped in this regard?

First openly gay member of Canadian parliament – February 29, 1988

- How important is representation in government for marginalized communities? In what ways do you think having openly 2SLGBTQ+ leaders can influence policies and societal attitudes?
- How do you think intersectionality (e.g., race, gender, socioeconomic status) plays a role in the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ politicians? What can be done to ensure diverse voices are represented?



Decriminalization of homosexuality – May 14, 1969



1971 First Gay Rights Protest – August 28, 1971

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Two Spirit (niizh manidoowag) is coined – July 27, 1990

- What challenges do you think Two Spirit individuals have faced historically and continue to face today? How can society better support their rights and recognition?
- How has colonialism impacted the understanding and acceptance of Two Spirit identities?
- What steps can be taken to decolonize perceptions of gender and sexuality?

Same-sex couple marry in Canada – June 10, 2003

- Why do you think that same-sex marriage rights were an important issue for the 2SLGBTQ+ community?
- How do you think the ability to marry has impacted family dynamics and relationships within the 2SLGBTQ+ community?
- In what ways do you think the visibility of same-sex marriages has influenced representation in media and culture?

Canada's first Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan launched

- Did you know about this action plan?
- What areas of focus do you think the action plan should address?
- What were your initial thoughts or feelings upon learning about the action plan?
- What goals or changes would you like to see as a result of this action plan?

ACTIVITY:

Consider arranging your student's desks in a circle or another formation appropriate for group discussion. You can choose to pass out the postcards to have the students view and read each postcard or present each postcard individually to the group before using the discussion questions below to encourage conversation and reflection. If you have a large group of students, consider splitting them into smaller discussion groups and assigning 1-2 postcards to each group. You can then have each group discuss their postcards with the relevant questions. Provide the groups at least 5-10 minutes per post card. Once they have discussed, provide an opportunity for each discussion group to share with the wider group what they discussed.

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RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING

Two-Spirit Identity: Navigating My Journey of Reclamation & Reconnection

<https://itgetsbettercanada.org/2024/09/24/two-spirit/>

The Road to Banning Conversion Therapy in Canada

<https://itgetsbettercanada.org/2021/12/17/road-to-victory/>

The ArQuives: 1971 We Demand March

<https://digitalexhibitions.arquives.ca/exhibits/show/1971-we-demand-march/introduction>

REFERENCES

Decriminalization of Homosexuality - May 14, 1969

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/the-1969-amendment-and-the-de-criminalization-of-homosexuality>

<https://xtramagazine.com/power/the-decriminalization-of-homosexuality-20785>

1971 First Gay Rights Protest - August 28, 1971

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/we-demand>

<https://www.cbc.ca/arts/we-demand-50-years-after-our-first-major-rights-rally-this-is-what-queer-canadians-say-we-need-today-1.6152754>

First openly gay member of canadian parliament - February 29, 1988

<https://inmagazine.ca/2023/02/flashback-svend-robinson-becomes-canadas-first-member-of-parliament-to-come-out-as-gay-february-29-1988/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/svend-robinson-gay-mp-1.4548089>

Two Spirit (niizh manidoowag) is coined - July 27, 1990

<https://humanrights.ca/story/what-two-spirit-part-one-origins>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/two-spirit>

<https://cphs.ca/anniversary-of-the-adoption-of-the-two-spirit-term/>

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REFERENCES

Same-sex Couple Marry in Ontario – June 10, 2003

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/same-sex-marriage-in-canada>

<https://www.cbc.ca/newsinteractives/features/same-sex-marriage-canada-lgbtq>

Canada's first Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan launched

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/free-to-be-me/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan-2022.html>

<https://egale.ca/egale-in-action/egale-canadas-response-to-the-federal-2slgbtqi-action-plan/>

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