# ART, MUSIC, AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

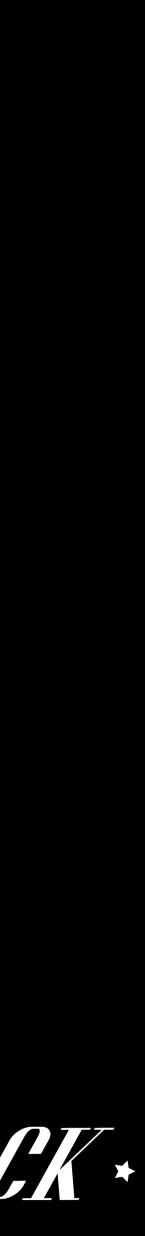
Est. Time: 90 minutes Subjects: Advisory, Art, Social Studies/History

Age Range: High School, AP/Honors/101 View the classroom lesson here!









How did the LGTBQ+ community, scientific organizations, and government institutions respond to the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 1990s?

In this lesson you will:

- Identify the biological characteristics of HIV and AIDS
- state of the AIDS/HIV epidemic
- government individuals and institutions
- Crisis

Examine the history of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 1990s and identify the current

Examine a series of timelines to identify how various individuals, institutions, and organizations responded to the AIDS crisis, and the criticism of the response by

Explain how the LGTBQ+ community used music and visual art to address the AIDS



Ask a friend, family member, or other person in your life how much they know about HIV, AIDS, and the history of the AIDS crisis during the 1980s and 1990s. Use the following questions as prompts, and feel free to create your own. Take notes as you conduct the interview.

- What do you know about HIV and AIDS?
- What is it, and what are its effects?
- Where did you learn about AIDS?

If possible, pair with another classmate, friend, or family member to share what each of you learned about HIV, AIDS, and the history of the AIDS crisis during the 1980s and 1990s.

#### What do you know about this history of the AIDS crisis during the 1980s and 1990s?



# WHAT IS HIV?

Read and watch a video introducing **avert.org**.



#### Read and watch a video introducing how HIV and AIDS affects the body at

# Examine **this image** on ways of transmitting HIV then refer to the questions on the following slide.

# <text>

# . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Consider or ask a friend:

- What is HIV? What does it stand for? •
- How does HIV operate? How does it affect the body?
- Is there a cure for HIV? Can it be treated? •

#### How can you get HIV? What are some myths about how you can get HIV?





# **MUSIC DURING THE AIDS CRISIS**

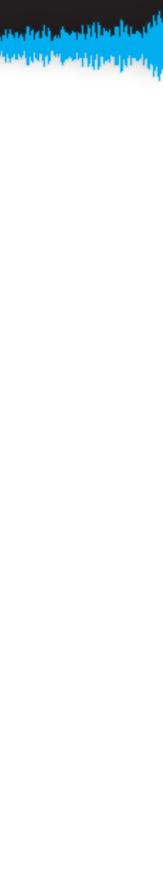
the AIDS crisis in the U.S.

#### Watch this video about music being a source of strength and comfort during

Consider or ask a friend:

- How would you characterize the AIDS epidemic from the descriptions in this clip?
- According to those in the clip, was American society and the United States government concerned about the AIDS epidemic?
- What various roles did music and dancing play for the LGBTQ+ community during the AIDS epidemic?
- What was the significance of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive?"
- What might Urvashi Vaid mean when she says "culture is a strategy of resistance and survival?"





#### Examine this timeline from 1981-1990 detailing how the scientific community responded to the AIDS epidemic. Take brief notes about the events.



gay men are affected.

1981	1982			- 1985	1986	1987-	-1990
The Center for Disease Control (CDC) publishes accounts of five previously	The <b>CDC</b> reports the first cases of Immune defi- clencies in patients with hemophilia, a rare blood disorder.	The <b>CBC</b> first diagnoses AIDS in female sexual partners of males with AIDS.	Robert Gaile and his colleagues at the National Cancer Institute certify that a retrovirus causes AIDS, and announce the develop- ment of a blood test that can test for the retrovirus that leads to AIDS,	The first blood test to detect the retrovirus causing AIDS becomes com- mercially avail- able. The <b>Pasteur</b> <b>Institute</b> files a lawsuit against the U.S. Govern- ment in claim- ing to have first	The CDC reports more people diagnosed with AIDS in 1985 than all previous	The U.S. Food and Drug Administra- tion (FDA) approves the first medication to treat AIDS, called AZT. The FDA acceler- ates approval of promising new medications so patients are able to receive them.	through dental
healthy gay men in Los Angeles that have contract-		AIDS is reported among hemo- philiacs, drug users, and			years combined. The CDC releas- es a report that AIDS is dispro- portionately affecting African Americans and Latinos.		
ed rare cases on prieumorila.	The CDC traro-	Hatbans.					
Reports are released of a	duces the term AIDS ("Acquired Immune Defi-	The CDC Identi- fleshow AIDS is					
rare form of cancer, Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), principally	crency Syn- drome") and defines its symptoms.	drome") and defines its symptoms. The CDC reports the presence of AIDS-like symptoms in an infant who receieved a blood transfu-	[AID 3.	discovered the retrovirus caus- ing AIDS, they requested	The International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses officially announces that the virus that	Human testing begins on the first AIDS vaccines.	
affecting gay men.	The CDC reports the presence of AIDS-like symptoms in an infant who receieved a blood transfu- sion.			certain patent rights to AIDS testing technol-		1	
270 cases of severe Immune deficiency among gay men are report- ed. The condi- tion is referred			ogy. The lawsuit is settled out of court.	causes AIDS will be defined as the Human Immu- nodeficiency Virus, or HIV,			
to by some as Gay-Related Immune Defi- ciency (GRID), creating the false assump- tion that only		rus that causes AIDS.					

All information obtained from hiv.o



#### Consider or ask a friend:

- timeline? What is their significance?
- Could you summarize the scientific progress made in diagnosing and treating the AIDS epidemic?

What individuals, institutions, or organizations re-occur throughout the



### Examine this timeline from 1981-1992 detailing the public health response to the AIDS epidemic. Take brief notes about the events.



			1985		1988		1992-
The Conter for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI)	The Gay Men's Health Crises, the first communi- ty-based AIDS service provider, is founded in New York City.	aith Crises, the st communi- based AIDS ervice provider, founded in ew York City. he Kaposi's arcoma esearch Educa- on Foundation formed. It is ter renamed he San Francisco	The COC (ssues provisional guidelines for blood screening for HIV.	The World Health Organization (WHO) launches The Special Programme on AIDS to raise awareness, create policy, and provide support for research on HIV/AIDS.	Bavid Purchase organizes the country's first needle-exchange program in Tacoma, Wash- ington. He funds the project with his own money, and in less than a year he exchang- es 13 thousand contaminated needles for clean ones. Needle exchange programs follow- ing Purchase's model spread throughout the country.	ing occupational exposure to HIV.	AIDS becomes the number one cause of death for U.S. men ages 25 to 44.
cosponsor a conference for			The U.S. Depart- ment of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organiza- tion host the first International AIDS Confer- ence.				The 8th Interna- tional AIDS Conference is moved from Boston to Amsterdam, due to recently enacted restric- tions on U.S. visas for people living with HIV/AIDS.
clinicians to address a sudden epidemic of Kaposi's Saroo-	The Kaposi's Sarcoma Research Educa- tion Foundation is formed. It is later renamed the San Francisco					vention counsel- ing model that focuses on the patient, rather than the disease.	
Ma, a rare form of cancer, among men				The COC launch- es the first AID S-related public service announcements, "America Responds to			
who have had sexual contact with other men.	AIDS Foundation		The Los Angeles County Board of Sopervisors enacts strict regulations on local bathhouses to stop the spread of HIV, Bathhouse owners win a				
The first Kaposi's Sarooma (KS) clinic opens in							
clinic opens in San Francisco,	1				The New York City Realth Department begins a pilot		
			lawsuit to stay open, arguing their establish- ments provide HIV/AIDS educa- tion.	The American Medical Associa- tion declares that doctors have an ethical obligation to care for people with AID 5, as well as for those who have been infect- ed with the virus	growing number of HIV infections among people who inject drugs.		
				but show no symptoms.			

All information obtained from hivo



Consider or ask a friend:

- role in addressing the AIDS epidemic? What particular role did they play?
- AIDS epidemic? Could you categorize the various ways these organizations responded?
- dependent on federal funding? Based on this comparison, can you draw any initiatives?



Can you identify the principal individuals, organizations, or institutions that played a

What kind of strategies did public health organizations pursue when responding to the

Which institutions might be dependent on federal funding? Which might be less conclusions about the importance of federal funding on medical research and health



## Examine this timeline from 1981-1992 detailing the activism and advocacy surrounding the AIDS epidemic. Take brief notes about the events, and your thoughts about them, to share.



	1982		1987	- 1988	1990		1992
Writer and film producer Larry Kramer holds a gathering of over 80 gay men in New York City to discuss an emerging epidemic. He invites a doctor to speak, and begins a fund- raising cam- paign in sup- port of researching the yet-to-be- named epidem- ic.	An activist group in San Francisco publishes and distributes the first pamphlet on safer sex at the International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade.	co activists take over a stage at the National AIDS Forum and read a state- ment known as <b>The Denver</b> <b>Principles,</b> which demand people living with AIDS play a role in creating AIDS-related policy. <b>Lambda Legal,</b> a civil rights organization focusing on LGBTQ+ issues and HIV/AIDS advocacy, issues its first AIDS discrimina- tion lawsuit after	Activist Larry Nramer founds the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), a direct-action group developed to pressure governments, elected officials, health industries, and religious organizations to act on behalf of people living with AIDS. Their first major protest occurs on Wall Street, with activists demand- ing changes on a variety of issues, from drug pricing to legislation to education. The AIDS memo- rial quilt is displayed at the National Mall in Washington, DC. The quilt features 1,920	Elizabeth Glaser, an HIV-positive mother of two HIV-positive children, forms the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which provides funding for improved treatments for children. Over 1,000 members of ACT	sion of clinical	The Visual AIBS Artists Caucus begins the Red Ribbon Project to demonstrate compassion for people living with AIDS and their caregiv- ers. The red ribbon becomes the international	ACT UP holds a mass funeral in front of the White House, They pour ashes of loved ones upon the White House lawn, and make public eulogies for those that died of AIDS. The action was inspired by the writing of <b>David</b> Wajnarowicz, who suggested those who died of
				UF engage in a large-scale sit-in at the Food and Drug Administra- tion (FDA) head- quarters to demand the organization speed up the process of approving AIDS medications.		symbol of AIDS awareness. The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC),	
						in cooperation bered in	AIDS be remem- bered in such a public way.
		a New York doctor is threat- ened with evic- tion for treating people with AIDS.		rial quilt is displayed at the National Mall in Washington, DC. The quilt	Almost 200 are arrested, but shortly later the FDA announces it is taking mea- sures to speed up the process.		Network, holds the first annual National Skills Building Confer- ence, which will later become the United
			4x8 panels and draws half a million visitors,	World AIDS Day is observed for the first time.		States Confer- ence on AIDS.	



#### Consider or ask a friend:

- they affected by the epidemic?
- •



Can you identify the principal individuals, organizations, or institutions that played a role in advocating for AIDS awareness? What role did they play?

What kinds of people became advocates for AIDS awareness? How were

What were some of the demands made by AIDS activists during this time?

What sorts of strategies did activist individuals and organizations pursue?



#### Examine **this timeline** from 1981-1991 detailing how the media covered the AIDS epidemic. Take brief notes about the events.



Document 1: Timeline 1981-1991

	1982	1983		- 1986	1987		1991
The New York Times publishes an article on recent reports by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) of gay	The New York Times introduces the term Gay-Re- lated Immune	Bobbi Campbeli appears with his partner, Bobby Hillard, on the	Ryan White, a hemophiliac who contracted AIDS through blood	AIDS-related illness. At first,	Princess Diana's visit to Casey House, a special- ized HIV/AIDS	Artist and activist Keith Haring dies of AIDS-related illness.	Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the band Oueen, dies of AIDS-related illness. Basketball star
	Deficiency (GRID), further reinforc- ing the notion	the reinforc- the notion t AIDS only ects gay men. E Los Angeles t front-page cle on AIDS a major blication t AIDS only t AIDS. It is the first time two gay men are pictured t major publica- tion. Campbell dies of AIDS-	denied entry into his middle school. The resulting legal battle gains media attention, and Ryan's	the cause of his death is con- cealed. The	hospital in Toron- to, makes inter- national head- lines after photo- graphs of her shaking hands with patients are published. She soon becomes a figurehead against the stigmatization of	Activist Ryan White dies of AIDS-related	
men dying of Karposi Sarcema,	that AIDS only affects gay men.			event reinforces the stigma		illness.	Earvin "Magio" Johnson announces that he is HIV-posi- tive.
a rare form of cancer. Through the article, the term	The Los Angeles Times runs the first front-page			attached to the disease, and spurs a national conversation of a patient's right to privacy.			
"gay canser" enters into public conver-	article on AIDS for a major publication.					Elizabeti founds Elizabeti AIDS Fou to provi for peop	Elizabeth Taylor founds the Elizabeth Taylor
sation.			Movie star Rock Hudson dies of AIDS-related illness. Hudson is the first celeb- rity to announce	1	people living with AIDS.		AIDS Foundation to provide care for people living with AIDS.
San Francisco nurse <b>Bobbi</b> Campbell becomes the first patient of					In Florida, a federal judge allows the <b>Ray</b> brothers, three		
Karpesi Sarcoma to go public by writing a news- paper column about living with "gay cancer."			he contracted AIDS, and leaves \$250,000 to start the Founda- tion for AIDS		students who contracted AIDS through their hemophilia, to		
			tion for AIBS Research, an organization co-founded by Elizabeth Taylor,		entoll in school. In response, town residents refuse to send their own		
			actress and friend of Rock Hudson.		children to the school, and someone burns down the broth- ers' family		

All information obtained from hiv.gov



Consider or ask a friend:

- their significance?
- had on public assumptions about AIDS?
- Despite the terrible circumstances, how might the media coverage of the AIDS visibility?
- awareness? Why did they choose to pursue such a project?



What individuals, institutions, or organizations reoccur throughout the timeline? What is

How did the media initially portray the AIDS epidemic? What effects might that have

epidemic have provided more visibility to groups that were marginalized in society, like the LGBTQ+ community? What may have been the benefits and drawbacks to this new

Who were some of the principal media figures or celebrities who advocated for AIDS



#### Examine this timeline from 1982-1990 detailing the federal response to the AIDS epidemic. Take brief notes about the events.



	-1983				1987		
The first con- gressional hearings on AIDS occur, where it is revealed that an estimated tens of thou- sands of people may be affected. Legis- lation to allo- cate funds for AIDS research is introduced in Congress, but not ratified.	The first bill is passed to fund AIDS research: \$12 million for agencies within the U.S. Depart- ment of Health and Human Services.	Governments in New York and San Francisco order bathhous- es closed, due to high-risk sexual activities that occur at these sites.	President Ronald Reagan address- es AIDS for the first time, follow- ing a question from a journalist about the lack of resources going into fighting the epidemic.	The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) is organized. They meet with U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop to discuss concerns related to AIDS in communities of color.	The U.S. Public Health Service classifies HIV as a "dangerous contagious disease," thus mandating that all immigrants get tested for the disease. Those who test positive	C. Everett Keep launches the first national HIV/AIDS educa- tion campaign by distributing 107 million copies of a informational booklet They are printed both in	Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrim- ination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with
			The U.S. Con- gress approves nearly \$190 million for AIDS research—\$70 million over the Reagan adminis- tration's request.	C. Everett Koop personally writes the Surgeon General's Report on AIDS in his home. The mat- ter-of-fact, scien- tific language on prevention through safer sex practices proves controversial for many who feel that teaching	are denied entry into the United States. President Ronald Reagan makes his first public speech about AIDS, and creates a Presi-	English and Spanish. It is the largest public health mailing in history, and the first time the federal govern- ment provided explicit sex	HIV/AIDS. Congress enacts the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990, which provides \$2,20.5 million in
						Information to the public. President Ronald Reagan signs Health Omnibus	Federal funds for HIV communi- ty-based care and treatment
				safer sex advo- cates promiscu- ity.		Programs Exten- sion (HOPE) Act into law, which authorizes feder- al funds for AIDS prevention, education, and testing.	

All information obtained from hive



#### Consider or ask a friend:

- timeline? What is their significance?
- How would you characterize the government's response to the AIDS • epidemic? Was it immediate, or more gradual?

What individuals, institutions, or organizations re-occur throughout the



#### After all of the timelines have been examined, consider or ask a friend:

- What are some similarities and differences you noticed about how
- provided early leadership and led in the early years of the epidemic?
- response to the epidemic in a positive way?

individuals, institutions, or organizations responded to the AIDS epidemic?

How would you characterize the general response to the AIDS epidemic during this time period? What individuals, institutions, or organizations

Do you notice cooperation between certain individuals, institutions, or organizations across the timelines? How did this cooperation benefit the



## Explore **this gallery** of images featuring artists who responded to the AIDS epidemic.





Consider or ask a friend:

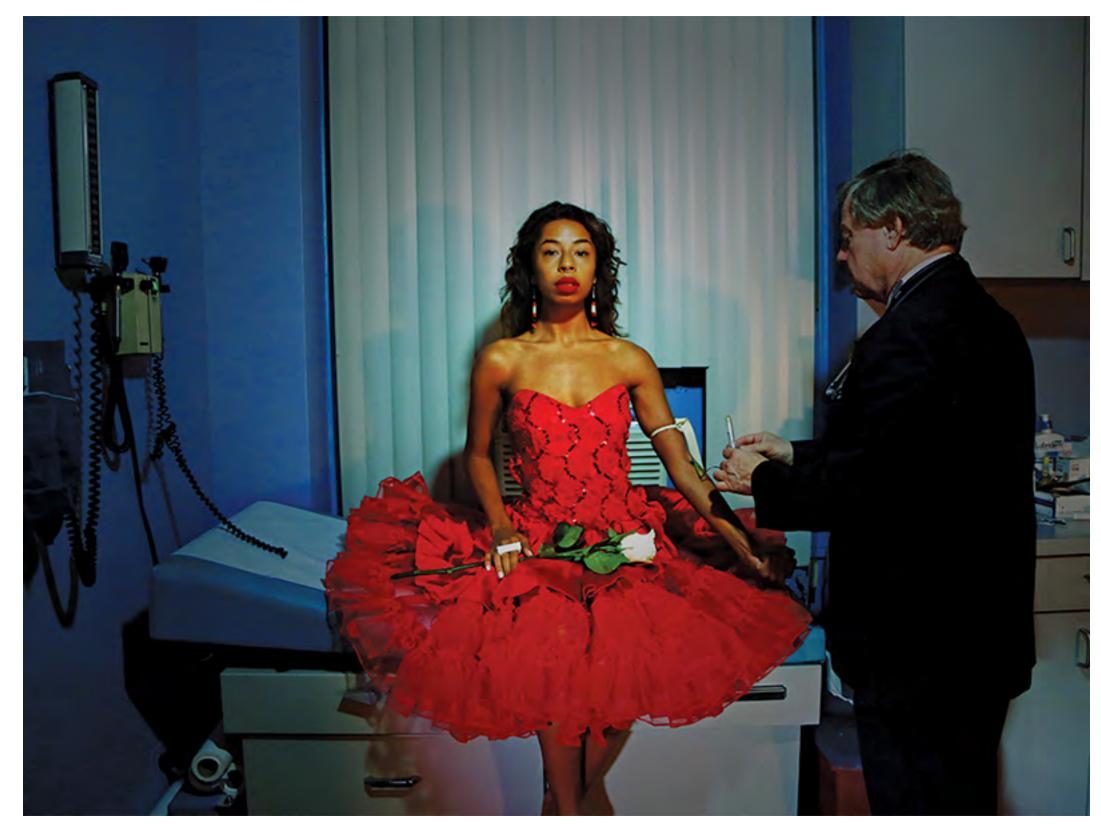
- work?
- Which piece or artists particularly stood out to you? Why?
- make the works particularly powerful?

## In what ways did these artists respond to the AIDS epidemic through their

What are some of the feelings conveyed in these works? Did those feelings



## Examine this handout of visual artist and dancer, Kia LaBeija who was born decades after the artists featured earlier and at a time when AIDS-related protests were capturing national attention





Consider or ask a friend:

- educate people about HIV/AIDS?
- any differences between her work and the work of these earlier artists?
- the narrative of how HIV and AIDS have been and are depicted?

How is living with HIV represented in LaBeija's photography and how might her work

How might LaBeija's experiences differ from the artists featured earlier? Do you see

LaBeija has stated that the story of AIDS was a "white, gay man's story" and that when invited to panels, she's often the "only person of color, the only woman and, of course, the only person on the panel born with HIV." How might LaBeija's work contribute to



- HIV is defined as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- AIDS is defined as the Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus
- HIV/AIDS affected the LGBTQ+ community particularly, who responded not only by mourning, but also activism and coalition-building
- Art became a powerful form of expression for people affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and became a component to activism and organizing around the issue
- AIDS disproportionately affects African Americans and Latinx people in the U.S.

# **SUMMARY**



# **BE CREATIVE**

Explore the website, POZ.com, which is a publication for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Choose an issue from the ongoing AIDS crisis of today and create a poster that summarizes the issue and informs the public. Consider the imagery you viewed earlier in determining how to create your work. Share your work with your class either via a video presentation or as an image.



# **BE CURIOUS**

Learn more about how HIV/AIDS is being addressed today by examining the following organizations:

- **AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power**
- The Foundation for AIDS Research
- **The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation** •
- Lambda Legal
- **National Minority AIDS Council**
- **Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
- Visual AIDS Artists Caucus
- **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**





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