

HISTORY DAY CALIFORNIA



Great Topics & How to Choose Them



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Objectives *

Make it Yours

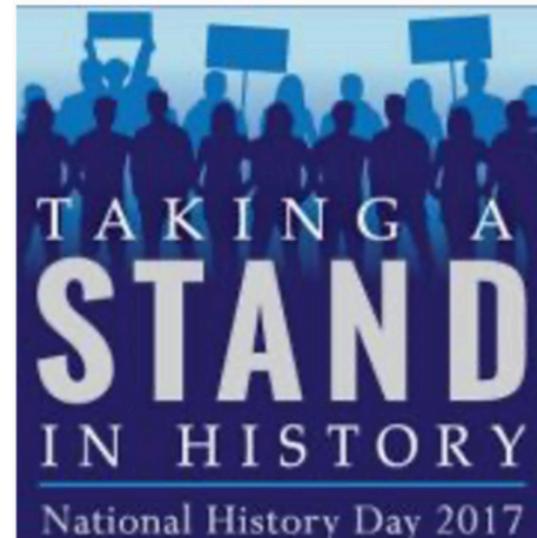
Why Themes

Revolutions, Reactions,
Reforms

Great Topics

NHD

Themes



Make It
Work

Theme

Impact

**Student
Interest**

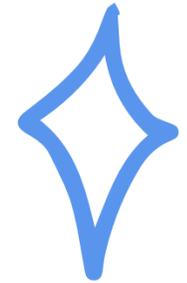
**Great
Topic!**





Theme
Details

Wait ...



**Aren't reactions
connected to both
revolutions &
reforms?**

hint : yep



Theme *Details*

How to know if there was a reaction:



- Look for opposition
- Check for consequences
- Notice public response
- Consider perspectives



Theme

Details

Wait ...



What are reforms ?

hint : a change made to
improve something



Theme

Details

How to identify reforms:



- Identify changes
- Measure improvement
- Check impact
- Consider perspectives



Theme

Details

One more sec ...



**What are
revolutions?**

hint : a big, sudden change



Theme

Details

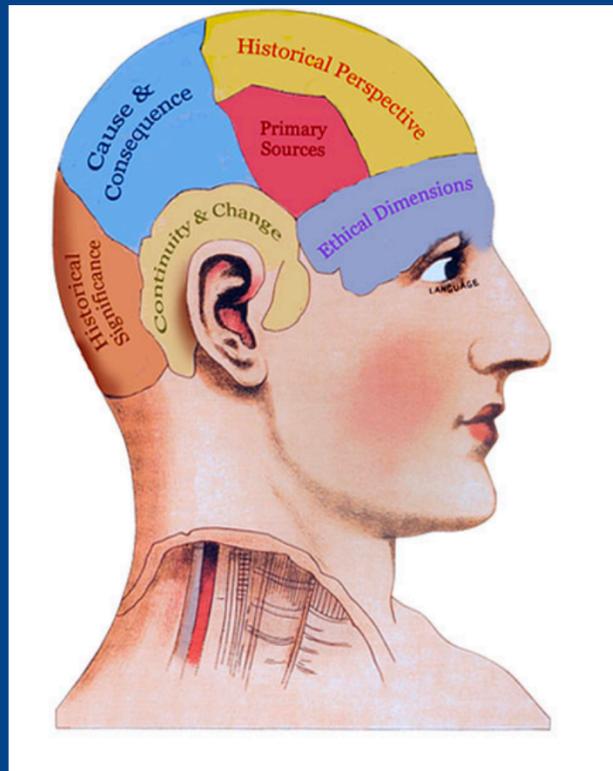
How to identify revolutions:



- Spot major change
- Look for causes
- Check methods
- Consider perspectives



Theme Details



Historical Causation ✨

- Identifying causes and effects
- Understanding complex relationships
- Evaluating consequences

By identifying the root causes of reaction, you can trace how long-term problems or immediate crises led people to demand change, determining whether revolution or reform came before the reaction.

Historical Causation



REVOLUTION



*Big, rapid change
in society.*

REACTION



*Pushback against
change*

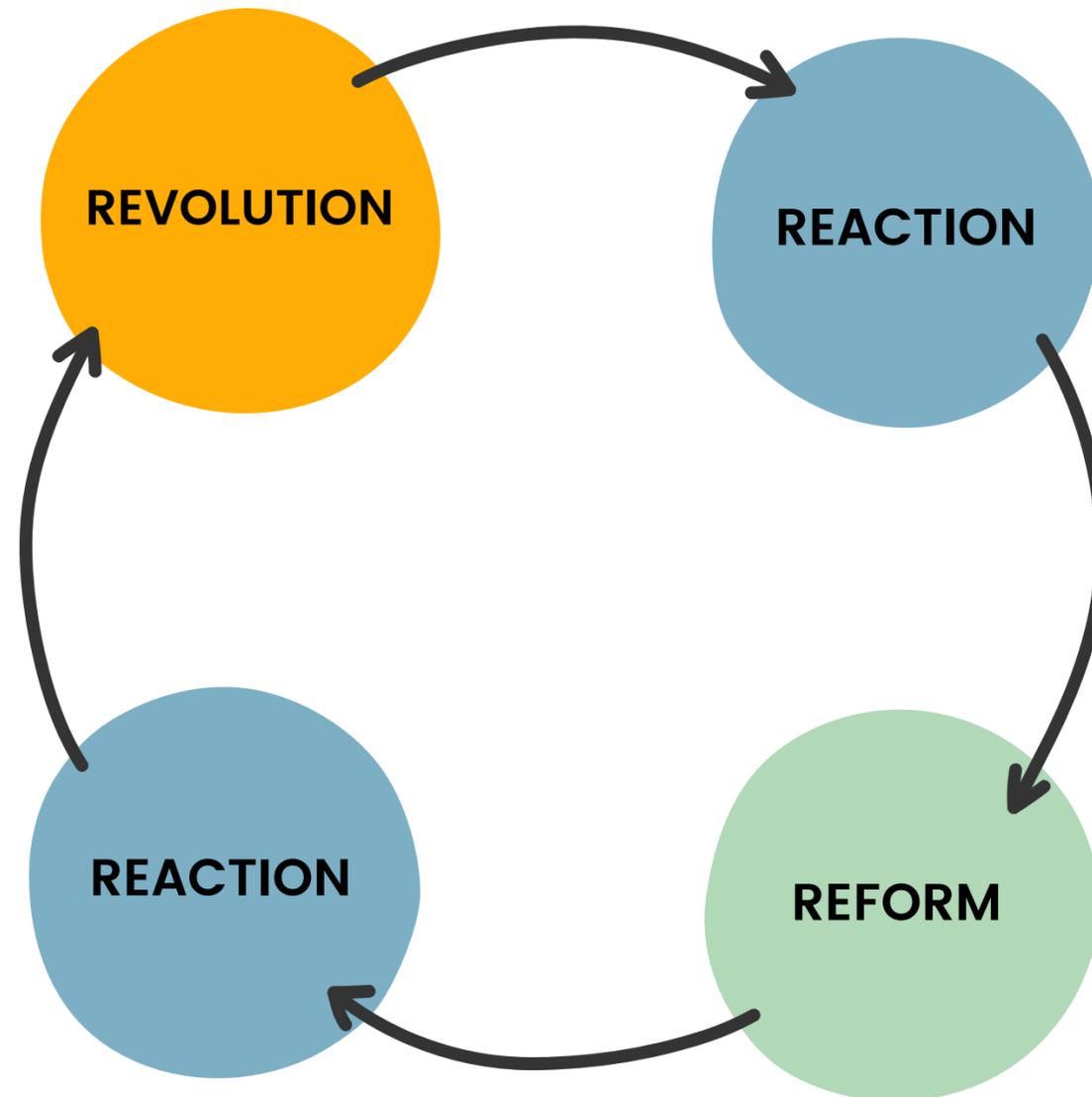
REFORM



*Deliberate change to
fix problems*

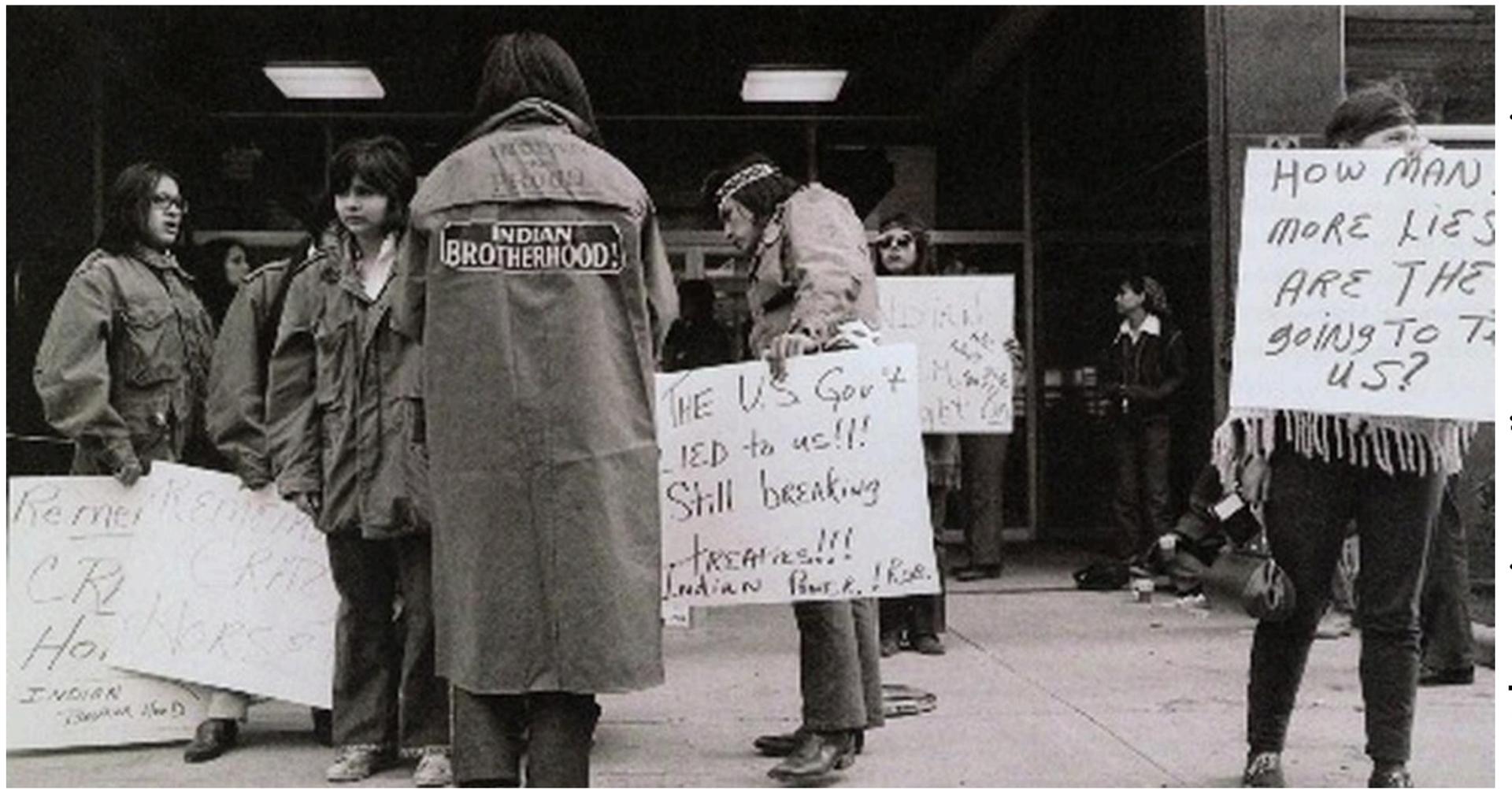


Historical Causation



Historical causation

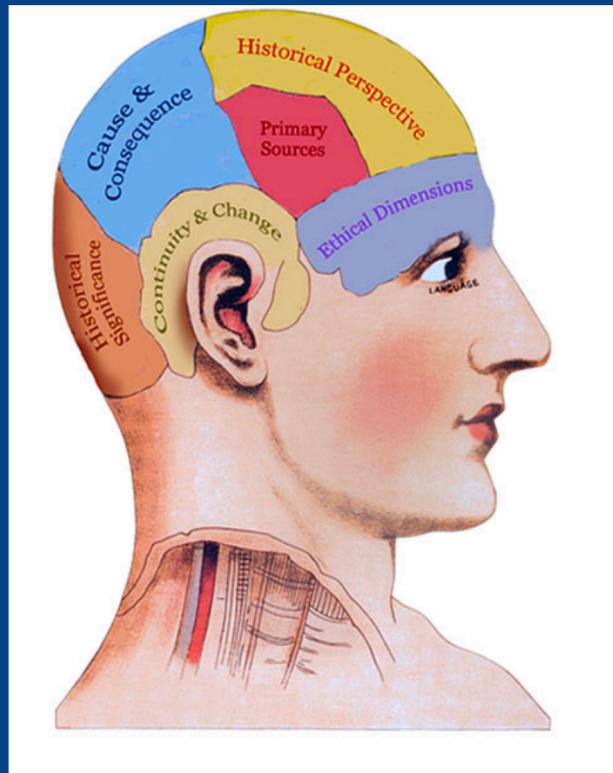
The American Indian Movement (AIM) emerged in the late 1960s as a revolutionary and reform movement in reaction to ongoing injustice, poverty, and the failure of U.S. policies toward Native Americans.



PBS | American Indian Movement History

- How was AIM **revolutionary** in its methods?
- In what ways did AIM **challenge** existing social & political structures to demand change?
- What **lasting reforms** or changes did AIM have on Indigenous rights today?

Theme Details



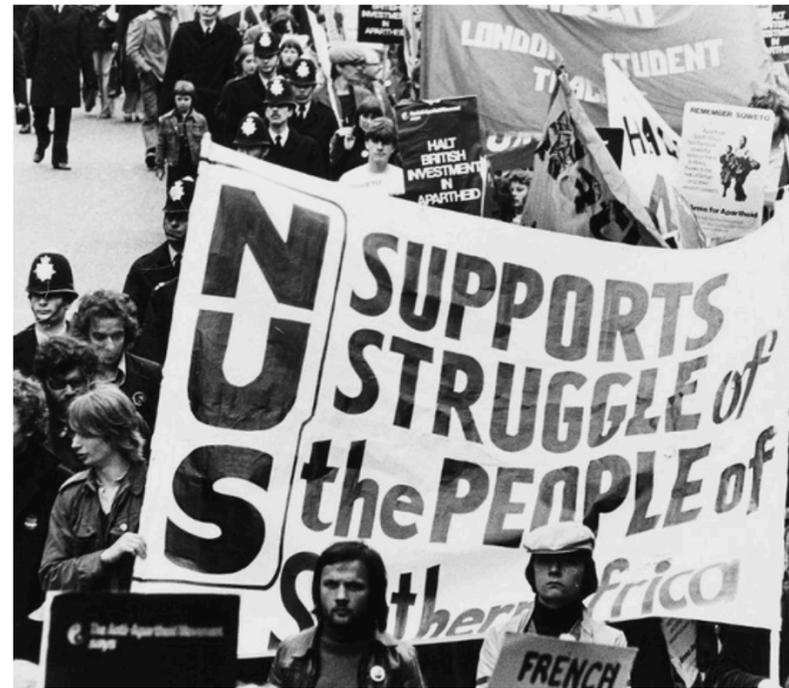
Historical Perspective ✨

- Understanding different viewpoints
- Empathy and context
- Analyzing the impact of actions

Using this skill helps you grasp the multifaceted nature of how change impacts people differently, fostering a deeper understanding of historical events and movements.

Historical *perspective*

The Anti-Apartheid Movement sparked revolutionary resistance to racial injustice, faced fierce government and global reactions, and ultimately achieved reforms that dismantled apartheid and reshaped South Africa's future.



Anti-Apartheid Movement Archives

- How did the experiences of **Black South Africans** shape their reactions?
- How did reforms change South African society and government?
- How did Black South Africans and their allies challenge the apartheid system and push for revolutionary change?

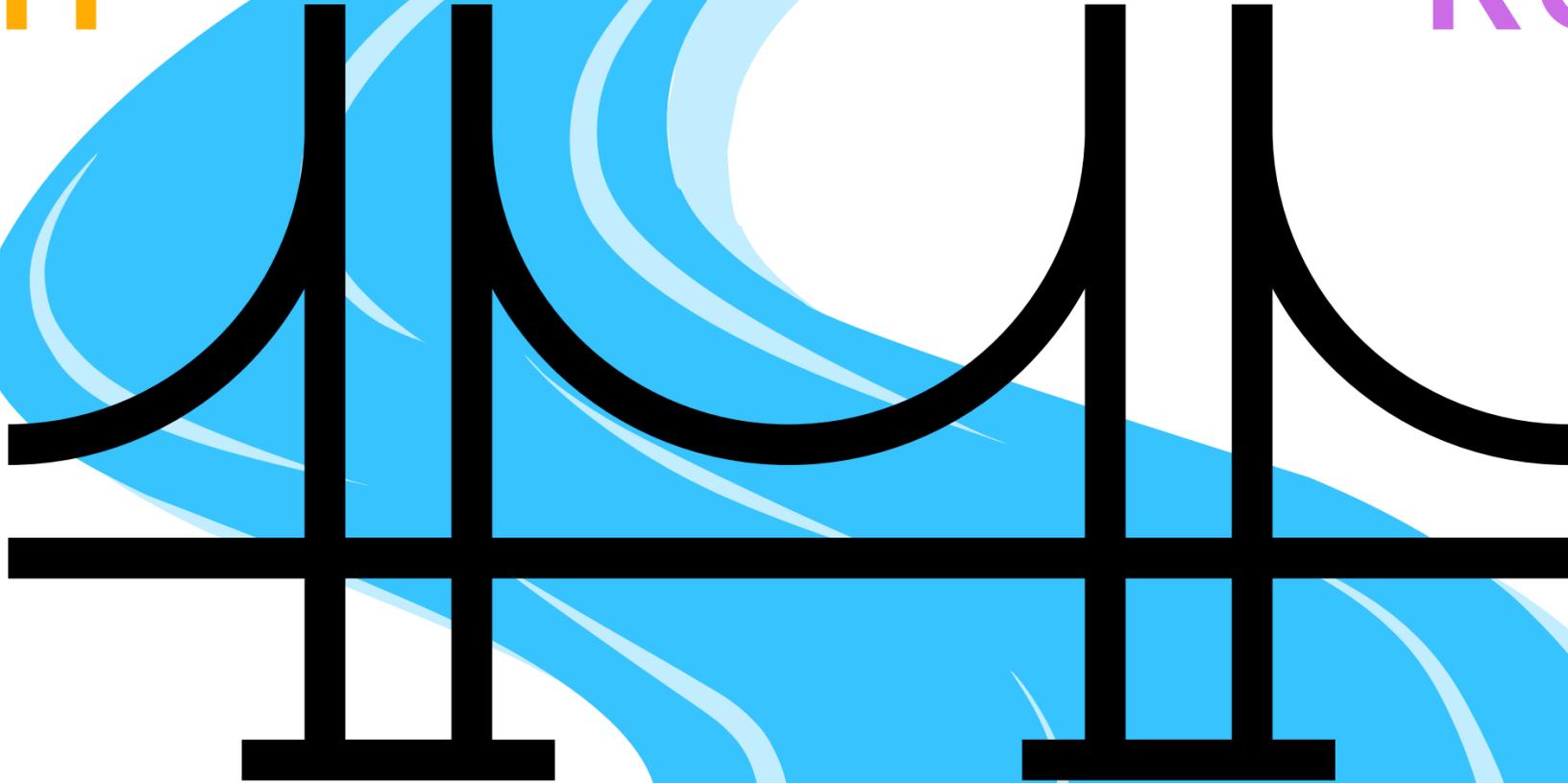
Revolution

Reform

complete

drastic

change



structured

measured

improvement

Revolution

Reform

complete

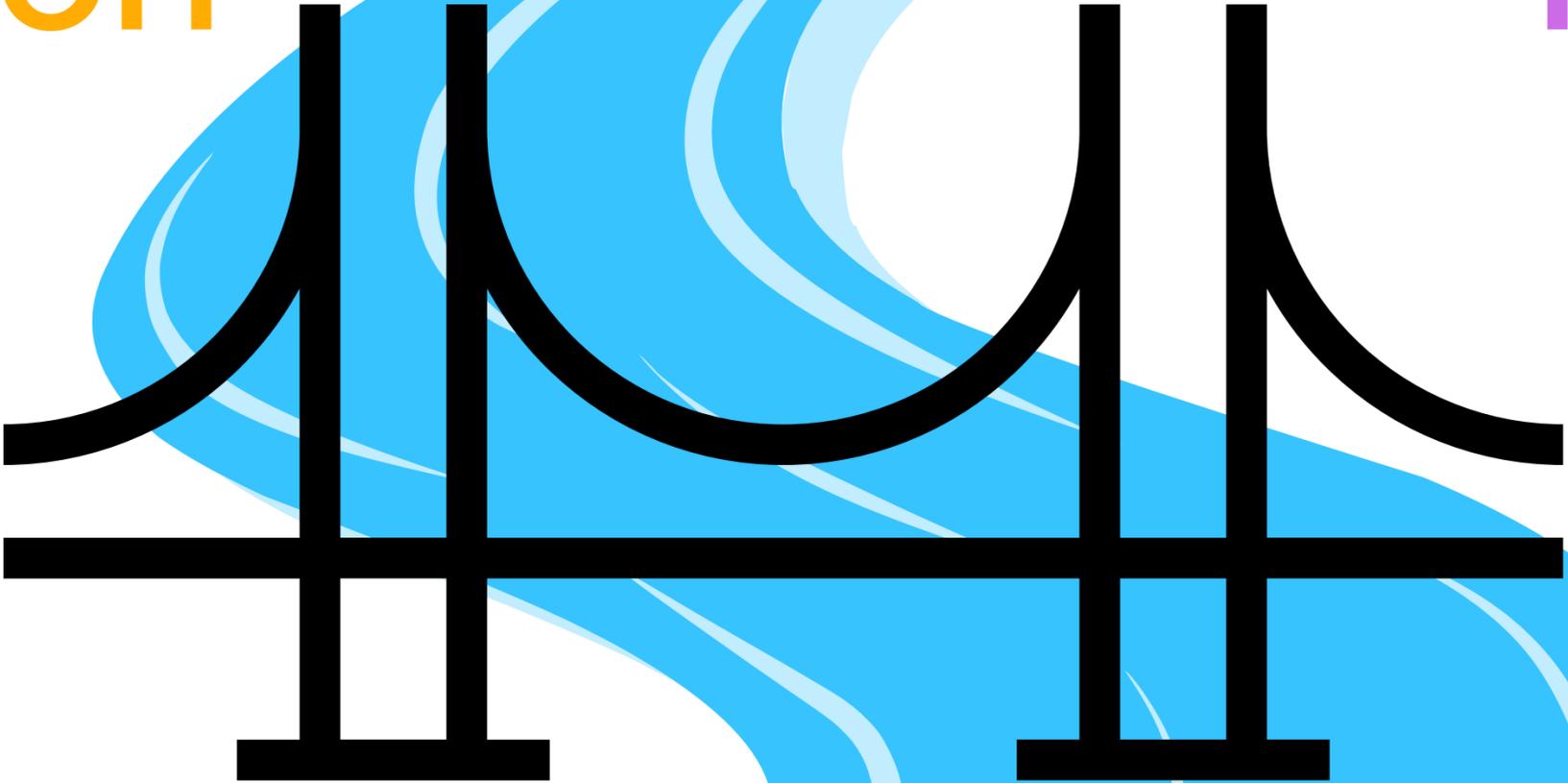
drastic

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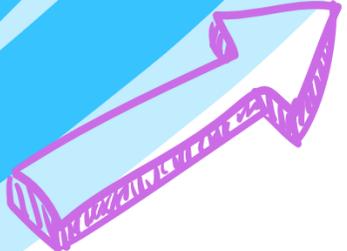
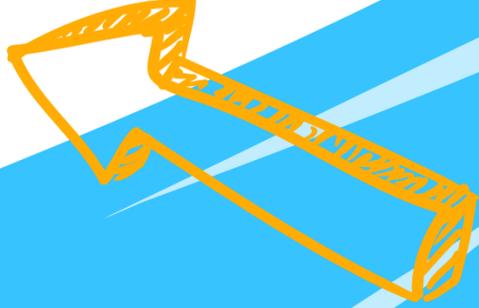
improvement



Reaction

*reactions influence
whether history
moves toward*

revolution or reform



What is
the theme
is asking
for?



Select a moment in history and analyze how reactions were the spark for change in a chain that might lead a reform movement, a revolution, or a cycle that included both. How did these
••• change the world?

MAKE IT *Connect!*

● ● ●



WHAT REACTIONS LED TO THE REFORM MOVEMENT OR THE REVOLUTION?

HOW DID REFORM OR REVOLUTION CREATE CHANGE?

WHAT WERE THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES?

DID REFORM FOLLOW REVOLUTION?
DID REVOLUTION FOLLOW REFORM?

MAKE IT ABOUT PERSPECTIVES

Sometimes, reactions to injustice lead to bold choices, resulting in lasting change.

- Did groups of people see the same event in the same way?
- Was reaction about opposition or a struggle over power and values?
- Did reforms expand rights for one group while limiting them for another?
- Was the reaction shaped by fear, resistance, or a desire for stability?



During the Lavender Scare, LGBTQIA+ individuals reacted to the loss of basic employment rights, as they were systematically fired from government jobs due to their sexual orientation. The government violated their rights to privacy, employment, and protection from discrimination.

- How did LGBTQIA+ people react to the **violation** of rights by the government?

- How was the organization of LGBTQIA+ groups **revolutionary**?

- How did the Lavender Scare **reform** legal protections and visibility?



SOMETIMES, ACTIONS TAKEN BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS BRING ABOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, IMPACTING THE VISIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY & POWER OF OTHERS.

**Make it
about
*Action***

- How were people's situations expanded or restricted?
- Did all people accept the changes the same way?
- Did everyone agree on the outcomes of the revolution or reforms?
- Were people treated fairly as a result of these actions?

Make it
about
Perspective

The newsie strike of 1899 was a bold action that defended the rights of child laborers and led to significant change.

- What reactions **prompted** the strike?
- How did reforms **change** child labor?
- How did people **react** to the new rights?

Strike Practically Ended.
New York, July 26.—The messenger boys' strike has not been officially declared off, for there is no leader or committee to make such announcement, but the strike is at an end as far as inconveniencing the companies is concerned. The business of the Postal Telegraph company is running smoothly, even in the banking district where most of the trouble was experienced. A number of the Western Union main office boys still refuse to work.

WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE?

Make it
about
Change!

- What kinds of problems or tensions cause people to demand big, sudden changes in society?
- How do groups or governments resist change, and what does that tell us about their values or fears?
- How do revolutions, reactions, and reforms together shape long-term change in history?
- How do reforms attempt to solve problems or improve conditions without completely overturning a system?



As one of the first publicized instances of violence against trans people, the Compton's Cafeteria Riots sparked awareness of mistreatment and the creation of a wide network of support services for transgender people.

IMPACT AND CHANGE

Make it
Matter!



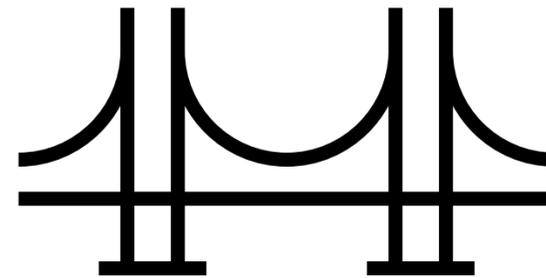
- Topic at least 20 years old
- Evidence of permanent shifts
- Went beyond an idea/place
- Resulted in either progress or decline of relevant conditions

Make it
Matter!

REVOLUTION, REACTION, AND REFORMS ARE CONNECTED TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE



What reforms were women fighting for?



1. *Reaction*
to injustice



How did power, opportunity, and visibility shift after reforms were gained?

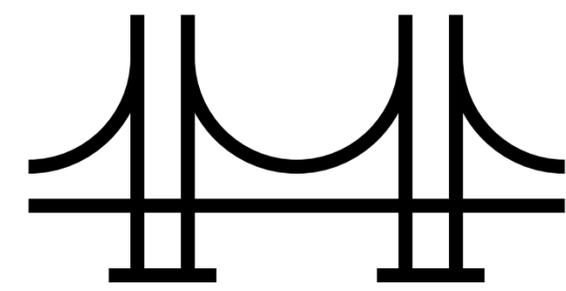
Make it *Matter!*

REVOLUTION, REACTION, AND REFORMS ARE CONNECTED TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

2. Reform Movement



What reforms were women fighting for?



1. Reaction to injustice



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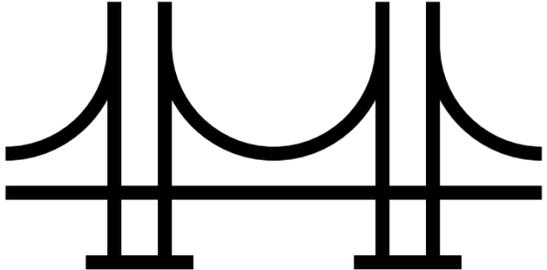
Make it Matter!

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What reforms were women fighting for?



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How did power, opportunity, and visibility shift after reforms were gained?

3. Revolutionary changes to women's rights

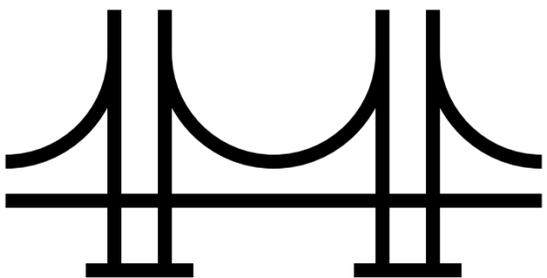
Make it Matter!

REVOLUTION, REACTION, AND REFORMS ARE CONNECTED TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

2. Reform Movement



What reforms were women fighting for?



1. Reaction to injustice

4. Reaction inequality



How did power, opportunity, and visibility shift after reforms were gained?

3. Revolutionary changes to women's rights

TOPIC
SELECTION

REFERENCE
ARTICLE

NARROWING

RESEARCH
QUESTION

Make it
the real deal



**THEME
NARRATIVES**

**TOPIC
IDEAS**

**GRAPHIC
ORGANIZER**

**WEBINAR
RECORDING**

Theme/Topic *Resources!*

THEME RESOURCES:
WWW.NHDCA.ORG/THEME

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QUESTIONS

