

# Celebrating Pride Month: LGBTQIA+ Arts and Sciences

## Resources overview

Our mission is to provide rigorous, engaging and joyful lessons for learners to explore LGBTQIA+ arts and culture. We will provide a variety of readings, resources, and activities for different topics including music, film and television, and visual art within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Please note that resources, which may include Newsela articles, videos from various content providers, or external activities will be hyperlinked in the activities.

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## This week's focus

From music to visual art to film to drag shows, LGBTQIA+ artists have influenced American culture in countless ways. They've also forged their own subcultures and artistic movements when mainstream American culture has not been welcoming. Today, mainstream American culture and LGBTQIA+ culture are often one and the same, as more and more LGBTQIA+ artists find mainstream support for their creative pursuits. At the same time, LGBTQIA+ individuals have addressed scientific queries in areas such as medicine, engineering, and physics. They have pushed through barriers and made great strides in scientific fields. In these articles and lessons, you will learn about some significant figures and works of LGBTQIA+ arts and sciences, and explore how they've left their mark on America.

# Lesson 1: Music

## 1 Introduce

First, think about whether you have ever felt a personal connection with a song or a musician. Spend a few minutes writing about why that was. Then, consider how much of your reasoning was because you related to the artist's identity and experiences.

Next, choose one or more songs to listen to or to view: [Scissor Sisters - Take Your Mama](#); [Frank Ocean - Forrest Gump](#); [Haley Kiyoko - Girls Like Girls](#); [King Princess - 1950](#). As you watch or listen, think about the questions: How is this artist representing their experience as a queer person? What might be the significance to queer listeners?

## 2 Read and Learn

Read about [Ma Rainey](#), [Lil Nas X](#), or other [LGBTQIA+ musicians](#).

As you read, highlight details showing how the LGBTQIA+ artists influence music and culture. Choose a second color to highlight details explaining the significance of their art for the larger LGBTQIA+ community. Choose a third color to highlight any barriers they face being accepted into mainstream music culture. Make at least 2-3 annotations drawing connections to other LGBTQIA+ experiences you've learned about.

## 3 Discuss

Teach your peers about the article you read and what you learned about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ musicians today and in history.

## 4 Create

Musician Research Project! Research a musician who identifies as LGBTQIA+ and prepare a presentation or poster on them. In your presentation, be sure to analyze the significance of their identities in their art. Some artists to choose from (there are many others beyond this list): Ma Rainey; Lil Nas X; Troye Sivan; Janelle Monae; Kevin Abstract; Haley Kiyoko; Kehlani; Blood Orange; Frank Ocean; Demi Lovato; King Princess; Le1f; Princess Nokia; Queen; The Village People; Shea Diamond

# Lesson 2: Movies and Television

## 1 Introduce

What are your favorite movies or TV shows? What identities are represented in those shows? Do you think they do a good job of exploring the experiences of all different people, including people with diverse gender identities and sexualities? Spend 5 minutes jotting down a response to the previous questions.

## 2 Read and Learn

Read about [Steven Universe](#). As you read, highlight details that help you answer the following questions: How do these stories break new ground in LGBTQIA+ representation? And, what is the value of having LGBTQIA+ people produce and star in films about LGBTQIA+ stories?

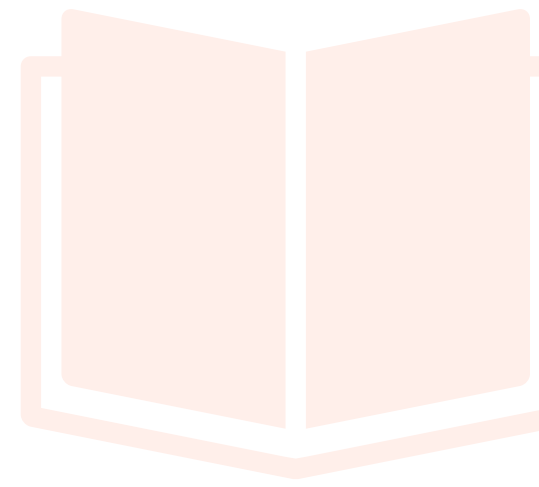
## 3 Discuss

As a class, discuss the themes that were present in both stories, namely, the value of LGBTQIA+ creators representing LGBTQIA+ stories on screen.

## 4 Create

Analyzing representation - Research and analyze a television series or movie that represents LGBTQIA+ characters. Watch the series or movie and take notes on the characterization of LGBTQIA+ people. Consider how many LGBTQIA+ characters there are, what characteristics are attributed to them, and what roles they play in the stories. Then, research whether LGBTQIA+ people were involved in the writing, directing, producing, and acting, and write up an analysis on the likely impact of having queer people involved versus not having them involved in creating the content.

For an extension, compare different portrayals, one that had LGBTQIA+ people involved in the content creation, and one that did not.



# Lesson 3: Visual Art

## 1 Introduce

Art Analysis: Take a look at two artistic works of the following artists: [Beauford Delaney](#) and [Keith Haring](#). For each piece, write down what you see in the art (shapes, colors, figures, etc), what you think about the art (do they like it? what does it make them feel?), and what you wonder about the artist or the context of the piece.

## 2 Read and Learn

Read about [Keith Haring](#), [David Wojnarowicz](#), [Beauford Delaney](#), and/or [Frida Kahlo](#). As you read, highlight details that show why the art or artist was significant. Also highlight any information about the art or artist's impact on the LGBTQIA+ community. Write one annotation at the bottom of the article summarizing in your own words, "What is the legacy of this art or artist in American culture?"

## 3 Discuss

Which of the artists included in the set do you think would consider themselves activists? Why or why not? Is it possible for them to have a role in advancing LGBTQIA+ rights, even if they do not consider themselves an activist working towards those rights?

## 4 Create

Develop a One-Pager representing one of the artists you read about. Your One-Pager should include a creative title, important quotes/ideas, at least 4 visuals and 8 facts/ideas, and a reflection or personal connection. Be sure to highlight examples of the artist's work and write blurbs about each piece's significance, and include information about the artist's relationship with the LGBTQIA+ community.

# Lesson 4: Authors/Writers

## 1 Introduce

What is the importance of written word? As you consider the question think about books, poems, short stories, articles, or other piece of written word that has had meaning to you. What made it impactful? What emotion did it invoke and why?

Next, read [“swimming in pool-scented skies”: A poem by Isabella Ramírez](#). After reading write down what you think was the meaning of the poem, how the poem made you feel, and what the poem made you think about. Then, consider, how can this poem be meaningful or significant to you or others.

## 2 Read and Learn

Read about authors [James Baldwin](#) and [Audre Lorde](#). As you read, highlight background information about the LGBTQIA+ author. In a second color, highlight their work and accomplishments. In a third color, highlight details explaining the significance and impact of their work.

## 3 Discuss

Discuss the following questions with a partner and determine what you would like to share with the class.

- What was the significance and impact of these authors’ literary works? Why were they impactful?
- What intersectionality do you see within their work?
- How do you think their identity affected their work?
- Do you think their accomplishments and work had an impact on the LGBTQIA+ community in the past and/or present? Why?

## 4 Create

Write your own poem! Consider what you discussed about identity, intersectionality, and the impacts of literary work. Then, create a poem that explains the significance and impact the written word. Try to use information from at least one of the articles in your poem.