

## ELEMENTARY GRADES 2-5: FAIR ACT CRUCIAL THEMES AND TOPICS FOR REVISION

The report presents the following prominent topics by theme and grade level:

### Grade 2:

- LGBT families in the context of understanding family diversity as a contemporary and historical reality.

### Grade 4:

- Central roles played by gender and sexuality in California's history as a site of rich, contested, and changing diversity:
  - How settlers and missionaries sought to impose European American concepts of gender and sexuality on Native American societies.
  - Possibilities and motivations for same-sex intimacies and gender diversity in frontier conditions and the Gold Rush era.
  - The role of gender and sexuality in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century migrant belonging and policing.
  - The crucial place of California and Californians in the development of the modern LGBT rights movement.

### Grade 5:

- Variation over time, region, and culture in colonial American practices and laws with regard to gender and sexuality:
  - Native American gender and sexual diversity and European responses in the context of North American colonialism
  - Regional diversity in family and community arrangements, gender roles and possibilities, and approaches to sexuality in law and practice, with attention to Puritans, Quakers, Southern settlers, and enslaved Africans

### Example Lesson Topics:

- Grade 2: Study the stories of a very diverse collection of families, such as immigrant families, families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender parents and their children, families of color, step- and blended families, families headed by single parents, extended families, multi-generational families, families with disabled members, families from different religious traditions, and adoptive families.
- Grades 4 & 5: Teachers may also explore the ways in which Spanish missionaries worked to fundamentally alter Native Californian cultures by trying to eliminate gender and sexuality identities and practices among the Indians that Spanish felt were unacceptable.
- Grades 4 & 5: Students can also explore how the gender imbalance between women and men in California during the gold rush era allowed women who wished to participate in the gold rush to pass as men and led to a number of men to take on women's roles.
- Grades 4 & 5: Students may also read or listen to primary sources that both illustrate gender and relationship diversity and engage students' interest in the era, like Bret Harte's short story of "The Poet of Sierra Flat" (1873). Or newspaper articles about the life of the stagecoach driver Charley Parkhurst, who was born as a female but who lived as a male, and who drove stagecoach routes in northern and central California for almost 30 years.... Parkhurst was one of the most famous California drivers.
- Grades 4 & 5: Students can also study ... the emergence of the nation's first gay rights organizations in the 1950s. In the 1970s, California gay rights groups fought for the right of gay men and women to teach, and, in the 2000s, for their right to get married, culminating in the 2013 and 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Or the contributions of Harvey Milk, a New Yorker who was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977 as California's first openly gay public official.

### For Further Reading:

Patricia Polacco, *In Our Mothers' House*

Todd Parr, *The Family Book*

Cheryl Kilodavis, *My Princess Boy*

Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, *And Tango Makes Three*

Andrew Aldrich, *How My Family Came to Be: Daddy, Papa and Me*

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8: FAIR ACT CRUCIAL THEMES AND TOPICS FOR REVISION

The report presents the following prominent topics by theme and grade level:

### Grade 8:

- Fundamental transformations in gender and sexuality in conjunction with nineteenth-century urbanization and industrialization:
  - Same-sex romantic friendship as an accepted cultural practice resulting from the separate spheres ideology and shifting gender expectations for women and men.
  - Roles of gender and sexuality in the practice and struggles over slavery and emancipation.
  - Interlocking ways that gender, sexuality, and race shaped Western expansionism and the diverse possibilities it presented.
  - Evolving social and cultural expressions of intimacy between men and women (including same-sex relations) through urbanization and immigration.

### Example Lesson Topics:

- The American Indian wars, the creation of the reservation system, the development of federal Indian boarding schools, and the re-allotment of Native lands profoundly altered Native American social systems related to governance, family diversity, and gender diversity. Reading Chief Joseph's words of surrender to U.S. Army troops in 1877 helps students grasp the heroism and human tragedy that accompanied the conquest of this last frontier.
- Allotment entailed breaking up Native lands into privately held units (largely based on the Anglo-American model of the male-headed nuclear family), displacing elements of female and two-spirit authority traditionally respected in many tribal societies. Boarding schools in the late 19th and early 20th centuries took Native children from their parents for years at a time, imposing Christianity, U.S. gender binaries and social roles, and English-only education in an attempt to make them into what school administrators viewed as proper U.S. citizens.
- Students explore the role that race and gender played in constructing the enslaved as in need of civilization and thereby rationalizing slavery. Including the varied family structures they adopted and the centrality of sexual violence to the system of slavery. This culture included less restrictive norms around gender and sexuality that supported the formation of alternative family structures and same-sex relationships within enslaved communities.
- Explore the role and life of Quanqon, a Kutenai female-to-male person who assisted Europeans in their explorations of the Oregon Country.
- The rapid growth of cities in this period had important consequences for how people lived their lives. Immigrant and native-born women and men sometimes found themselves freer from family and community control. Socializing in public became the norm for working-class youth who had limited space where they lived, and the disparity between women's and men's wages gave rise to the practice of dating and "treating," with men expected to pay for female companionship. The rise of commercialized entertainment such as movies, amusement parks, and dance halls fostered easier interaction among strangers. Social interaction in public places facilitated intimacy between women and men and created new possibilities for same-sex intimacy.
- The poems, journals, and journalism of Walt Whitman give a vibrant sense of men's love for other men and male association across class divisions in an urban environment.

### For Further Reading:

Jerome Pohlen, *Gay and Lesbian History for Kids*

Vicki L. Eaklor, *Queer America: A People's GLBT History of the United States*

Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States*

Susan Stryker, *Transgender History*

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## HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12: FAIR ACT CRUCIAL THEMES AND TOPICS FOR REVISION

The report presents the following prominent topics by theme and grade level:

### Grade 11:

- The evolution of modern LGBT communities and identities:
  - Relationships formed in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century female worlds of settlement houses, women's colleges, and social movements.
  - Sexual and gender diversity in early twentieth-century cities and cultural movements, including the Harlem Renaissance.
  - The impact on approaches to same-sex sexuality, gender diversity, and cultural expression of 1920s changes in sexual and gender norms, including Prohibition, the rise of dating, and the emphasis on companionate marriage.
  - New possibilities in World War II for same-sex intimacy, community, and identity on the home front and abroad
  - The postwar creation of vibrant if persecuted LGBT subcultures.
  - The formation of open and expressive LGBT cultures and communities since the 1970s.
  - Contemporary diversity of LGBT people, families, and relationships.
- Twentieth-century persecution of sexual and gender minorities and the related growth of the LGBT civil rights movement:
  - The medicalization of homosexuality and gender diversity as pathological and the subsequent struggle against this perspective.
  - Systematic World War II attempts to eliminate gay men and lesbians from the military and the establishment of a regime of dishonorable discharge that denied many veterans their rights to benefits.
  - The Lavender Scare targeting gay men and lesbians, which developed in conjunction with the postwar Red Scare and exceeded its impact in both time and scope.
  - Homophile, gay liberation, and contemporary LGBT movements as part of the story of civil rights activism in the United States.
  - Anti-gay activism as part of the rise of the New Right - AIDS as a medical, political, and social issue in U.S. history.
  - Court cases about same-sex sexuality and gender diversity demonstrating changes in policies and public opinion over time.

### Example Lesson Topics:

- In the growing cities, young women and men who moved from farms and small towns to take up employment in factories, offices, and shops found themselves free from familial and community supervision in the urban environment. The more anonymous environment of cities also made space for men and women seeking relationships with someone of the same sex, including gender non-conforming men who were visible on city streets and on the stage.
- Young men serving abroad in WWI – particularly African-Americans and those interested in relationships with other men – found European ideas about race and sexuality very liberating.
- Students should explore important cultural and social elements of the “Jazz Age.” Women, who had just secured national suffrage with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, experienced new freedoms but also pressures to be “attractive” and sexual through the growing cosmetics and entertainment industries.
- LGBT life expanded in 1920s Harlem. At drag balls, rent parties, and speakeasies, rules about sexual and gendered behavior seemed more flexible for black and white Americans than in other parts of society, and many leading figures in the “Renaissance,” such as Hughes, Locke, Cullen, and Rainey, were lesbian, gay, or bisexual.
- WWII brought social changes to family and intimate life, as women took on new responsibilities and young women known as “Victory Girls” made themselves available to men in uniform in a spirit of adventure and patriotism.
- Students can see the contradiction between the image of domestic contentment and challenges to the sex and gender system through the publication of and responses to the [Kinsey Longitudinal Study](#) on male and female sexuality in 1948 and 1953; the publicity surrounding Christine Jorgensen, the “ex-G.I.” transformed into a “blonde beauty” through sex-reassignment surgery in 1952; the efforts of the medical profession to enforce proper marital heterosexuality; and the growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender cultures.
- The growth of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights movement, led to the pioneering role of gay politicians such as Elaine Noble (1974), and Harvey Milk (1977).

### For Further Reading:

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