

Activity 3: Theme Identification

Explore the different themes of the Civil Rights Movement and their portrayal



This activity builds well upon the “Choose Your Own Image” activity. Looking at their own images and the thoughts they have recorded about them, students should now be asked to identify particular themes within the images. Ask the students to suggest a theme and note each one down on a board or something the students can see, forming what will look a bit like a word cloud of themes. Examples of common themes the students may identify include:

- Sacrifice
- Unity
- Racism
- Police oppression/brutality
- Class
- Violence
- Peaceful protest
- Diversity of participation
- Gender
- Equality
- Leadership

If you would like to do this as a standalone activity rather than as part of a whole lesson, you can simply provide the students with a wide variety of photographs on the topic and encourage discussion of themes from there, either as a class or in small groups.