

1981 TORONTO BATHHOUSE RAIDS

(20-30 minute session)

Grade: 5 to 8

Learning Outcomes & Lesson Focus

Students will:

- Identify what the 1981 Toronto Bathhouse Raids were and its significance to Pride
- Identify what the Operation Soap raids were

Lesson Focus

As a result of the learning activities within this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify what the 1981 Toronto Bathhouse Raids were
- Identify the term/event Operation Soap in relation to the 1981 Toronto Bathhouse Raids



Resources

Lesson Materials/Supplies

- Internet access for students to research history and events

Audiovisual

- "Operation Soap: The police raids that targeted Toronto's queer community in the 1980's" YouTube clip

Print/Publications

- Links to Manitoba Curriculum - Kindergarten to Grade 8 - Physical Education/Health Education - Human Sexuality
- https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/phys_hlth/hs_k-8/
- Manitoba Teachers' Society: @2LGBTQIA Lesson Plans - <https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2018/04/17/lgbtq-lesson-plans/>
- *** CPHS Pride organization resources, if available, can be the primary resource for any research being completed by the students

Notes to Teacher

The use of the term Pride, even outside the context of Gay Pride or the LGBTQ2+ (GSRD) communities, is sensitive due to its connection with religious or other beliefs. It will likely be necessary to acknowledge that there are both positive and negative connotations to the term pride. It might be necessary to provide lead-in knowledge to the students which introduces that discrimination and harm has taken place based on who people "love" or "are attracted to".

Acronyms

- LGBTQ2+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, 2-Spirit
- GSRD: Gender, Sexual, and Relationship Diversity
 - There are many versions of acronyms for this community with letters being added, removed, or reordered based on who is being represented and how. There is no perfect or authorized version for use in education, rather, being aware of any local cultural sensitivities can assist in utilizing culturally competent language.

The discussion of the events behind the Toronto Bathhouse Raids may be sensitive and raise negative emotions and feelings. The topic of "bathhouses" may be sensitive to students and will have to be treated with caution. It may be necessary to discuss these emotions and address the issues that the Toronto Bathhouse Raids posed, not just legally but also emotionally/morally. It may also be necessary to preface the YouTube clip by discussing some of the sensitive scenes that students will see. The "contributions" and "significance" of the Toronto Bathhouse Raids might not always appear positive but served as a catalyst for positive change. Sensitivity will be needed in navigating discussion on these topics.



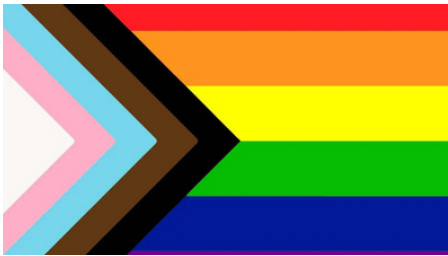
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Suggestions for Instruction

- Begin with a sensitive and open discussion around what bathhouses were/are
- Explain to students what “Operation Soap” was—on February 5th, 1981, four bathhouses in downtown Toronto were violently surprised by a series of coordinated raids. Police battered down doors and placed men in handcuffs indiscriminately, humiliating and degrading everyone in their wake—many of whom were still firmly in the closet and trying to survive in the oppressively homophobic social climate of 1981
- Explain to students that the modern gay rights movement in Canada emerged after the raids and relate this as a significance
- Pull up a map of Toronto on the internet to show students where the four downtown Toronto bathhouses were (The Barracks, The Club, Richmond Street Health Emporium, Roman II Health and Recreation Spa)



Suggestions for Assessment

Observation

Teacher Assessment: Checklist

Observe whether the student is able to identify what the 1981 Toronto Bathhouse Raids were and its significance to Pride and GSRD rights in Canada

Yes

No

