

# TRACY CHAPMAN

## LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

## TRACY CHAPMAN LESSON PLAN

### Key Stage 2 / 45-75 minutes (across 1-2 lessons)

This lesson pack has been created to support classroom teachers in celebrating LGBT+ History Month through musical activity. This lesson focuses on introducing musician and prominent LGBT+ figure Tracy Chapman. Through exploration of Tracy Chapman's identity and music, pupils will have an opportunity to discuss ideas within the classroom about intersectionality, change, acceptance, and their own identity.

### Lesson Objectives

- To learn about the life and identity of Tracy Chapman
- To sing a Tracy Chapman song
- To write lyrics about identity

Time	Suggested Activity	Resource needed
2-5 min	<p><b>Look at the Tracy Chapman quote <i>'I'd like to live as if only love mattered'</i> Discuss the quote as a class or in small groups.</b></p> <p>Prompt questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this quote mean to you?</li> <li>• What might this quote mean to the LGBT+ community?</li> </ul> <p><i>(Opportunity for wider discussion/context about the LGBT+ community)</i></p>	PowerPoint
2-5 min	<p><b>Introduce Tracy Chapman</b></p> <p>With photo on PowerPoint and the short bio below, introduce Tracy Chapman:</p> <p><i>Tracy Chapman is an African American singer songwriter who rose to popularity in the 1980's. She is a multi-award winning, platinu-selling artist. Throughout her career, she has been a pioneer for social justice and change.</i></p> <p><i>She was born in Ohio in 1964. She started to learn ukulele aged 3 and by the age of 8 was playing guitar and writing her own songs.</i></p>	PowerPoint

	<p><i>Tracy Chapman is also widely known/accepted as a lesbian, although she never spoke to the press officially about her sexuality.</i></p>	
10-15 min	<p><b>Watch and discuss performance of ‘Talkin’ ‘bout a Revolution’ from the Nelson Mandela 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tribute.</b></p> <p>Prompt questions that can be asked before watching the performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think the song might be about?</li> <li>• What do you think the lyrics meant to Tracy Chapman?</li> <li>• What do the lyrics mean to you?</li> <li>• How many times does she sing ‘like a whisper’</li> </ul> <p><b>Learn the refrain of Talkin’ ‘bout a revolution’ as a class.</b></p> <p>Singing as a class tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak each line of the chorus first, tapping the syllables</li> <li>• Sing each line individually as a call and response</li> <li>• Sing the chorus as a class unaccompanied</li> <li>• Sing the chorus as a class with the backing track/YouTube performance</li> </ul>	<p>PowerPoint  <a href="#">Video of Talkin’ ‘bout a Revolution performance</a></p>
10-20 min	<p><b>Discuss the context of the ‘Talkin Bout a Revolution’ performance.</b></p> <p>Discuss how during that time it would be rare to see somebody perform on such a global platform who was accepted as <b>both</b> a member of the LGBT+ community and the global majority.</p> <p><b>Introduce the idea of intersectionality.</b></p> <p>Discuss how intersectionality is looking at a person’s different identities, and how they relate to each other as a whole, rather than individual characteristics. This may cause challenges in people’s lives, but also may make them unique.</p> <p>It's important to note to students that some elements of our identity we may be born with, other elements, we may not develop till later in our life/as adults.</p> <p>Prompt questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are some of the different elements of our own identities?</i></li> <li>• <i>How do they make us unique?</i></li> <li>• <i>What makes us different and what makes us similar?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Optional activity: Complete ‘Puzzle Pieces’ worksheet- pupils fill in different puzzle pieces with different elements that make up their identity.</b></p> <p><i>Activity can be completed whilst listening to Tracy Chapman playlist.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint</li> <li>• Tracy Chapman Playlist</li> <li>• Puzzle Pieces worksheet</li> </ul>

<p>20-30 min</p>	<p><b>Begin 'In My Power', lyric writing activity.</b> Discussion of how song writing is a tool that artists like Tracy Chapman can use to explore their own identity, speak their truth, and pioneer change. It can allow people to express themselves.</p> <p>Using the lyric writing worksheet, pupils can create a four-line chorus with the title 'In My Power', about their own identity and what makes them unique.</p> <p>Have 'In My Power' backing track playing whilst pupils write their chorus.</p> <p>After writing the lyrics, pupils can practice performing their chorus as a rap over the backing track.</p> <p><b>Option for pupils to perform their chorus to the class at the end of the lesson.</b></p>	<p>-PowerPoint -In My Power Song writing worksheet. -In My Power Backing track.</p>
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