

Friday Before: What is the Black Lives Matter Movement?

**Before You Begin**

- This lesson introduces the idea that racism is a problem to be solved by all people.
- As background information, educators may want to watch [this video](#), "All Lives Matter", before the BLM week of action begins.
- Review the story [Not My Idea](#)

**Content/Goal**

Students will:

- ★ understand that our country has a racist history
- ★ be an activist and be actively anti-racist

**Standards**

CCSS.ELA.Literacy.2.1

- ★ Ask and answer questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

**Social Justice Standards:**

Justice 12: Students will recognize unfairness on the individual level (e.g., biased speech) and injustice at the institutional or systemic level (e.g., discrimination).

- ★ JU.K-2.12 know when people are treated unfairly
- ★ JU.K-2.14 knows that life is easier for some people and harder for others and the reasons for that are not always fair.

**Materials**

- [Slide deck](#) (English)
- [Slide deck](#) (Spanish)
- "[Not My Idea](#)" by Anastasia Higginbotham
- [Exit Ticket](#) (English)
- [Exit Ticket](#) (Spanish)

Additional Read-alouds:

["Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice"](#) Ann Hazzard, Marianne Celano, and Marietta Collins

Optional:

["Giant Steps"](#) Read aloud

**Vocabulary**

movement, racism, activist, respect

“[Giant Steps](#)” Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee Interview with Authors (short)

### **Learning Plan**

- Teacher: What is the Black Lives Matter Movement?
- Teachers should intentionally name teach why Black Lives Matter versus “All Lives Matter”. Much like the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, Black Lives Matter is an international **activist movement** that campaigns against violence and **racism** towards black people.
- Engagement activity: Have a sharing circle to talk about how to help fix someone’s hurt feelings.
  - Place children in a circle and identify a talking piece.
  - Give children a few scenarios appropriate for audience (e.g. No one wanted to play with Michael on the playground and ignored him” or “Maria and Ella saw Daniel be mean to Kimane”)
  - Why was the child upset?
  - How would you feel if this was you? Your friend?
  - What should the children do to make it right?
- **Read Aloud:** Not My Idea by Anastasia Higginbotham
  - Why was the girl in the story upset?
  - What does it mean to be white but not be a part of “whiteness”?
  - In the history of our country, people have been treated unfairly because of the color of their skin and this continues today in different ways.
- Optional: Exit Ticket