

Google Arts & Culture

Beyond the Rainbow: Milestones in the Pride Movement

in association with  sixredmarbles

Replica of the original eight-color rainbow flag design, Art and Artifacts Collection, GLBT Historical Society

How to Make the Most of This Lesson

This lesson serves as a **roadmap** for your journey through a rich and exciting collection of online content made available by **Google Arts & Culture's partners**. You will explore photographs, slideshows, voice recordings, and more. The images in this lesson are just a sample of what's available to you via the **Google Arts & Culture** website.

You can complete this lesson independently or with fellow students, a teacher, or another adult. The content is geared toward students 16–18. **Note: Some of the linked content in this lesson is intended for more mature audiences.**

Your journey in this lesson will take you through three major topics:

Chapter 1: The Birth of a Movement

Chapter 2: The Colors of the Rainbow

Chapter 3: Pride Around the World

You'll see some helpful signs along the way:



Estimated time for completing the chapter



Audio recording or video



Link to more online content



Learning activity

Tools for Learning

Below are tools for learning that you may need for Digital Discovery lessons:



A device that connects to the Internet (a computer or tablet)



A tool for writing your responses and big ideas (pen, pencil, computer, etc.)



Art supplies (markers, crayons, paint)



Scissors



A notebook



Scrap paper

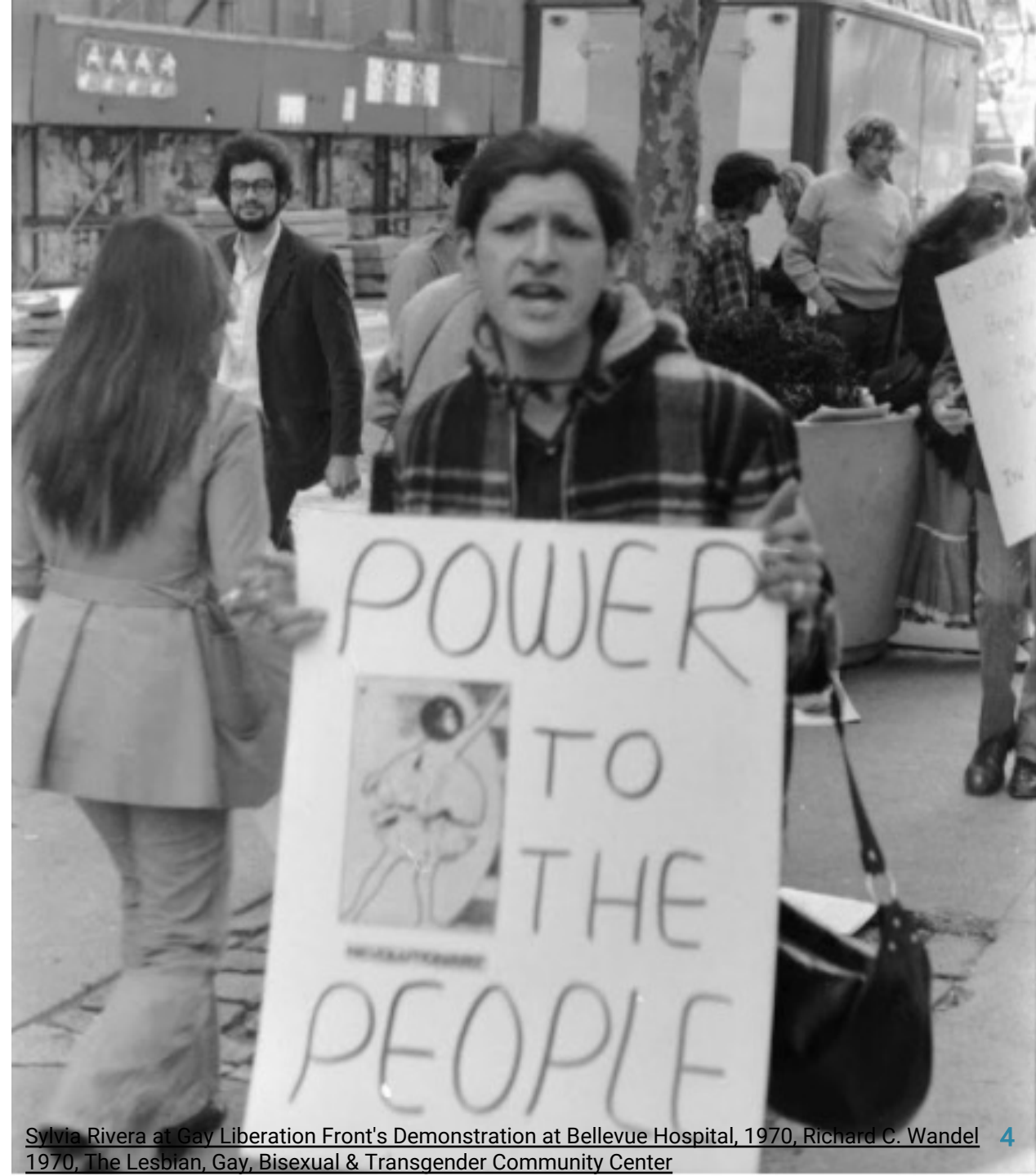
Explore! Google Arts & Culture pictures are **big**. If you want to explore a picture in greater detail, click on the magnifying glass symbol and zoom in with the zoom slider. By dragging the white box around, you can see even **tiny** details.

Welcome to *Beyond the Rainbow: Milestones in the Pride Movement*

For many people, the idea of government legislating what kind of clothes you can wear and who you can date may seem like a shocking relic from ancient history. Not so long ago, however, this was the case in many countries, including the United States. It continues to be true in many of the world's nations. In this lesson, you'll learn about the launch of Pride and how it is celebrated in many places across the globe.

What Will You Do?

1. Discover pivotal events in the development of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement.
2. Learn about the origins of the rainbow flag and how it spurred other Pride symbols.
3. See how early events in the LGBTQIA+ rights movement sparked demands for rights in other places.



Sylvia Rivera at Gay Liberation Front's Demonstration at Bellevue Hospital, 1970, Richard C. Wandel
1970, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

What's in this lesson?

1. Learn about the significance of Stonewall.
2. Hear participants in early events of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement talk about their experiences.
3. Find out how one artist created a symbol of Pride that spread worldwide.
4. See how people in different places around the world celebrate Pride and continue to push for change.

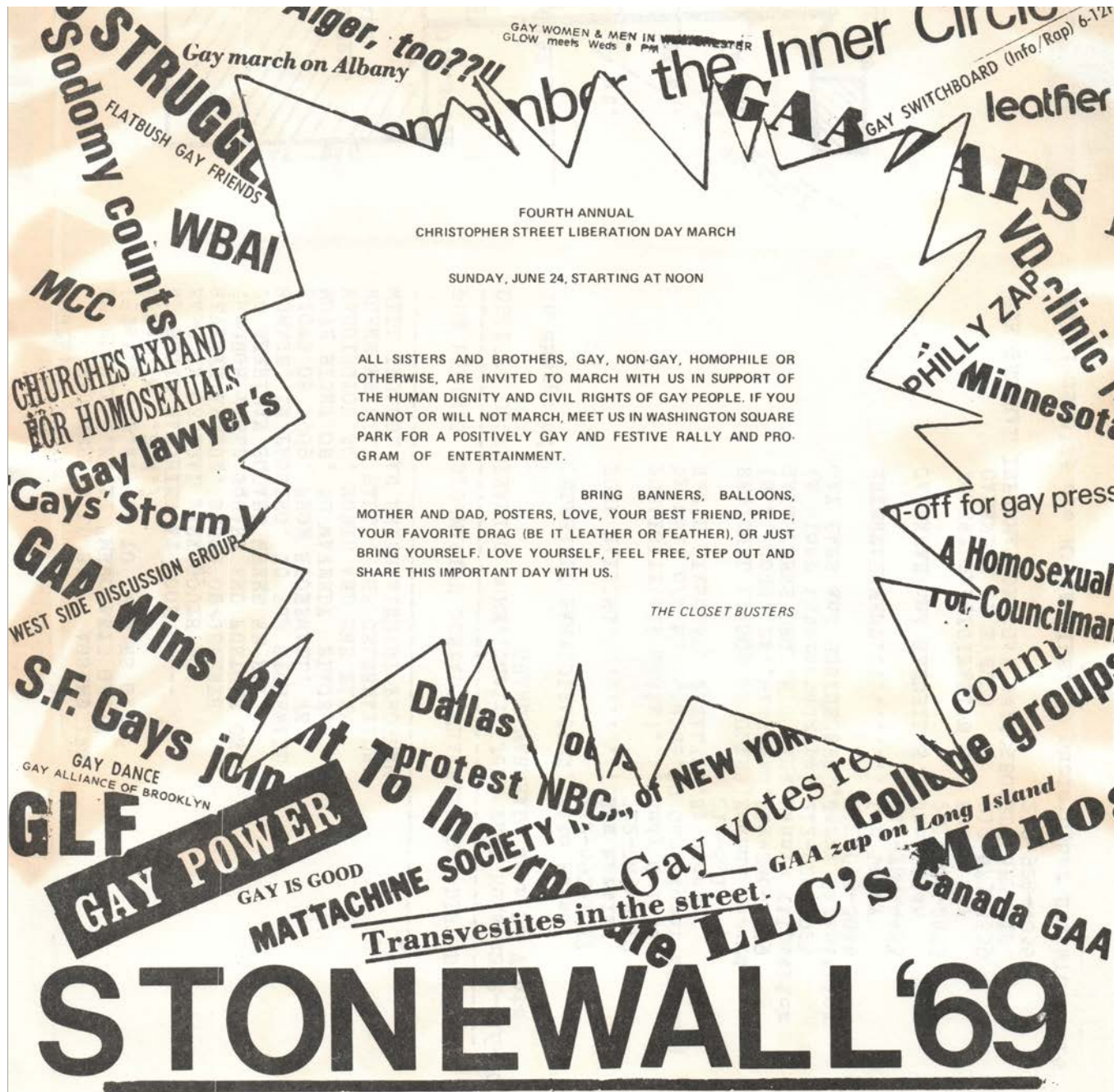
By participating in this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Describe how New York City played a role in the early LGBTQIA+ rights movement.
2. Understand the significance of the colors of the rainbow flag.
3. See why the LGBTQIA+ community and its supporters continue to push for change.

Vocabulary

LGBTQIA+, queer, Stonewall, Christopher Street Liberation Day March, Pride March, Pride flag

Need help with some of these terms? See the glossary at the end of this lesson.



The Birth of a Movement



What is this chapter about?

The early years of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement



How long will this chapter take?

1 hour

Chapter 1: Warming Up

Before you explore, answer the questions below in your notebook.

Consider

1. Why do some people fear those they see as different from themselves? How is this fear sometimes expressed?

Discover

2. Think about what sparks a movement for change. Answer these questions:

- What challenges are being faced?
- What do people consider to be basic human rights?



Early Pioneers in the LGBTQIA+ Movement

Throughout history, members of the **LGBTQIA+** community have faced persecution around the world. Laws discriminating against those who identify as LGBTQIA+ are commonplace. In the United States, these laws didn't change until somewhat recently.

In New York City, for example, laws prior to the 1970s prohibited the wearing of "gendered" clothing by the opposite gender. Bars were banned from selling alcohol to homosexuals because homosexuals were said to be "disorderly." In addition, in most major cities, including New York, it was against the law for homosexuals to approach one another romantically. They were often harassed or arrested by police for violating these discriminatory laws. During the 1950s and 1960s, several groups began to fight for their civil rights. Many participated in peaceful protests. Some rebelled in other ways.



Hear Melissa Sklarz talk about the effect a news story had on her childhood and identity [here](#).

The Mattachine Society organized around the fight for gay rights. The society published this journal from 1955 to 1967.

Mattachine Review; No 2 (Mar-Apr 1955), Mattachine Society 1955, GLBT Historical Society



The Sip-In

One early protest was organized by Dick Leitsch, a leader of New York's Mattachine Society. The Mattachine Society was formed in southern California in the 1950s as a gay social justice group. In April 1966, Leitsch and two friends visited a local bar, Julius', in Greenwich Village, a New York City neighborhood. The men announced they were gay to the bartender, who then declined to serve them. The group filed a complaint with the New York Human Rights Commission, which forced the Liquor Authority to stop enforcing the regulation.



[Dick Leitsch](#)

"Little did we know that the Sip-In would have such an impact o[n] the civil rights for the LGBT community."

--Dick Leitsch



Hear Leitsch talk about the Sip-In [here](#).



Hear Leitsch talk about early resistance by Mattachine [here](#).

Targeted Discrimination

Queers often gathered at LGBTQIA+-friendly bars, where they were less likely to be publicly harassed. However, police targeted these establishments, looking for violations of any sort. Police often accepted bribes in exchange for not enforcing the discriminatory laws.



Learn about early activism and the birth of the Pride March [here](#).



Bar Patrons Standing Outside, Leonard Fink, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center



The Stonewall Riots

It was thus no surprise when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969. The bar was located on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. Several raids on other places had recently been carried out. At the Stonewall, police arrested workers for selling liquor without a license. They also arrested several of the bar's patrons for violating the gendered-clothing law. According to some historians, arrests were made because bribes weren't paid.

Usually when the raids happened, bystanders scattered. But not this time. The people outside the bar began to fight back, pushing the police and throwing bottles. The police shut themselves inside the bar and called for backup. Around 400 people outside the bar continued to riot.



Learn more about Stonewall and other early events of the early LGBTQIA+ movement in [this story](#).



Take an in-depth look at the events of Stonewall [here](#).

Hear how Stonewall became a national monument in [this video](#).

See sites in Greenwich Village on this [walking tour](#).

New Groups Form to Fight for Change

The Stonewall protests continued for five days, uniting LGBTQIA+ communities into one movement for change. [Stonewall](#) became a symbol of resistance against constant discrimination. New groups such as the Gay Liberation Front and the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) formed to lobby publicly for LGBTQIA+ rights. S.T.A.R. was co-founded by Marsha P. Johnson, an American gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. Johnson played a prominent role in the Stonewall uprising and was a popular figure in New York's LGBTQIA+ community.



Police forcibly drag a demonstrator from a Gay Activists Alliance protest on Long Island in 1971.



Learn about a march held in the New York state capital of Albany in [this exhibit](#).

The Pride March

In 1970, on the first anniversary of Stonewall, protesters organized the **Christopher Street Liberation Day March**.

The western end of Christopher Street in the Village was a gathering place for the LGBTQIA+ community. What is now known simply as the **Pride March** became an annual tradition that continues today.



View the history of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement through the camera lens of activist Rich Wandel in [this exhibit](#).



First Christopher Street Liberation Day March, 1970, Leonard Fink 1970-06-28, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

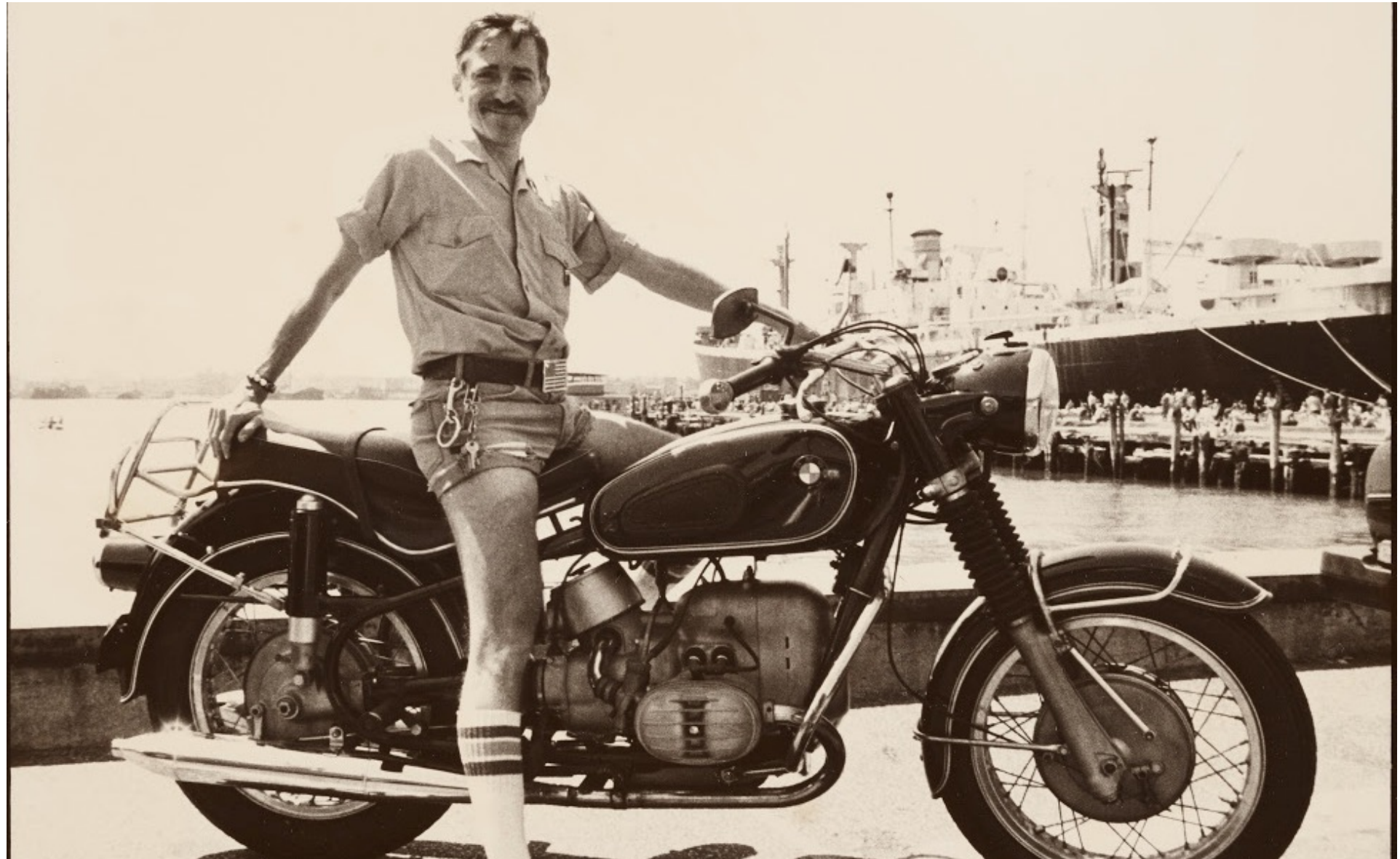
Documenting the Evolution of Pride in New York

Much of the history of the movement's birth in New York City was documented by photographer Leonard Fink. His photographs—including this one and those on pages 10 and 13—captured the blossoming of gay liberation. Fink attended the annual Pride parade for years and built an enormous collection of images.



Learn more about Fink [here](#).

See Fink's images of bars [here](#), and of New York piers, a gathering place for gay men, [here](#).



Leonard Fink on Motorcycle, Leonard Fink, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

Chapter 1: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the questions below.



- What challenges did the LGBTQIA+ community face before Stonewall?
- How did Stonewall lead to change?



Harvey Milk Mural 2020

Chapter 2:

The Colors of the Rainbow



What is this chapter about?
Symbols of Pride



How long will this chapter take?
1 hour

This mural of late political activist and gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk was painted by Paraguayan artist Oz Montania in 2018. The bullhorn reads: "Hope Will Never Be Silent."

Chapter 2: Warming Up

Before you explore, answer the questions in your notebook.

Consider

1. Think about the significance of flags around the world.
 - Why do people create flags?
 - What kinds of things do flags represent?



Discover

2. Why do you think the artist who created the original Pride flag used a rainbow as a symbol? Explain your answer.

The Original Rainbow Flag

You probably already know that the rainbow flag is an icon of the LGBTQIA+ community, but you may not be familiar with its history. The original **Pride flag** dates to 1978. It was created by San Francisco artist, activist, and drag queen Gilbert Baker. Baker had been tasked by San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Harvey Milk and others with creating a new, vivid symbol of the movement.

Baker and a group of friends dyed and hand-stitched the fabric of the first flags. The flags were raised at the San Francisco United Nations Plaza during the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade on June 25, 1978. Baker said about his creation:

"I thought of flags in a new light. I discovered the depth of their power, their transcendent, transformational quality. I thought of the emotional connection they hold."



Harvey Milk was a vocal and powerful advocate for gay rights. He gave a rousing speech at the 1978 Gay Freedom Day parade, the day the flags were raised. Learn more about Milk in [this story](#).



The two original eight-color rainbow flags flying at United Nations Plaza during San Francisco Gay Freedom Day, 1978 Mark Rennie, GLBT Historical Society



Baker's original flag design had eight colors, each of which Baker had given a symbolic meaning. For the 1979 Gay Freedom Day parade, the pink stripe was dropped because of difficulty finding flag fabric in hot pink, and the turquoise stripe was eliminated at the same time so that there would be an even number of stripes. The resulting six-color flag is still a commonly used Pride flag.



Read more about the Pride flag [here](#) and [here](#).



For New York City Pride in 1994, Baker created a mile-long rainbow flag that was carried down First Avenue in Manhattan.

About his choice of the rainbow as a symbol, Baker said:

"A Rainbow Flag was a conscious choice, natural and necessary. The rainbow came from earliest recorded history as a symbol of hope."



Find out more about the art of Gilbert Baker [here](#) and [here](#).

New Symbols of Pride

Over time, flags were developed for more specific demographics. In 2017, for example, the city of Philadelphia flew a Pride flag created to recognize the inclusion of people of color in the LGBTQIA+ community. This flag added black and brown stripes to the original six colors.



A frequently used flag today is the [Inclusion flag](#), which added the Trans colors of white, baby blue, and pink.

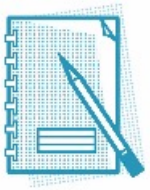
Find out about other symbols of Pride [here](#) and [here](#).



C.d. Kirven with the Trans Pride flag while Get Equal flies the Bisexual & Rainbow Pride flags

Chapter 2: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the questions below in your notebook.



In this chapter, you've read Gilbert Baker's words about his creation of the rainbow flag, and you've seen the image of the mile-long flag created for the New York City march.

- How does that flag reflect the progress made in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in the United States?
- What kind of work might still need to be done in this effort?



Parada do Orgulho LGBT Manuela d'Ávila

Chapter 3:

Pride Around the World



What is this chapter about?

A sampling of Pride around the world



How long will this chapter take?

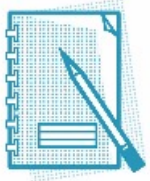
1 hour

Chapter 3: Warming Up

Before you explore, answer the questions in your notebook.

Consider

1. What types of events might cause a nations' citizens to launch a movement for change?



Discover

2. Why might some places still limit the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community?

New York City's Pride Parade Tradition

Around the globe, Pride parades are the main gathering for—and for many, the first contact with—the LGBTQIA+ community. Born to celebrate the riots in Stonewall, the New York City parade plays an important role in promoting the values and defending the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. As you read earlier, the New York Pride March has been going strong since Stonewall.



Pride March 2014, Lester Echem, The Center



Check out the first 15 years of the Pride parade in New York in [this exhibit](#).

Pride in Brazil

The world's largest Pride parade is in Brazil. This parade began in São Paulo in 1997 with only a few hundred attendees. Today, millions participate to support the rights and safety of the LGBTQIA+ community in Brazil.



Learn more about this parade and its participants in [this story](#).

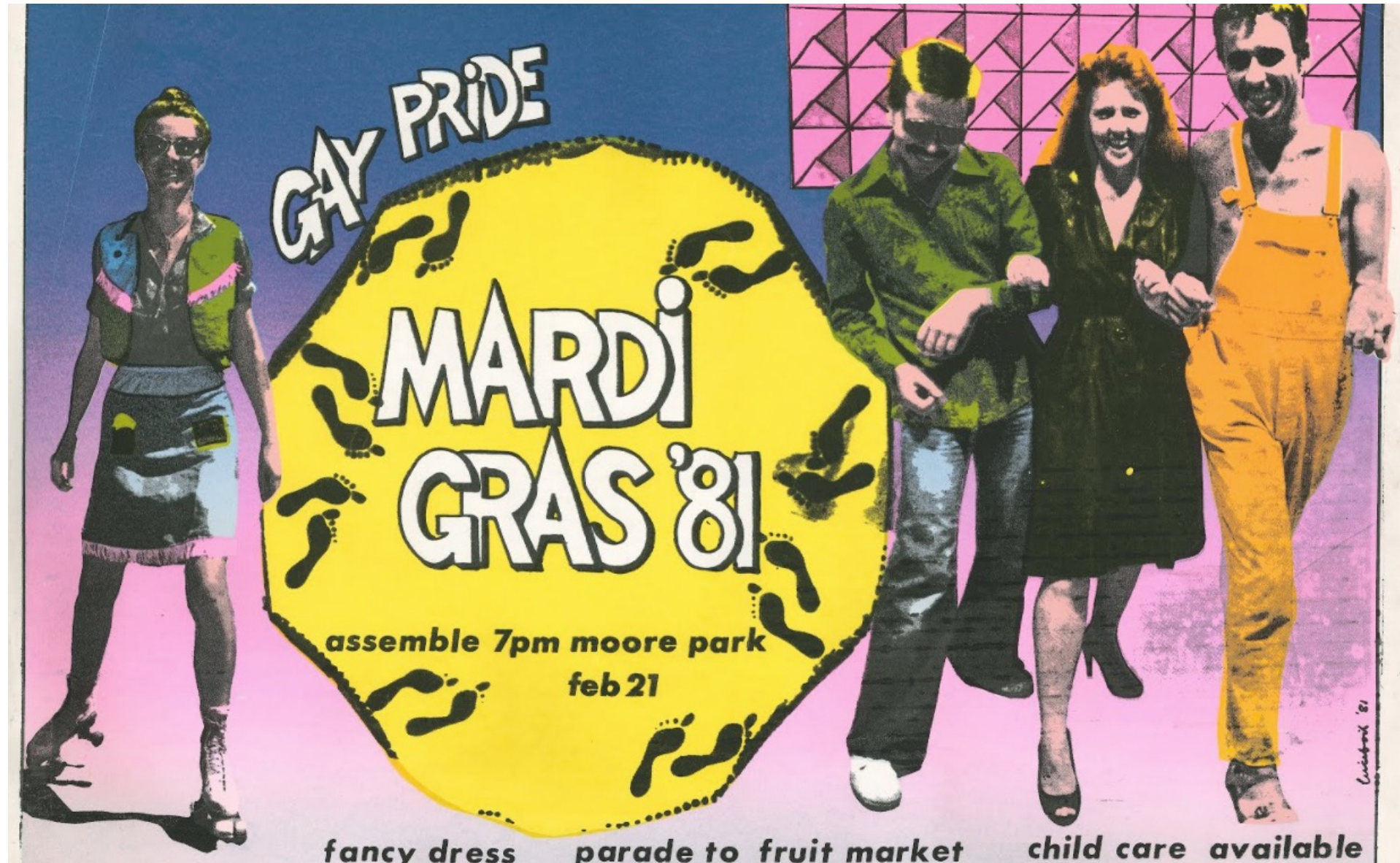


Fighting Oppression in Australia

In 1978, members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Sydney decided to protest discriminatory laws. They planned a Mardi Gras street festival. Participants in the festival were arrested and jailed. Some lost their jobs after being “outed.” However, this only spurred the community to take further action—“out of the closet and into the streets” became a guiding motto. Sydney’s Mardi Gras tradition has continued for more than 40 years.



Check out [this timeline](#) of the history of Sydney’s Mardi Gras.



1981 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Poster, Sheona White, courtesy Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives1981, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

Marching in Solidarity for Those Who Can't

Around the world, the desire for change continues to burn brightly for people in the LGBTQIA+ community. Homosexuality remains illegal in many countries today. While marches are joyous celebrations, they are also a call for justice for those who still face bigotry and persecution. Activists continue to speak out, even when they face punishment.



LGBT activists hang the flag on the Maria Konopnicka monument in Krakow during the Polish Stonewall, 2020, Franciszek Vetulani

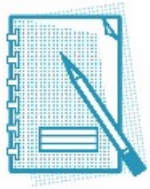


To see a story about Pride flags used in protest, click [here](#).

To learn more about milestones in the LGBTQIA+ rights movement worldwide, check out [this story](#).

Chapter 3: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the question below.



- What worldwide milestones in the LBTGQIA+ movement did you learn about in this chapter?

Digital Learning in Action

So, what did you learn? Read the questions and complete the learning activities below to extend your learning based on what you just experienced.



Reflect Answer these questions:

- What impact did Stonewall have on the LGBTQIA+ rights movement in the United States?
- How did the rainbow flag become a Pride symbol?
- How is Pride celebrated in Sydney, Australia?



Summarize: Describe the importance of the Pride March and the rainbow flag to the LGBTQIA+ rights movement. Why do you think these symbols are significant to the community?



Create: What rights issues do you support, LGBTQIA+ related or otherwise? How do you show your support? Make a list of the significant details regarding these issues. Then, create a symbol for justice related to your cause. What kind of symbol will you use? How will it grab people's attention and inspire them to support your cause?

Glossary

- **Christopher Street Liberation Day March:** parade organized on the one-year anniversary of Stonewall that eventually became the annual Pride March in New York City
- **LGBTQIA+:** acronym that is an inclusive term that stands for lesbian (relationship between two women), gay (relationship between two men), bisexual (relationships with both sexes), trans (relating to a person whose sense of identity and gender doesn't correspond with their birth sex), queer (a member of the LGBTQIA+ community), intersex (someone who is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that isn't strictly "female" or "male"), asexual (one who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others), plus (inclusive reference to other groups not covered by these terms)
- **Pride flag:** rainbow flag designed by artist Gilbert Baker as a symbol of Pride
- **Pride March:** parade that concludes the month-long June celebration of LGBTQIA+ identity in the United States and other countries
- **queer:** an umbrella term for anyone who is not straight or cisgender (someone whose gender identity and expression matches the sex they were assigned at birth); also used by those who reject all labels, especially labels for gender and sexual orientation
- **Stonewall:** riots that began in June 1969 after a police raid on the Stonewall Inn bar during which arrests were made of patrons who violated the gendered-clothing law; became a symbol that helped unite LGBTQIA+ groups into a rights movement