



Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality

Online Exhibition Worksheet

BEFORE EXPLORING | Before exploring *Determined online*, please answer the following questions.

Think about the exhibition's title: *Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality*. ***What does the word determined, or determination, mean to you?***

The first English colonists to permanently settle in Virginia came willingly to establish Jamestown in 1607. The first enslaved Africans were brought to Virginia against their will in 1619. ***If your ancestors came to America (forcibly or voluntarily), what connections do you feel to their homeland?***

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson embody the contradictions of the founding of the United States. Both committed their lives to gaining America's liberty from British rule and to establishing our national government, but they were also deeply invested in the system of slavery as wealthy planters who held hundreds of human beings in bondage. ***How do we understand their contributions to our country and their love of liberty with their entanglement with slavery?***

Civil rights activists staged sit-ins, boycotts, and picket lines to protest discriminatory service and to put economic pressure on businesses. ***Have you ever boycotted a company or its products? For what reasons?***



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This online exhibition features more than thirty stories of action; from the violence of enslaved revolts or military service to non-violent resistance like legal action or peaceful protest to the simple perseverance of day-to-day living.

What type of action do you think is most effective in creating change? Why?

What are you willing to sacrifice for a cause you believe in?

What does equality mean to you?

What are the obstacles to achieving equality?



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AFTER EXPLORING | After exploring *Determined online*, please answer the following questions.

Who's story do you remember the most? Why?

What does equality mean to you?

What are the obstacles to achieving equality?

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Reflect on your first answers to the questions. Compare your responses to those after exploring the online exhibition.

What has changed? What stayed the same?

What are YOU determined to do?

This online exhibition highlights the inspirational stories of 30 individuals, but there have been many more throughout history who have fought to make our society more equal and just. ***Who inspires you? Do some research and choose your own example of someone who displays what it means to be Determined.***