

## Teacher Guide

### Lesson 4: Beyond the Binary

### Xinachtli: Sprouts of Ancestral Wisdom

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### Lesson 4: Beyond the Binary

Compelling Question:

*How does recognizing and celebrating the complexities of identity contribute to a deeper community consciousness?*

#### Content Objectives

I can:

- Define important terms related to gender and sexuality
- Learn about gender fluid cultures
- Analyze statistics on anti-trans politics
- Conceptualize an art piece that challenges gender stereotypes

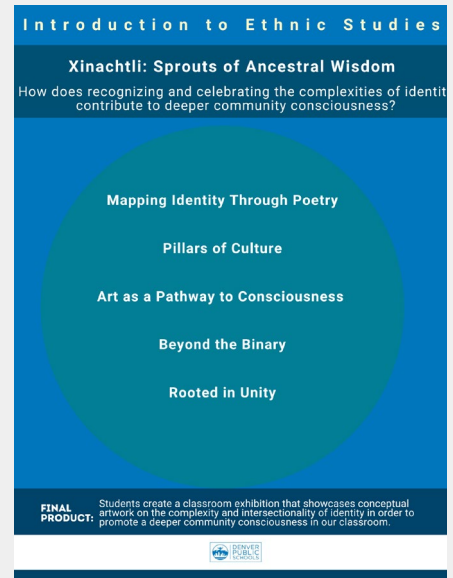
#### Purpose

In this lesson, you will watch a short video from Bill Nye to help you define vocabulary related to gender and sexuality. Then, you will learn about gender diverse cultures around the world and gather facts and details about one gender diverse culture. Next, you will learn about the rise in anti-trans politics and discuss the consequences on your local community. Finally, you will take inspiration from the work of an artist and fashion designer to conceptualize how you might use the human body to advocate for gender equity and celebrate the complexities of gender expression.

#### Lesson Steps

1. **Define important terms:** You will watch a short video from Bill Nye ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)) on Gender and Sexuality. Then, you will work with a partner to complete the [Gender and Sexuality Terminology](#) handout.
2. **Explore gender fluid cultures:** You will watch the short video [The Meaning of Mahu](#) and explore the [Map of Gender-Diverse Cultures](#), in order to challenge the dominant narrative that gender fluidity is a new cultural phenomenon.
3. **Learn about the rise in anti-trans politics:** Learn about the strategic roots and consequences of attacks on trans rights, including gender affirming care by exploring [HRC Attacks on gender affirming care map](#) and [Chase Strangio on Anti-Trans Attacks, Legislation and Hope](#). Then, discuss and analyze Colorado and national statistics to understand the effects of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric on young people in your community.
4. **Analyze the work of Nick Cave:** Watch the video [Nick Cave: Forthmore](#) and explore how the artist uses the human body to celebrate the complexities of gender and racial expression. Then, choose an example of the artist work from [Jack Shainman Exhibit](#) to analyze the work more closely using the [Art & Fashion Analysis](#) handout.
5. **Conceptualize an artistic piece using the body to challenge gender stereotypes or celebrate gender expression:** Create a mood board using the [Human Body as Art](#) handout to envision how you might explore gender and sexuality through performance, fashion, or photography.

#### Explore More



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- [Bill Nye on K Pop](#): Video exploring gender fluidity in K Pop
- ["What is a Soundsuit all about"](#): Video interview with Nick Cave
- [#DalitWomenFight](#): Website on the the transmedia movement
- [Gender Fluid Fashion](#): Harris Reed's fashion show in London

## Lesson Overview

### Pacing

**Lesson Timing:** 90 minutes

### Summary

In this lesson, students will watch a short video to help define important vocabulary related to gender and sexuality. Then, students will learn about gender diverse cultures around the world and become an expert on one gender diverse culture. Next, students will learn about the rise in anti-trans politics and discuss the consequences on their local community. Finally, students will take inspiration from artists and fashion designers to conceptualize how they might use the human body to advocate for gender equity and celebrate the complexities of gender expression.

### Colorado Standards: [Social Studies](#) & Interdisciplinary

**SS.HS.2.3:** Investigate patterns of the interconnected nature of the world, its people, and places.

### Language Objectives: [9th Grade DPS English Language Competencies](#)

#### Speaking and Listening

- Prepare for discussion by evaluating and collecting information on material under study.

### Assessment

#### Formative

- Analyze gender and sexuality terminology
- Analyze the art of Nick Cave to understand how the human body is used to celebrate identity and build consciousness around racial bias

#### Performative

- Create a mood board for an artwork that uses the human body to challenge gender stereotypes and builds consciousness

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### Lesson Resources

For Students	For Teachers	Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Gender and Sexuality Terminology</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Art &amp; Fashion Analysis</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Human Body as Art</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Lesson 4 Slide Deck</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Gender and Sexuality Terminology Teacher Key</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Art &amp; Fashion Analysis Teacher Key</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Human Body as Art Teacher Key</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment to present visual and audio content</li><li>• Laptops or devices for student research</li></ul>

### Teacher Preparation

- **Step 1: Define important terms.** Familiarize yourself with the content of the Bill Nye videos and review the gender and sexuality terminology handout to ensure understanding and be prepared to assist students in completing it.
- **Step 2: Explore gender fluid cultures.** Consider creating a handout summarizing key points in the videos and providing additional resources for students to further explore gender fluid cultures.
- **Step 3: Learn about the ride in anti-trans politics.** Gather relevant Colorado and national statistics on the effects of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric on young people.
- **Step 4: Analyze the work of Nick Cave.** Consider selecting additional specific examples of Nick Cave's work to display or provide images for students to reference during the analysis.
- **Step 5: Conceptualize an artistic piece using the body to challenge gender stereotypes or celebrate gender expression.** Gather art supplies, magazines, images, or access to digital resources for students to use in creating their mood boards. Prepare additional examples of inspirational materials that showcase different ways of exploring gender and sexuality through performance, fashion, and photography.

### Lesson Steps in Detail

#### Step 1: Define important terms

(15 min)

**Purpose:** Students will watch a two-part video by Bill Nye that delves into the topics of gender and sexuality and then collaborate to deepen their understanding of these terms.

You might say: *In our previous lesson you delved into the origins of race and examined how various forms of racial bias are used to empower certain individuals while disenfranchising others. Additionally, you explored the power of art to convey the complexities of identity, and how artistic expression can build consciousness and foster healing. Today, we open our scope to include gender and sexuality in order to gain a deeper comprehension of diverse experiences and explore how the human body can be used in creative ways to counter narratives that marginalize people's identities.*

#### [Slide 2] Introduce Bill Nye and the video on Gender and Sexuality

- Distribute [Gender and Sexuality Terminology](#) handout and pair students up
- **Play video: Part 1 (2:37) and Part 2 (2:52)**
- Have students work in pairs to complete handout and prepare to share out

- Facilitate discussion using the guiding questions:
  - How can we build a society that celebrates and embraces the fluidity of gender and sexuality, creating open spaces where all individuals can express themselves authentically and be fully accepted?
  - What are the challenges we face individually and as a community to build consciousness and understanding of our different identities and points of view?
    - **Possible Answers:** To build a society that celebrates and embraces the fluidity of gender and sexuality, we can create open spaces where all individuals can express themselves authentically and be fully accepted by promoting education, awareness, and inclusivity. Individually and as a community, the challenges we face in building consciousness and understanding of our different identities and points of view include overcoming societal norms and stereotypes, fostering empathy, and actively engaging in dialogue to challenge biases and promote acceptance.

#### Teacher Tip: Creating a safe space for students to discuss sensitive topics or events

Entering into conversations that highlight one group's privileges over another is challenging for adults and students of any age. For more resources on how to support this conversation, check out Edutopia's article "[Creating a Safe Space for Students to Discuss Sensitive Current Events](#)".

### Step 2: Explore gender fluid cultures

(10 min)

**Purpose:** Students will engage in an exploration of gender-fluid cultures to understand the challenge to the prevailing narrative that gender fluidity is exclusively a recent cultural phenomenon.

You might say: *Bill Nye helped us clarify the terminology around gender and sexuality so that we can begin better understanding the complexity of identity and gender fluidity. Now you will learn about examples of non-binary cultures around the world to gain a greater perspective on gender fluidity.*

#### [Slide 3] Explore gender fluid cultures

- **Play video:** [The Meaning of Mahu \(2:04\)](#)
- Facilitate a discussion using the guided question:
  - What is the role of the Mahu in indigenous Hawaiian communities?
  - Why do you think the American missionaries were “shocked” and “infuriated” by the practices of the Mahu?
    - **Possible Answers:** The Mahu in indigenous Hawaiian communities have a significant role as caretakers, healers, and teachers of ancient traditions. They embrace both feminine and masculine traits, embodying a unique and revered aspect of Hawaiian culture. The American missionaries were “shocked” and “infuriated” by the practices of the Mahu due to their own cultural and religious

perspectives. The Mahu's fluidity in gender and their role in society contradicted the strict gender norms and religious beliefs held by the missionaries.

**[Slide 4] Explore an interactive digital map:** [A Map of Gender-Diverse Cultures](#)

- Have students work in small groups to explore the map
- Facilitate a discussion using the guided question:
  - What is one new thing you learn by exploring the map?
    - **Possible Answers:** By exploring the map of gender diverse cultures, I learned that many indigenous cultures have long-standing traditions and societal acceptance of gender identities beyond the binary. These cultures provide valuable examples of how societies can embrace and celebrate diverse gender expressions, challenging the notion that strict gender roles are universal or fixed.

### Step 3: Learn about the rise in anti-trans politics

(20 min)

**Purpose:** Students will acquire knowledge about the emergence of anti-trans politics, explore the strategic origins and repercussions of attacks on trans rights and engage in discussion about the Colorado and national statistics to comprehend the impact of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

*You might say: Now, you will leverage our understanding of gender fluidity and related terminology to explore the challenges currently confronting the trans community. To gain deeper insights, you will examine a map highlighting key locations across the U.S. and watch an interview that sheds light on the rise in discriminatory policies and anti-trans narratives. Following this, you will engage in a classroom discussion to examine the implications of these developments for our own community.*

**[Slide 5] Learn about the rise in anti-trans politics - Map**

- Introduce the resource and model how to explore it
- Have students explore the map: [HRC Attacks on gender affirming care map](#)
- Facilitate discussion using the guiding questions:
  - What is something new you learn about the political challenges facing the trans rights movement?

**[Slide 6] Learn about the rise in anti-trans politics - Interview**

- **Play video:** [Chase Strangio on Anti-Trans Attacks, Legislation and Hope \(8:47\)](#)
- Facilitate discussion using the guiding questions:
  - How does Chase Strangio perceive the current state of anti-trans legislation and the challenges faced by the trans movement?
  - What are the motivations and strategies behind the targeting of young trans individuals in anti-trans bills, and the potential consequences they face?
  - In the face of conservative lawmakers pushing these bills, what challenges does Chase Strangio see in terms of advocacy and hope for positive change in the future?

#### Step 4: Explore and Analyze the work of Nick Cave

(20 min)

**Purpose:** Students will explore the work of visual artist Nick Cave who employs the human body as a medium to embrace the intricacies of gender expression and build collective consciousness to counter stereotypes and biased thinking that contribute to discriminatory policies.

You might say: *You have learned about gender fluidity as well as the rise of rhetoric and policies that target people who identify out the gender binary of dominant culture. Within this contentious context artists like Nick Cave use the human body to radically celebrate racial and gender fluidity, raise consciousness of fluid identities, and challenge society's confining stereotypes.*

#### [Slide 7] Explore the work of Nick Cave

- **Play video:** [Nick Cave \(8:34\)](#)
- Facilitate discussion and complete identity map on slide
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#### [Slide 8] Analyze the work of Nick Cave

- Organize students in pairs and distribute [Art & Fashion Analysis](#) handout
- Have students explore the website and choose one piece to complete their analysis: [Jack Shainman Exhibit](#)
- **Student share out**
  - Students share the artwork that most caught their attention and their answers the questions in the handout

#### [Slide 9] Present quote on Nick Cave's work and facilitate discussion

- *Soundsuits camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment. They serve as a visual embodiment of social justice that represents both brutality and empowerment.*
- How is Nick Cave's work and creative strategy a form of anti-racism and active allyship?  
**Possible Answer:** Nick Cave's work in Soundsuits can be seen as a form of anti-racism and active allyship because they challenge and subvert societal norms by concealing race, gender, and class. By creating a second skin that camouflages the body, Cave's artwork forces viewers to look without judgment, breaking down preconceived notions and biases.

#### Teacher Tip: Using art analysis to address cultural bias in the classroom

Teaching about art, history, and storytelling provides opportunities to address cultural biases and stereotypes. Because art, history, and stories can all be interpreted in many different ways, it is important to help students develop the mindset of analyzing the world through a culturally responsive lens and using visual thinking strategies as a tool for change. The article "[How Art Analysis Addresses Cultural Bias in the Classroom](#)" by Teach Local, Reach Global provides an example and tools for how to engage your students in rich discussions and strategies to address perspective and bias.

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#### Step 5: Conceptualize an artistic piece that challenges gender stereotypes or celebrates gender expression

(25 min)

**Purpose:** Students will generate an artistic piece utilizing the human body as a medium to challenge gender stereotypes or celebrate diverse expressions of gender. They will create a mood board that envisions their exploration of gender and sexuality through performance, fashion, or photography.

You might say: *Taking Nick Cave's work as inspiration, you will now create a mood board for your third conceptual artwork that challenges gender stereotypes or celebrates diverse expressions of gender.*

#### [Slide 10] Create a mood board

- Distribute the [Human Body as Art](#) handout
- Present a model of a mood board
- Have students share out their mood boards