During the civil rights movement, people used portable art to express their beliefs and opinions. They wore buttons decorated with slogans or pictures of civil rights leaders. They carried key chains, pamphlets, and fans with pictures or slogans relating to civil rights. They did this to show that they thought equality for all people was important. Students will study portable art from the exhibition or website and then create and decorate their own fan.

http://www.foralltheworldtosee.org
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing this activity, students will:

- Define prejudice and explain what it means to them.
- Discuss ways that people can overcome their prejudices.
- Demonstrate and express her or his new awareness through art.

SUBJECTS:

Social Studies; Reading & Language Arts; The Arts

RELATED RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Berger, Maurice. For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2010)

http://www.umbc.edu/cadvc/foralltheworld/book/

Online Film Festival

For All The World To See: Film and the Struggle for Civil Rights


MATERIALS:

- Tongue depressors or Popsicle sticks—one for each student
- Construction paper—two for each student
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers
- Glue sticks
- Fan template (see below)

DISCUSSION:

As a way of stimulating discussion, invite children to define any of the following:

- Prejudice
- Equality
- Freedom
During the civil rights movement, many people fought against prejudice. They wrote songs and speeches about prejudice. They published books and newspapers to fight against prejudice. They published booklets, buttons, fans—and other small objects to be worn or carried—bearing pictures or slogans to show that they believed in equality. They did this to show that they thought equality for all people was important.

What are ways that we can fight against prejudice?
As children respond, create a web on a dry erase board to document their ideas.

VISITING THE EXHIBITION

As a group, visit For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights online or in one of its venues around the United States.

Some of the images in For All the World to See are graphic in nature. They are included because of the vital role they played in the modern civil rights movement.

As a class, study the following images:

Fan, Evans Memorial Chapel, Saginaw, Michigan, c. 1968

ACTIVITY

Review the web ideas you created in the pre-visit discussion. Show students the fan and pins again, or have them select their favorite images from the exhibition. Then:

Trace the template onto each piece of construction paper.
Cut along the trace line.
Decorate the construction paper with words or pictures from the web of ideas and the exhibition.
Glue each side of the fan together, placing the tongue depressors in the middle.
Allow the fan to dry.
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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

FORALLTHEWORLDTOSEE.ORG