FAIR Education Act: LGBTQ-Inclusive Lessons and Activities

Here is an example discussion YOU can have with your History teacher:

You: Hi Teacher! Did you know that California just passed a law called the FAIR Education Act?

Teacher: No I haven’t heard. Tell me more!

You: It’s really cool! It requires teachers to integrate factual information about LGBTQ people, issues and subjects into their lessons!

Teacher: That IS really cool! Too bad our state hasn’t passed a similar law.

You: Well, I was thinking, why should we wait to pass our own FAIR Education Act? Let’s start learning about ALL Americans in our History and Social Studies classes NOW!

Teacher: Wow! Great idea! But I don’t have any resources...

You: I totally understand. I know teachers work really hard and have limited time. Luckily I have this fabulous Resource List that I would like to share with you.

Teacher: Thank you! This is so helpful, and I’m excited to do my part to make sure that lessons are fair, accurate, inclusive and respectful!

FAVORITES: Here’s a GREAT place to start. You can’t go wrong these two resources!

Straightlaced: How Gender’s Got Us All Tied Up. The first feature-length documentary to explore how gender roles and expectations restrict the lives and growth of young people. groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/straightlaced

Unheard Voices. An oral history and curriculum project that will help educators integrate LGBT history, people and issues into their instructional programs.
www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/unheard-voices

Films: With Discussion Guides or Lesson Plans

All God’s Children
This presents a political, social, & religious analysis of sexual orientation within the context of the traditional African-American values of freedom, inclusion & the Christian ethic.
www.womanvision.org/all-gods-children.html
Bullied
This film tells the story of a school district that was taken to court for their inability to protect a bullied gay student. www.tolerance.org/bullied?newsletter=FB081910

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin
A tireless crusader for justice, a disciple of Gandhi, a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., and the architect of the legendary 1963 March on Washington, Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. frameline.org/youthinmotion/brotheroutsider.html#guides

Don’t Erase my History
A group of Bay Area youth take us on a quest for the very history that has “no name” in their schools. www.allyaction.org/s/341/allyaction.aspx?sid=341&gid=1&pgid=1051&

Gay Pioneers
Focuses on the first public protests for equal rights for gay and lesbian people. gaypioneers.com/index.cfm

In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents
A student-made film that explores the lives of five youths with one or more LGBTQ parents. www.colage.org/inmyshoes/

Not In Our Town Northern California: When Hate Happens Here
A look at five communities over a five-year period as they band together to fight back when a member of their community is a target of bigotry. www.theworkinggroup.org/orderatape.html#01

Out in the Silence: A Campaign for Fairness & Equality in Rural and Small Town America
Follows a small town ignited by controversy over the announcement of a same-sex marriage and the bullying of an LGBTQ teen. wpsu.org/outinthelapse/

Out of the Past
Told through the eyes of Kelli Peterson, a 17-year-old high school student in Salt Lake City, Utah, Out of the Past explores Kelli’s history-making experience of forming a gay-straight alliance (GSA) in her public school. www.pbs.org/outofthepast/
Lesson Guide: www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/record/1507.html

Straight from the Heart
Explores parents’ journeys to a new understanding of their lesbian and gay children. www.womanvision.org/straight-from-the-heart.html

Visionaries & Victories: Early Leaders in the LGBT Movement
Two films profiling three of the founders of the movement for LGBT equality: Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, and Harry Hay. frameline.org/youthinmotion/visionariesvictories.html

Films: Without Discussion Guides or Lesson Plans

De Colores
A 28-minute bilingual documentary about how Latino families are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance. www.womanvision.org/de-colores.html

On These Shoulders We Stand
An historical account of early gay life and activism in Los Angeles told by the people who lived it.
Tres Gotas de Agua (Three Drops of Water)
Three Latina women talk about their children’s coming out processes.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLtHcbmvjAg

Two Spirits
This movie explores the cultural context of gender identity through the Navajo tradition of honoring those people with the body of one gender but the spirit of another, including the murder of Fred Martinez, one of those honored people, by a white outsider.
www.pbs.org/independentlens/two-spirits/

General Resources: Textbooks, Timelines, Lesson Plans and More!

Gay America: Struggle for Equality
A textbook that chronicles the struggle for gay rights in US history, for grades 7-12.
www.linasalsenas.com/teens.html

Living Memory LGBT History Timeline
A timeline from the twentieth century through 2006 that includes historical figures, historical events and laws, and other LGBTQ moments in history.
www.forge-forward.org/handouts/LGBT_elder_timeline.pdf

LGBTQ Icons of History Bio Pages
A collection of the biographies of 31 LGBTQ icons through history, including but not limited to George Washington Carver, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Kiyoshi Kuromia.
www.glbthistorymonth.com/glbthistorymonth/2010/resources.cfm

Media Construction of Social Justice
Eight-unit series of classroom-ready teacher guides, student handouts, and other materials covering social justice topics (including LGBTQ rights) through analysis and discussion of media portrayals.
www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/?action=justice

No Name-Calling Week Resource Kit
Lesson plans for elementary, middle, and high schools.
www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/resources/index.html

Teaching Tolerance: A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center
A collection of lesson plans, activities, professional development resources and more. Themes range from race to sexual identity to immigrant rights.
www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/teaching-tolerance

Timeline of LGBT History
A timeline from the twenty-fifth century BCE through 2006 about historical figures, historical events and laws, and other instances of LGBTQ moments in history.

When Did It Happen: An LGBT History Lesson
A fun and interactive way to teach youth about important figures in LGBTQ history.
www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2440.html