The Black Panther Party in Portland

Liz Organ | Katie Riley | Will Stevens | Daniel Yogi

Warm-Up

(5-10 minutes)

Partner up into pairs of two! Tell your partner about where you're from or a favorite place of yours, describing it in as much detail as you'd like! Share any facts or history about the location too! Switch afterwards

(Build up comfort in sharing as well as good active listening skills)

Eell

headed by Kent Ford, meeting together and studying the writings of Malcolm X, to learn and discuss the issues in the country.

Later, in June 1969, a member of the study group was beaten and jailed. This led to Kent Ford publicly pronouncing his refusal for the group to stand idle, the famous phrase of "If they keep coming in with these fascist tactics, we're going to defend ourselves." He later would establish an unofficial chapter of the Black Panther Party stationed in Portland, which would be ratified officially later that year. The first of four total locations was opened.

The Portland Panthers would start programs like the Children's Breakfast Program and free Health Clinics, providing aid and support to their community in a time of need. Despite this, the BPP was declared a "threat to national security" by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, leading to many Panthers being either killed or incarcerated, many of whom still remain imprisoned to this day.

Classroom Activity

(~50 minutes) For the main classroom activity, we have included 3 options. Each activity will take about fifty minutes.

Option 1 - Location Hunt

You probably wouldn't know the history of a building just by looking at it, especially if it deliberately isn't being shared. The Black Panther Party had a huge impact across Portland; however, a lot of their accomplishments were often swept under the rug by historians and reporters. Today, it can be difficult to find information about the Party if you aren't actively looking for it. This activity practices using research skills and critical analysis to find reliable information about the Black Panther Party's impact in Portland.

Part 1-5 minutes

Divide the class into small groups (2-4 students each, depending on the size of the class). You can do this simply by counting off, or with another quick activity. Assign each group one of the following locations.

Each location was referenced in the *Walking through Portland with a Panther: All Power!* At first glance, what do they know about these locations?

Part 2-25 minutes

Using online resources, each group will research the black history attached to the location. This link briefly mentions the history of the Black Panther Party, and then discusses many of the locations on this list. Consider giving this article to the students first to get an idea of keywords to search for, then allow them to find sources on their own and/or provide them with the links at the end of this document.

Part 3- 10 minutes

After each group has finished, pair up the small groups to reflect on and compare their research. When pairing up the small groups, consider grouping the locations by similarity or difference. For example, pair up groups with the health clinics together. Because they have similar topics, these groups can directly compare their research. If they found different information, discuss the keywords they searched for and the credibility of the sites they used.

Part 4- 10 minutes

Finally, reconvene the class as a full group and discuss patterns and trials the Party encountered. How does the Black Panther Party connect to these locations? Are these locations still here? What might that say about progress battling disenfranchisement and displacement in Portland? If the class has learned about Black Panther Party chapters outside of Portland, how do the Portland chapter's actions compare to other cities?

Option



Part 2-10 minutes

Each student will interview the other about their chosen location— what do they know about the history of that place? If it's a building, what used to be there? What are the racial and class demographics of the area? Why are those the demographics of this area? Did anything else important happen — historically, personally — in that area? Why did they pick that location? Spend about five minutes on each student. During this time, students should make note of any gaps in their knowledge— at least three things they wish they knew about the history of their important place.

Part 3- 10 minutes

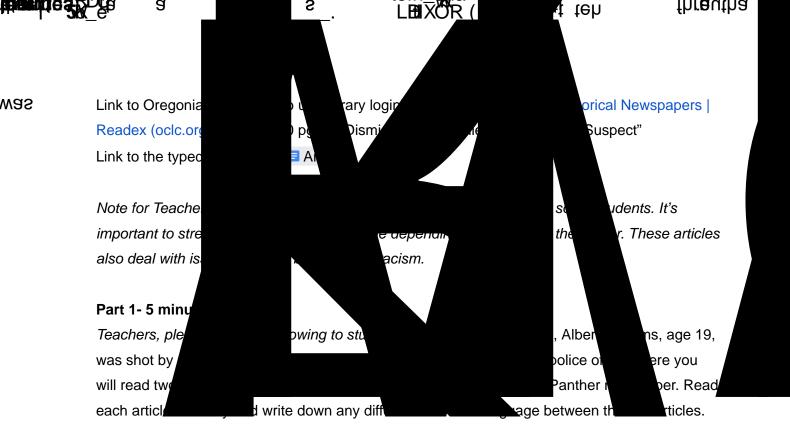
Students will then independently (or together, if they prefer) research the answers to these questions. Good places to start, such as demographic maps of regions or historical archives of local papers, are linked at the end of this document. As they do so, they should take note of 3 ways the history of this place (whether or not they knew it already) connects to their story.

Part 4- 10 minutes

Students should then spend a few minutes compiling their partner's notes on them, their research into the place, and their own story, and turn it into a short, 2 minute performance. The story should include some additional context gained from the research or discussion of the location, and the context should connect to the story in some way.

Part 5-10 minutes

Then, share the presentation with their partner one at a time. After both have gone, talk re oe with each other about how it went. Did this exercise change your relationship peap or lit



Part 2-5 minutes

In partners or small groups (ideally no more than 3), discuss what you noticed about the articles. Some sentence starters:

I noticed that this article used _____ when the other article did not.

I think the author did this because ____.

I believe that ____ because ____.

9 O **ŢĶĽs. Tek QinQui Sen 2ev (brí** <u>'t9</u>† **Que c3a (2) sec** 48Đ.p

I think this article was written from the perspective of someone who _____.

I think this because _____.

^{LA} ^{IIP} think this article was written with the intention



How do you find your news today? Do you read a specific publication or do you get it off of social media? How do you decide if a news source is reliable?

el d

Part 4-10 minutes

Self-reflection: Students will now be given ten minutes to write down their thoughts on this activity. Here are some questions to focus on:

Did you experience any shift in your biases today? What aspect of today's activity did you find challenging? Why do you think that was? Where did you experience success in today's discussion?

Manuel Copfield Comminutes

^{∧e}hee °i

al

Bring the class back together and have them share their answers with the whole class. This can be done multiple ways, either popcorn style which allows greater discussion or have each group share one idea with minimal discussion. Writing the ideas on the board can also be beneficial.

Supplemental Resources

Activity 1:

Locations in the script:

Albina neighborhood (displacement (Oregon History Project)

Highland United Church of Christ (Joy Christian Learning Center) (breakfast program (Oregon Hunger))

Vanport (Vanport flood (NPR), Vanport Mosaic archives)

Irving Park (Albina Riot (Oregon History Project))

Medical clinics: (New York University (importance of medical clinics))

Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic (Reed Magazine)

Emanuel Hospital (construction displaced Fred Hampton Clinic)

Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic (moved once)

Kaiser Dental Clinic (not mentioned in the script, but was the site of the second Malcolm

Play's Setting and Time:

Scene:

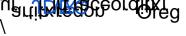
The streets of Albing of Neighborhood in the City of Portland regon. A bus bench and bus stop sign at the corner of North O Russel Street. Williams Ave. and

preacher, crooked as a barrel of snakes, but he let us serve our an lustoffentation at a minige a standard momental of the constant of the serve our edister latkanulai nulmer thang ar intra-provision was set of these and to common edverable our second commer was over content of the second of in the second by School of the second by School of the second sec

<u>Impional experientes i verseur i interniti de la construction de la construction de la construction de la const de la construction anamental de la construction de construction de la construction de construction de la cons</u>

And duri accordence and exception of the parage countries of the contract of the contract





hi What₄a h

á Äaceoi

Äaceord r

Activity 2

Demographic maps: Try starting with these, and research the information that you find. Why are people organized like this? What happened to the demographics that used to be on this land?

- 2020 census racial maps:

https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2566121a 73de463995ed2b2fd7ff6eb7

Nytimes Mapping Segregation:

perpta https://www.heiters.compartive/2015/07/08/us/census-race-map.html

- Native land maps: https://native-land.ca/

odation Redlining maps: https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58

Oregon records: Try looking up specific addresses, people, or businesses. What kind of information is recorded? Who isn't included? What used to happen at this address? What buildings used to be here?

State of Oregon historical records: https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records.aspx

Bibliography

"\$150,000 Bail Set for Slaying Subject." The Oregonian, 8 Oct. 1970, p. 62

"Albina Residents Picket the Portland Development Commission, 1973." Albina Residents Picket the Portland Development Commission, 1973, https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/albina-residents-picket-emanuelhospital/#.ZEdaTHbMLEY.

"Albina Riot, 1967." Albina Riot, 1967, https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/albina-riot-1967/#.ZEdVYnbMLE b.

"Black Panthers in Portland." The Oregon Encyclopedia, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/black_panthers_in_portland/.

College, Reed. "Radical Treatment." Reed Magazine, 1 Dec. 2009, https://www.reed.edu/reed-magazine/articles/2009/black-panthers-clinics.html.

Dowmap Kenya. "The Time Nature and Racism Teamed up to Wipe out a Whole Town." NPR, NPR, 空闭和a 2015, Ore Wit nd nhro20023 m s R, = https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/03/02/389482158/the-time-nature-and-racism-tea med-up-to-wipe-out-a-whole-town.

Ford, Kent. "Power to the People: Black Panther Legacy Tour of Albina - Led by Kent Ford, Founding Member." Vanport Mosaic.

Glenn, Don Wilson. "Walking Through Portland With A Panther: the Life of Mr. Kent Ford." 28 Mar. 2023, Portland, OR, Reed College.

Jules Boykoff, and Martha Gies. "We're Going to Defend Ourselves': The Portland Chapter of the Black Panther Party and the Local Media Response." Oregon Historical Quarterly, vol. 111, no. 3, 2010, p. 278., https://doi.org/10.5403/oregonhistq.111.3.0278.

 "Kent Ford (Activist)." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Jan. 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent_Ford_(activist).
 C ^(a) o d, c e
 d, d, e
 d, d, e
 d, d, e
 d, d, e
 <lid, e
 d, e
 d, e
 <lid, e
 "Portland Pigs Attempt to Murder Albert Williams." Black Panther, 10 Oct. 1970, p. 12.

Vanport Mosaic, and The Beauty Shop Studio. "The Living Archive." Vanport Mosaic, 28 Sept. 2020, https://www.vanportmosaic.org/the-living-archive.