

Making History: Primary Activity Pack

Diversity Role Models

LGBT+ History Month 2025

Building Inclusion Through Play



LGBT+
History
Month

Founded by:

**SCHOOLS
OUT**

LGBT+ History Month

What is LGBT+ History Month?

LGBT+ History Month is an annual celebration of the history, contributions, and struggles of LGBTQ+ people. It is a time to reflect on the LGBTQ+ community's achievements, the ongoing fight for equality, and the importance of LGBTQ+ rights.

Origin

Founded by *Schools OUT UK*, the first LGBT+ History Month in the UK was first celebrated in February 2005, two years after the repeal of Section 28. This law, which had been in effect since 1988, prohibited the "promotion of homosexuality" in schools and other public institutions. Since 2005, LGBT+ History Month has become a key moment in the academic year for education settings in the UK.

Aims

LGBT+ History Month in the UK was established with several key aims:

- **Celebrating LGBTQ+ people and their contributions** to various fields, such as the arts, politics, science, and culture.
- **Education and awareness** about the history, struggles and progress of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Visibility and support** for the community's continued efforts to combat prejudice and discrimination.

Themes:

Each year, LGBT+ History Month in the UK is organised around a specific theme that helps to focus the year's celebrations and educational activities.

The theme for 2025 is 'Activism and Social Change'

About This Pack

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This pack is designed for teachers and caregivers to support them in creating engaging activities for primary age children on diversity, inclusion and equality.

Planning your lesson(s)

The activities are designed to be run in a flexible way to allow them to be used as part of lessons or be adapted for use outside of formal education settings. The activities can form a series of sessions and can support schools with their PSHE and RSHE input.

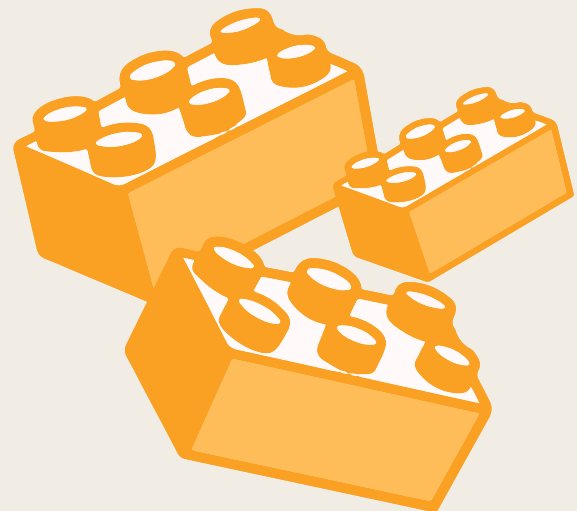
Resources

These activities use LEGO bricks. However, the activities can be adapted to use a range of materials and resources. See the section on adaptations for more information.

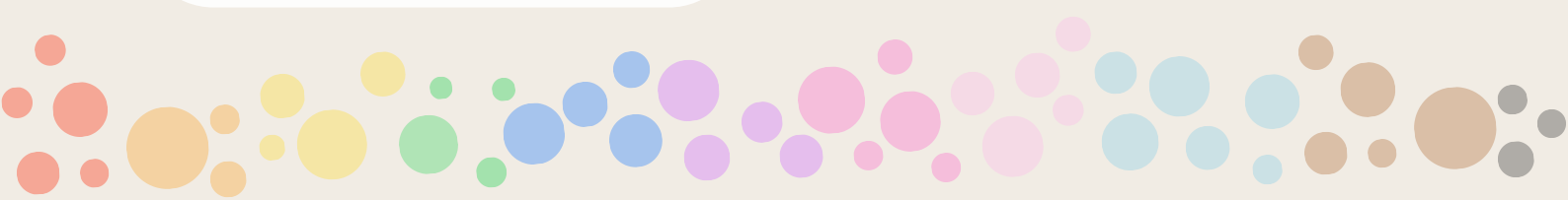
Activity videos

Teacher Video: This video is designed to explain to teachers how they can run the activity. Please assess the suitability of the activity for your class.

Classroom Video: This video is designed to be played directly to pupils. You can pause this video to explain the activity further. Please ensure you have watched the video yourself beforehand to ensure the activity is suitable for your group.



[▶ Watch all videos here](#)



Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 defines nine protected characteristics that are safeguarded from discrimination.

The nine protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Schools have a legal obligation to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations between people with these characteristics.

The activities in this pack help explore LGBTQ+ history but through the inclusion of an intersectional range of role models teachers can discuss a broad range of identities and perspectives.



Making History

Activity Objectives

- Children will recall important figures from and moments in LGBTQ+ history
- Children will analyse the role of important figures and moments in securing LGBTQ+ rights
- Children will develop communication and teamwork skills

Activity outline

- Recommended for Years 5 or 6
- This would work well as part of a lesson during LGBT+ History Month or Pride Month
- You will need printed descriptions of key people and events from LGBTQ+ history (see examples below)
- Pupils will need LEGO base plates and an assortment of LEGO Bricks and figures
- Pupils work in pairs or small groups, reading their description and coming up with initial ideas
- Pupils then have 20 minutes to build their creation
- Finally, pupils display their builds around the classroom and walk around, looking at and discussing what others have created
- Please see below for suggested adaptations, follow-up activities and key moments and people from LGBTQ+ history

Teacher Video

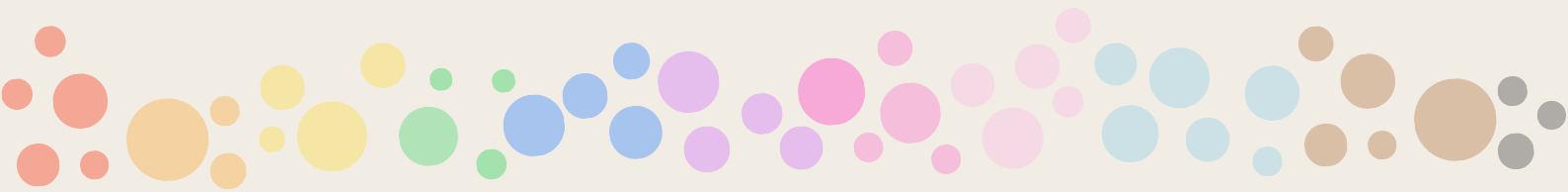
Use this video to understand how the activity works before running it in your class.

Classroom Video

Play this video in your lesson directly to students. Please watch the video yourself before hand.

 [Teacher video](#)

 [Classroom video](#)



LGBTQ+ Role Models From History

Alan Turing

Alan Turing was a British mathematician. During World War II Turing played a crucial role in cracking intercepted coded messages that enabled the Allies to defeat the Axis powers.

During Alan's lifetime it was illegal to be gay in the UK and Turing was prosecuted in 1952. He took his own life after undergoing medical interventions. In 2013 he was pardoned for this 'crime' and his face now appears on £50 bank notes.



Maureen Colquhoun

Maureen Colquhoun was the first openly lesbian Member of Parliament (MP), as well as the first openly LGBTQ+ MP. Maureen worked hard to improve life for women and LGBTQ+ people in the UK.

Before telling the public that she was a lesbian, a newspaper found out and printed the news against her wishes. Maureen said, "I am gay and proud of it. Being a lesbian has nothing whatsoever to do with my ability to do the job."



LGBTQ+ Role Models From History

Elton John

Elton John is a singer and pianist that has sold over 300 million records, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time.

Elton and his partner David Furnish were among the first couples in the UK to get a civil partnership. After equal marriage became legal in the UK the pair finally got to be officially married. Elton and David now have two sons.



Justin Fashanu

Justin Fashanu was Britain's first openly gay footballer. He became the country's most expensive black player with his £1m move to Nottingham Forest.

Justin stunned the football world when he told a newspaper he was gay, but after this he didn't receive much support and suffered homophobic bullying. This negatively affected his career. He is now celebrated in National Football Museum's Hall of Fame.



LGBTQ+ Role Models From History

Lady Phyll

Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, better known as Lady Phyll, is a British LGBTQ+ rights and anti-racism activist.

She started UK Black Pride. Lady Phyll created the event to celebrate LGBTQ+ people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent in the UK, as well as their friends and families. She is also the director of a charity, which works to improve the rights of LGBTQ+ people in countries around the world.



Stephen Whittle

Stephen is a transgender activist and Professor of Equalities Law in the School of Law at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Stephen has campaigned for equal rights for transgender people under the law. He helped win an important case where, for the first time anywhere in the world, transgender people were given legal protections in work or education for being transgender.



Follow-Up Discussions

Follow-up discussions and activities

After running this activity you could have the following discussions:

- Discuss how LGBTQ+ people may have felt at certain points in history e.g. before equal marriage, under Section 28. Our [Role Model Stories](#) feature great discussion ideas on this theme.
- Celebrate difference: discuss how everyone is unique and why it's important to accept and celebrate difference. How would it feel if we treated people badly because of their differences?
- Discuss same-sex adoption and marriage and different kinds of families. Explore how someone with same-sex parents may feel hearing homophobic language.
- Discuss some other LGBTQ+ inspirational people or events from history that made a positive impact such as Sally Ride (astronaut), Lyn Conway (Scientist) or Michael Cashman (Actor, LGBTQ+ Rights campaigner).
- Examine the importance of allyship between different groups, such as Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) during the miners' strike, and how they helped create unity and understanding.

You could also run the following activities:

- Create a timeline with the milestones featured on the next page. Cut out and distribute the version without years and ask children to put the events in order in small groups. Children can decorate or illustrate the events on an A3 sheet to bring the timeline to life.
- Ask pupils to write a letter to one of the figures featured in the activity, explaining what they have learned from their story.
- Design a commemorative football kit or ball to celebrate Justin Fashanu's contribution to football.
- Diversity Superhero: Have pupils design superheroes with powers such as "celebrates difference" or "stands up for everyone." Discuss how being different is a superpower.
- Come up with a placard or slogan to show support for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and plan a campaign for equality at your school.

Timeline Events

1967

The law changes and it is no longer a crime for two men to be in a relationship if they are over the age of 21 and not in the armed forces.

2000

The government ends its ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual people serving in the armed forces.

2004

Civil partnerships are introduced, allowing same sex couples to have similar rights to those a married couple.

1972

First Pride march is organised in the UK in London, attended by around 2,000 people.

2002

Same-sex couples are given the right to adopt children.

2004

The Gender Recognition Act allows transgender people to be legally recognised as their true gender.

1973

Maureen Colquhoun is the first Member of Parliament to come out as Lesbian.

2003

Section 28 is removed from the law, allowing schools to openly discuss LGBTQ+ identities.

2010

The Equality Act gives legal protection to LGBTQ+ people along side other characteristics such as race and disability.

1989

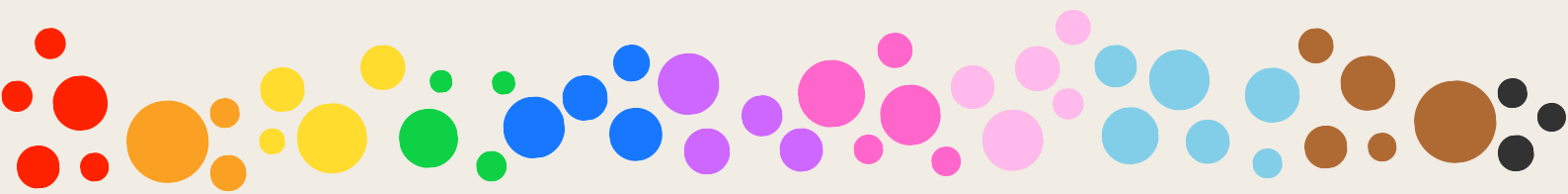
A law called Section 28 makes it illegal for schools to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities.

2021

First year census data is collected on sexual orientation and gender identity.

2013

Equal marriage is won, allowing same sex couples the right to get married.



Timeline Events - Without Dates

You could cut up the descriptions of these key events from the timetable, jumble them up and get pupils to order them, before exploring these landmark moments in further detail.

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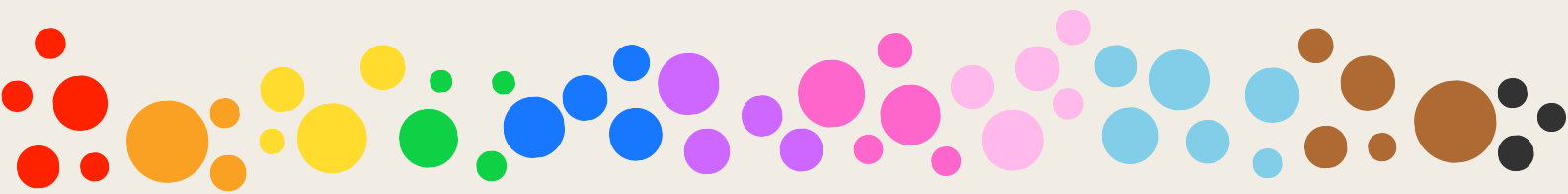
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Adapting

If you do not have LEGO bricks to hand you can easily adapt the activity:

- Use mini-whiteboards instead of bricks. Ask pupils to draw their scene rather than build it.
- Use a range of other craft materials to create a collage depicting their event or role model in small groups.
- Create a template of a cartoon strip and ask groups to create a cartoon of their event or role model.
- Working in groups, pupils can create a short drama scene showing their event or role model and use freeze frames, with other pupils asking questions to the characters.
- Use a computer to create a PowerPoint of the people or events.
- Use modelling play to create their scenes as opposed to bricks.

Role Model Stories

Diversity Role Models have a range of **Role Model Stories** available on our Vimeo on Demand.


Primary Role Model Stories: LGBTQ+ History and Rights


This resource helps you empower your pupils to be upstanders against prejudice and bullying through the personal stories of our volunteer Role Models together with a range of engaging activities and discussions. It's the perfect resource to mark LGBTQ+ History Month at your school.

Find Out More & [Watch Here](#)

Contact Details


Get in touch

 [Contact us via our website](#)

 Contact us via email at: education@diversityrolemodels.org


Find us online


 www.instagram.com/diversityrm


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