

This poster is a part of a series to help students learn about racism in Canada and how to fight it in their communities! This learning series has 6 posters and 6 videos. If you can, try to start from the beginning and check them out in order! This poster is the third of the series.

## Racism Toward Black Communities in Canada

There is a lot to celebrate about the successes of Black people in Canada and around the world. Your school may have honoured Black History Month during the month of February. You may have learned about leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. You may have also learned about the Black Loyalists, Viola Desmond and Desmond Cole.



Although Black communities are successful in many ways, they still face racism every day. They face both individual and systemic racism. You may have heard about the Black Lives Matter movement in the news. It was created because there has been a long history of racism toward Black people that is still happening today. How did this come to be?



### Slavery

As early as the 1600s, Black people were enslaved in Canada. They were taken away from their homes and families in Africa and sold as property where they were treated inhumanely. Black people did not have any freedom or rights, and they were not given the choice to leave.



### Segregation

Although laws around slavery ended in 1834, there were still many other laws that discriminated against Black people and made sure that they were separate from white people. This is called racial segregation, and it happened in schools, movie theatres, public transportation and other places.



### Violence

Black people have been harmed both physically and mentally by individuals and systems. One example is the police force. We hear several news stories about how the police have unfairly treated Black people.

**These problems still happen today but in different forms. Black people experience other issues such as poverty, lower expectations for Black students, and harsher punishments from the justice system. Black people are also less likely to go to university and get jobs compared to other racial groups. This is because of systemic racism.**



**For those of us who are not from Black communities, we need to understand our responsibility and take action. To make sure that all people have equal rights, we must help Black people by fighting racism.**

As a person who is not Black, let's start by thinking about these questions...

**Even though there has been a lot of attention on the Black Lives Matter movement, it is important for us to carefully think about a few things:**

Some people use the phrase "All Lives Matter" because they feel that other races are left out of the movement. However, the issues that Black people face are in need of attention now. By saying, "All Lives Matter", it assumes that Black people have the same life experiences as other people, which is not true because of the history of racism and violence toward them.

Some people believe that they are not racist when they say or do certain things. They might say, "I'm not racist because I have a friend who is Black," or "Chinese people experience racism just like Black people, so we wouldn't be racist to each other". However, these ideas do not mean that you cannot say or do something racist. Some people might say or do such things without knowing it.

In what ways have you seen or heard individual and systemic racism toward Black communities?

What has the media made you think about Black people?

How have you talked about Black people with family and friends?

How does your own race or identity affect the way you think about Black people?

What are your relationships with Black people like, such as students, school staff and neighbours?

What will you do differently now to fight against racism toward Black people?

You can learn more about how to support Black communities in the section "Becoming an Ally".

This learning series was made by teachers with the support of students, families, organizations and members from Indigenous, Black and Chinese communities.

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