

1971 WE DEMAND RALLY

(20-30 minute session)

Grade: 5 to 8

Learning Outcomes & Lesson Focus

Students will:

- Identify what the 1971 We Demand Rally was and its significance to Pride
- Identify what changes resulted from the 1971 We Demand Rally
- Identify what some of the demands were

Lesson Focus

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

- Describe what the 1971 We Demand Rally was and its significance to Pride
- Describe some of the 10 demands and changes that resulted

Resources

Lesson Materials/Supplies

- Internet access for students to research history and events
- List of 10 demands

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 We Demand Rally may be sensitive and raise negative emotions and feelings. It may be necessary to discuss these emotions and address the issues that the We Demand Rally posed, not just legally but also emotionally/morally, specifically regarding the 10 demands.



1971 WE DEMAND RALLY

(20-30 minute session)

Grade: 5 to 8

Suggestions for Instruction

- Describe to students what the 1971 We Demand Rally was—a 13-page document that called for changes to discriminatory federal laws and policies concerning gays, bisexuals, and lesbians in Canada
- Describe to students the 10 demands that were called for by activists
- Explain to students the process of the rally—on August 28th, 1971, activists and supporters assembled on Parliament Hill to publicize the We Demand brief
- Ask the students what their feelings are towards the specific demands requested; Do they feel shocked and saddened that these simple rights have to be demanded? Do they agree with these demands?



Suggestions for Assessment

Paper and Pencil Task

Teacher Assessment: Inventory

Have students list as many changes/demands from the 1971 We Demand Rally as possible

Suggested Criterion

The student is able to list at least 8 of these demands

Yes

No

