

LGBTQIA+ Studies

Supporting Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Law

Why Now?

The Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Law (House Bill 246 (Public Act 101-0227)) took effect in July 2020, making Illinois the fifth state in the nation requiring public schools to include instruction and adopt instructional materials that accurately portray the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

Why Newsela?

With the dedicated resources in our LGBTQIA+ Collection and our constantly updating stream of vetted, real-world content, we can help teachers bring inclusive curriculum into their classrooms with engaging, thoughtful lessons that give students a more accurate, complete, and equitable picture of American society and provides LGBTQ+ students the opportunity to see themselves represented in history.



ILLINOIS LESSON EXAMPLE

House of Henry Gerber declared national landmark



HIGHLIGHTS:

Helps students make connections to the past

Content in the LGBTQIA+ Collection is organized around six themes: gender identity and sexuality, understanding intersectionality, marginalization, a history of the gay rights movement in the US, cultural influences of the LGBTQIA+ community, and taking informed action.

Differentiates content for ALL learners

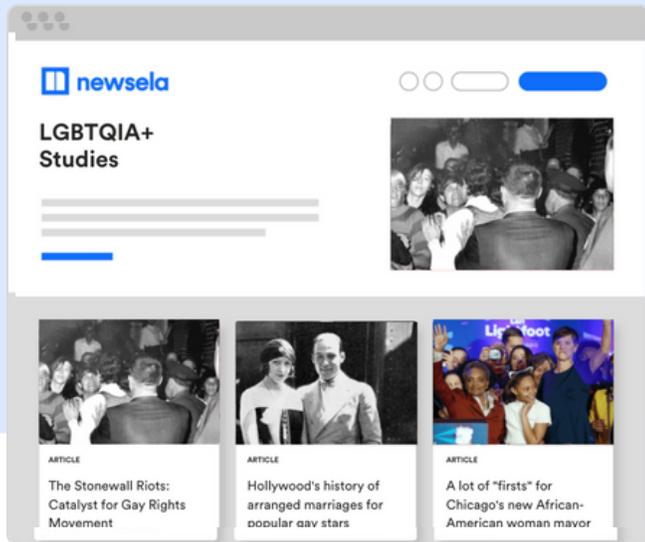
Articles engage ALL students with each text published at five reading levels.

Provides instructional supports and lesson ideas for every text

Each unit in the LGBTQIA+ Collection comes with resources to help teachers support students foster rich understanding of LGBTQIA+ history and host insightful discussions and investigations into every facet of the study.

Instructional supports for each article

Help teachers expand students' learning experience and engagement

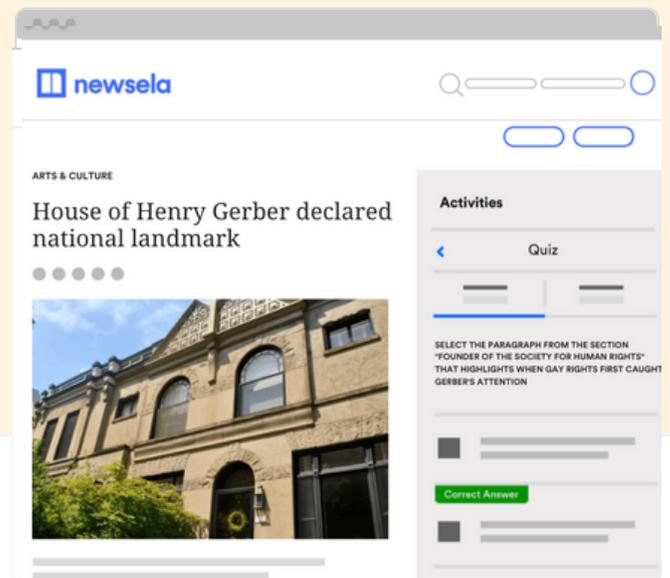


Curations, Lessons, and Customizations

Teachers can use Newsela to teach to the standards and priorities of their school and district. Create custom activities, search for content by standard, curate Text Sets, and control the reading levels students see.

Quizzes, Writing Prompts, and Assignments

Teachers can create and share customizable assignments and give students access to reading comprehension quizzes, customizable writing prompts, and annotations.



LGBTQIA+ Studies in Illinois

In the Newsela LGBTQIA+ Collection, you will find resources aligned to the Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Law (House Bill 246 - Public Act 101-0227). Signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker on Aug. 9, 2019, the law mandates that by the time students finish eighth grade, public schools must teach them about contributions to state and U.S. history made by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Additional resources you can find in the Newsela Social Studies Collection include

- C3 Inquiries: U.S. History- LGBTQ+ Rights Movement
- A Mile in Our Shoes: People Who Are LGBTQ+
- Celebrating Pride Month

Below are example topics and articles from the collection.

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Celebrating Pride Month: What Does it Mean to be LGBTQIA+?

Students learn the basics of gender and sexuality, and explore how people of various identities have forged community throughout time, in the face of both external and internal marginalization.



ARTS

The ABC's of LGBTQIA+



ARTS & CULTURE

X and Y chromosomes alone do not determine gender, scientists learn



RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Gender, sex and sexuality explained

Celebrating Pride Month: LGBTQIA+ Victories Over the Last 10 Years

Students learn about cultural and legal victories for the LGBTQIA+ community in the past 10 years, and examine how they came to be won.



LAW

Supreme Court rulings that have shaped LGBTQIA+ rights in America



LAW

LGBTQIA+ activists on what progress looks like 6 years after same-sex marriage ruling



KIDS

Teens say it is time for a modern gender-neutral prom

Example Lesson Spark for LGBTQIA+

Lesson Guide: LGBTQIA+ Subcultures

Overview

Describe the LGBTQIA+ subcultures that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s

Lesson Sequence

Introduce

Journal Response: Direct students to take 5 to 10 minutes to write a response to the prompt:

- How can popular culture both celebrate and discourage people from expressing their true identities? How does shaming people for who they are cause harm to individuals and society?

Once students have taken some time to reflect in writing, ask for volunteers to share their ideas with the class. Explain that in the 1920s, members of the LGBTQIA+ community were both inspired to express their identities as well as silenced for doing so. Talk about the word “subculture” as a way in which like-minded people can come together apart from the dominant culture.

Explore

Assign students to read 2 of the articles in the Instructional Set, using the following reading instructions:

- As you read, select a color to highlight the ways in which the 1920s and 1930s represented a time of progress for LGBTQIA+ people. Using a second color, highlight examples of setbacks for LGBTQIA+ people in the 1920s and 1930s.

Check for Understanding

Connect Extend Challenge: Allow time for students to work with partners who read different articles in the Instructional Set. They should organize text evidence with the following questions:

- How do these texts connect to other aspects of life in the 1920s?
- How do the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in the 1920s and 1930s extend your understanding of society and culture at the time?
- How do these texts challenge your understanding of culture in the 1920s and 1930s? What new questions do these texts provoke?

Allow time for groups to share one idea from each column with the class. Then make a list of questions that remain and help students navigate and research unanswered questions.

Formative Assessment

Custom Write Prompt: How did LGBTQIA+ people carve out spaces for themselves in the 1920s and 1930s? In what ways did this period represent a period of progress and discrimination? Make connections to the texts, and refer to the Write Prompt Rubric as you compose your response.

Reflection

Exit Ticket: Offer students 2 options for their reflection.

Option 1: In what ways did stereotypes affect LGBTQIA+ people in the 1920s?

Option 2: How can we better support justice for LGBTQIA+ people in today’s world?

ARTICLE
Arts & Culture

House of Henry Gerber declared national landmark

By The Chicago Tribune, adapted by Newsela staff Published: 11/07/2019 Word Count: 484
Recommended for: Middle School - High School Text Level: 9



Caption

Henry Gerber's house in Chicago was declared a national landmark in 2015. Henry Gerber founded the first gay rights organization in the United States. This made his house the second national landmark for LGBTQ history, after the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Photo from: Wikimedia Commons/Elise Rolle

Henry Gerber, a prominent gay rights activist, once lived on Chicago's North Side. Recently, his former home was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The Henry Gerber House in the Old Town Triangle neighborhood in 2015 became only the second LGBT-related property in the country to receive the recognition. The iconic Stonewall Inn in New York City is the other building listed primarily for its impact in LGBT history, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 1969, Stonewall was the site of an uprising in protest of police harassment at gay gathering places.

The tribute came in the midst of Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month, celebrated every year in June.

Carrie Barnett, board president of the Gerber Hart Library and Archives, said the spotlight on Gerber and his home helps to fill in the historical narrative of the gay rights movement. The library in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood is named for Gerber and Pearl M. Hart, an attorney who also fought for the rights of gays and lesbians.

"We know how important it is for people who come after us to know our stories and know what was going on then," Barnett said. "We're just excited that more people can learn about Henry Gerber, imagine how it was to live then and how lucky we are to live now."

Police Raided Gerber's Apartment

Gerber, originally from Germany, came to the United States in 1913. He became interested in gay rights while stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army in the 1920s and learned about the gay liberation movement in his native country, according to the Gerber Hart Library and Archives.

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Not long after moving to Chicago and working for the post office, Gerber founded the Society for Human Rights in 1924, listing his residence at 1710 N. Crilly Court as its headquarters. Its members held lectures there and published a newsletter, Friendship and Freedom, in hopes of influencing the discourse about LGBT people.

But the institution proved short-lived, according to the library. Underscoring the hostile sentiments toward LGBT people at the time, police raided the apartment of a society member after his wife reported the man's involvement, then raided Gerber's apartment and confiscated all materials dealing with his organization and the typewriter he used to produce his publications.

The group disbanded in July 1925, less than eight months after incorporation. Gerber was brought to trial three times before a judge finally dismissed the charges. He then was fired from the postal service and moved to New York to resume serving in the Army.

Gerber continued advocating for gay rights. He died in 1972, about a decade after Illinois struck down laws that had essentially banned sexual contact between between gay men.

The Gerber House is constructed primarily of brick and masonry in the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture, according to the landmark status application with the National Park Service.



Newsela's content is published daily from trusted and vetted sources at 5 different reading levels. Teachers can find a wide range of Social Studies and SEL resources to support instruction supporting Illinois curriculum mandates.



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