



Birmingham Children's March  
Birmingham, Alabama, 1963



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook

## Birmingham Children's March, Birmingham, AL, 1963

In 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, was the “most segregated city in the country” according to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On May 2, thousands of students walked out of schools in protest of segregation, racism, and the violent terrorization of Black people. The action was planned by youth leaders and Reverend James Bevel. They worked for weeks to organize the march, recruiting influential youth like cheerleaders and football players to mobilize students and train them in nonviolent action. Radio DJs announced the date of the walkout on air using coded language. Over 5,000 students marched to city hall in coordinated groups of 10-50. As protests continued, Police Chief Bull Connor attacked them with snarling dogs and blasted them with fire hoses. Mass arrests flooded the jails. Close to a thousand children were arrested, including an eight-year-old. The protests continued until May 10. The television footage of the attacks on children horrified the nation and prompted the federal government to take action. A 72-hr negotiation with city officials ended segregation in Birmingham and removed Bull Connor from office. This campaign led directly to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Is that kid jumping out the window? Yes! When administrators realized what was happening, some of them locked the school doors. Students jumped out the window to join the march.
- Can you spot the toothbrush? The girl in the center of the image is carrying a toothbrush in her hand. Many youth brought them to school, anticipating that they would be arrested during the action.
- Do you see someone clapping? Singing, clapping, and music were major parts of this campaign, along with many others in the Civil Rights Movement. Music lifted people's spirits when they faced difficult situations.
- How old do you think these students were? This image shows high school students, but children as young as 8 years old also participated. Their bold courage inspired everyone who was working for racial justice. Many adults joined them in the streets.

### Discussion Questions:

- The Birmingham Children's March was a campaign for racial justice. How are people working to achieve racial justice and end racism today?
- What is one thing you can do to support racial justice?
- What other issues have students organized walkouts for?
- The cheerleaders, football players, and radio DJs all played an important role in spreading the word. How do the influencers you follow stand up for social justice?
- Is it okay to break the rules for an important cause? Why or why not?
- The Birmingham marchers faced snarling dogs and painful fire hoses. What do you think gave them courage to face the dangers in order to achieve justice?

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The March of the Mill Children  
Philadelphia to New York, 1903



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook



## The March of the Mill Children, Philadelphia, PA, to New York, 1903

In 1903, two hundred children marched 130 miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to President Theodore Roosevelt's summer house in Oyster Bay, New York. Their demand? They wanted to go to school. Even where it was against the law, children as young as 5-6 years old were working 11-15 hours per day in mills, factories, and mines. Many lost fingers, limbs, or even their lives in workplace accidents. Parents and labor activists accompanied the young marchers, including the feisty organizer "Mother" Mary Harris Jones. In cities and towns, they gave speeches and held rallies calling for their rights to receive education and be protected from exploitation, injury, and harm. Although President Roosevelt refused to meet with them, the March of the Mill Children propelled the issue of child labor to national attention. In 1915, Pennsylvania established a minimum working age of 14. In 1916, the first federal labor law was passed.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Why is that girl's arm in a sling? Many children were injured and maimed at work, including losing fingers and limbs.
- How many stars are on the flag? 48. In 1903, Alaska and Hawaii were not part of the United States.
- Who's that woman in the middle? Mary Harris Jones, known as Mother Jones, was a feisty 65-year-old, Irish-American labor organizer and a key organizer of the march.
- How young is that little girl? Children as young as 5 or 6 were working in the mills, mines, and factories, even where laws forbid the owners from using them.
- Why does that man have a drum? Historical photos of the marchers show that they played drums as they went through towns and cities.
- What does the sign say? "We Want To Go To School" and "More Schools, Less Injuries" are actual slogans from the campaign.

### Discussion Questions:

- These children are marching for the right to go to school. Imagine if you had to work in a factory from 7 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock in the evening. Would you join the march for the right to go to school?
- What is the difference between doing chores at home and child labor?
- Where in the world do you think child labor is still taking place today? How about in your own country?
- How are young people still discriminated against in our society?
- How young is the youngest person in this picture? How about the oldest? What do we gain from working with people of different ages?

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# HUELGA!



Delano Grape Strike & Boycott  
California and beyond, 1965-70

## Delano Grape Strike & Boycott, California and beyond, 1965-70

In 1965, Filipino farm workers went on strike in the vineyards of California, protesting terrible working conditions and cuts to their pay. When owners tried to replace them with Mexican workers, strike leader Larry Itliong reached out to labor organizers Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Together, Filipinos and Mexicans went on strike together in solidarity. After picketing in the fields, they marched 300 miles to Sacramento to bring their demands to the state capital. Allies and supporters asked people to boycott California grapes and wine. People brought signs to grocery stores nationwide. President Nixon tried to crush the farm workers by buying the grape harvest and sending it to troops in Vietnam. On the docks of Oakland, CA, the longshoremen refused to load the crates. 10,000 tons of grapes rotted. It took five years of striking, organizing, boycotting, and protesting, but the solidarity of the United Farm Workers prevailed. They won a collective bargaining agreement for 10,000 farm workers, and gained pay increases, health benefits, and more.

### Look Closer! Can you spot these details?

- How old are the Filipino men who are leading the strike in Delano? Because racist laws prohibited older Asian immigrant men from bringing over their families or marrying interracially, many workers on the frontline were the “manongs” (an honorific for older ‘uncles’) who felt they could risk violent repression because they did not have families to support or protect.
- Where’s Larry Itliong? The man in the hat on the right hand side of the vineyard picket line is Larry Itliong, the Filipino leader of this campaign. If you look very closely, you can see that he is missing some fingers—he lost them in a work-related accident.
- What is that word: huelga? *Huelga* means strike in Spanish. The woman holding that sign is Dolores Huerta, a key Mexican-American labor organizer of the strike.
- Where are they marching to? On the right, organizer Cesar Chavez is pointing out the route for the 300-mile-long march to the Sacramento State Capitol.

### Discussion Questions:

- What does “solidarity” mean? How did it give the farmworkers power and strength?
- The farm workers used many types of action to achieve their goals. What were they? How did the campaign grow stronger over time?
- Who do you think harvests the food you eat? How can you find out if they are being treated fairly or unfairly?
- Looking back, some people who were children in 1965 remember asking why there were no grapes on the table. Imagine one of your favorite things was the target of a boycott ... like a pizza boycott ... or a cell phone boycott. Would it be hard or easy to give up these items until the workers were paid fairly?

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Capitol Crawl for the ADA  
Washington, D.C., 1990



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook

## Capitol Crawl for the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Washington, DC, 1990

On March 12, 1990, over 1,000 people marched—or rather, *rolled*—in their wheelchairs to the steps of the US Capitol Building. The Disability Rights group ADAPT was protesting a wide range of injustices - lack of accessibility to basic amenities like transportation, water fountains, entrances, stairs; discrimination in jobs and education; institutionalization and sterilization—but the immediate grievance was the failure of Congress to pass the Americans With Disabilities Act. In front of 50+ journalists, 80 activists flung themselves out of their wheelchairs and crawled, pulled, dragged, and climbed up the steps to illustrate that there was no physical way for them to meet with their representatives with dignity. The youngest member of the action was 8-year-old Jennifer Keelan Chaffins, who had already been protesting for two years. Looking back, she said, “Even though I was quite young, I realized that as one of the very few kids that got to be involved in this movement, it wasn’t just about myself but it was about (the other kids) as well. I realized that people with disabilities are fighting for their right to be acknowledged and accepted ... and I can too, and I want to be a part of that.” Three Congressional leaders came out to meet the activists and vowed to make sure the ADA passed. Four months later, the ADA was signed into law.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Recognize that building? That’s the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC. At the time, it was not wheelchair accessible.
- Why is that person being carried by the arms? The activists who participated in the Capitol Crawl had a range of physical disabilities/mobilities. Some boosted themselves backwards up each step. Some crawled forward on a combination of arms and knees. Some did assisted lifts like the man and the girl on the left.
- What is the symbol on their tee-shirts? The circle with the line through it is the symbol of the Disability Rights group ADAPT. In historic photos, the circle is white on a blue tee-shirt.

### Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to have a disability? What kinds of disabilities can you see? What kinds are less visible? Consider blindness, deafness, reading disabilities like dyslexia.
- Think about this building. If there were no elevators, ramps, or wheelchair accessible bathrooms, it would be hard for someone in a wheelchair to join us today. How can we make our schools and/or society more inclusive and just?
- In the picture, camera persons are broadcasting the action on television. What role does media play in making change? How do you think it moved the politicians to pass the ADA?
- Ableism is a term for discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities or who are perceived to be disabled. Where do you see this in our community?

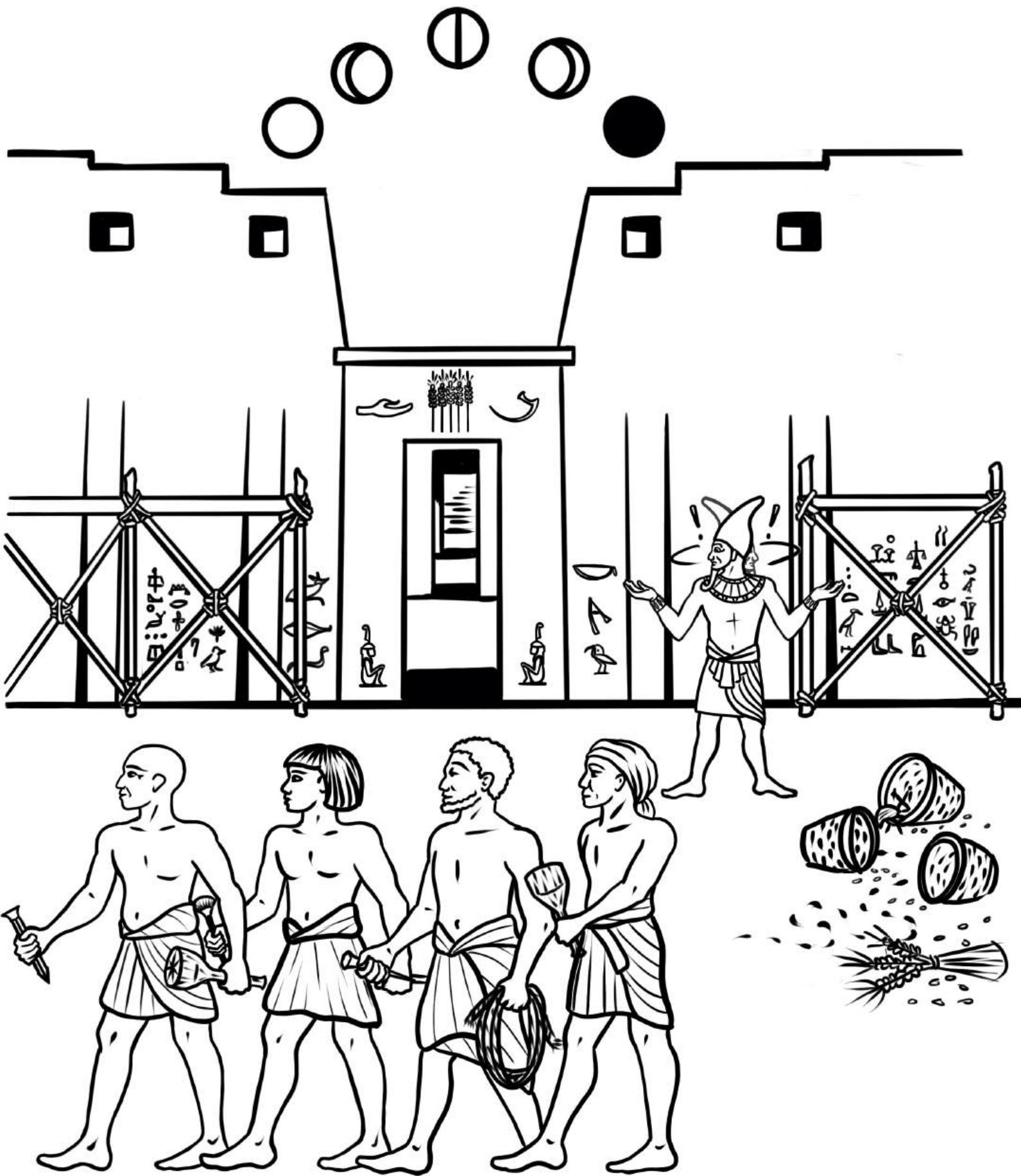
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Egyptian Builders Strike  
Deir el-Medina, Egypt, 1170 BCE

## Egyptian Builders Strike, Egypt, 1170 BCE

In 1170 BCE, a crew of twenty skilled artisans were working on the temple and future tomb of Pharaoh Ramses III (also spelled Ramesses). They were paid a certain amount of grain each month, and payment was late again. So, they set down their tools and walked off the site. They marched to the officials and demanded to be paid. The scrambling officials brought them pastries.

Unimpressed, the workers marched to the police, explaining that their grain payments weren't just food—they could be traded for clothing, ointment, beer, and fish. The police gave them partial rations, but the workers wouldn't be bought off. They continued a series of strikes, escalating the pressure and also writing a letter of petition. The officials were confounded. They'd never seen work stoppages like this before. The workers invoked Ma'at, the goddess of the cosmic order, saying that the Pharaoh had a sacred duty to take care of the people's material needs. As pay continued to run late or was only partially paid, the workers staged sit-ins at key temples, blocking access and preventing funeral rites and rituals, disrupting the social elite of Egypt. In the end, the workers received their full pay at the agreed-upon times. Their strike made history and discovered a new kind of power that workers would still be using millennia later.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Shouldn't it be a pyramid? No. Not all pharaohs chose iconic pyramids for their tombs. Ramses III's tomb is also a temple and is called Medinet Habu. You can still visit it today.
- What do the hieroglyphics say? The hieroglyphics on Ramses III's actual tomb extol his war victories. We've chosen these symbols to represent the themes of the strike, including grain, scythes, the scales of cosmic balance, and the goddess Ma'at.
- Can you spot the goddess Ma'at? She represents the cosmic balance. The workers invoked her during their protests, pointing out that the pharaoh had broken the sacred contract by failing to pay them. On her head is an ostrich feather, which she used to weigh the souls of the dead in the afterlife.
- What are the workers carrying? The tools of these highly-skilled, literate artisans included mallets, chisels, a paintbrush, and rope.

### Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the workers succeeded in getting paid? How did the strike, walk-off, protest, letter of petition, and sit-ins help their cause?
- A scribe named Amennakhte recorded the details of the strike on papyrus. (We even know some of the workers' names: Mose and Qenna.) Why is it important to preserve the history of nonviolent actions like this?
- The workers felt their employer (the pharaoh) had a sacred duty to take care of them. Do employers today have a responsibility to provide for their workers?
- The sit-ins disrupted the funeral rites of the most powerful people of the time. Why did this have an impact? How do you think ancient Egyptians felt about this action?

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The Bishnois,  
Rajasthan, 1730

### India's Forest Protectors



**CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE**  
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The Chipko Movement,  
Uttarakhand, 1970s

Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook



## India's Forest Protectors, Rajasthan, 1730 & Uttarakhand, 1970

For centuries, one group of forest protectors in India has inspired the next. In 1485 AD, a religious sect was started by Guru Maharaj Jambaji, who urged protection of trees and animals as a way of ending droughts. For 300 years, the Bishnois were famed for the lushly-forested villages they cultivated even in the arid region of Rajasthan. In 1730, a maharajah (king) began to cut down the trees to build a palace. A local woman, Amrita Devi, rallied the Bishnoi villagers of Khejri to protect the trees. They threw their arms around the trunks, but the soldiers killed Amrita, her daughters, and 363 other Bishnois. As soon as the king heard, he rushed to stop the massacre and ultimately protected the forest. This famous story later inspired the Chipko Movement of the 1970s in their campaigns to stop deforestation and logging. Chipko means "to embrace" or "to hug" and they would hug the trees while chanting: "Let us protect and plant the trees/Go awaken the villages/And drive away the axemen." Reporting on this movement gave rise to the term "tree-hugger" in the United States. Although it was used as an insult to the activists who tried to stop old growth logging in California in the 1990s, we should see it as a compliment! Tree-huggers have a long and powerful history.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- How many types of trees do you see? Rajasthan (where the Bishnois lived) is dry and arid with khejri trees, which are used for fodder. The mountainous slopes of the Uttarakhand region (home of the Chipko movement) have both fodder trees and pine trees that were used for timber and sap harvesting.
- Why is that woman standing beside a pile of axes? That's Gaura Devi, who organized a 4-day sit-in to stop the logging in the 1970s. She would also confiscate the loggers' tools and leave a receipt in their place, returning them when the loggers left the area.
- Who is the man hugging a tree? While the tree-huggers were mostly women, Chandi Prasad Bhatt was an important figure in the Chipko Movement.
- Can you see the deer-like creature? That is the blackbuck antelope, which is held sacred by the Bishnois. They even track down hunters and kick them off the land to protect the antelope. They will also take care of orphaned fawns like their own children.

### Discussion Questions:

- Think of the trees in your community. What is special about them? Would you stand up to protect them from being cut down?
- The Bishnois viewed trees as sacred. In today's world, who is using nonviolent action to protect the sacred?
- The word Chipko means "to embrace." How can love be a powerful protective force?
- In the 1730s, the king heard about the massacre of the Bishnois and stopped the soldiers from further bloodshed. Then he protected the entire forest. In our time, how could leaders work harder to protect people and planet?
- Have you heard of other forest protectors? Who are they and what did they do?

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Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace  
Liberia, 2003



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook

## Women of Liberia Mass Action For Peace, Liberia, 2003

In 2003, the Second Civil War raged in Liberia between rebel forces and the dictator/president Charles Taylor, killing more than 200,000 people. Leymah Gbowee had already lived through the nightmare of the first civil war and was horrified at the violence of this new war. One night, she had a powerful dream that told her to “gather the women and pray for peace.” She brought together both Christian and Muslim women to demonstrate along the road where Charles Taylor’s motorcade passed. Day after day, wearing white tee-shirts and holding signs, thousands of women prayed and protested for peace. A march of 1,000 women met with him and convinced him to attend peace talks in Ghana. A delegation of 200 women traveled to the talks. When the discussions stalled, the women sat down in front of the doors of the building and refused to let the war leaders leave until an agreement to end the war was reached. When the guards tried to arrest them, Leymah Gbowee and the women threatened to take off all their clothes—a shocking curse in African tradition. The guards backed off. A peace agreement was reached. Charles Taylor stepped down from power. Democratic elections were held and one of the peace activists, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was elected the first female president of Liberia. Sirleaf, along with Leymah Gbowee, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Who do you think is the leader? There were actually many leaders of this campaign, including Leymah Gbowee (on the right holding a statement), Edweta “Sugars” Cooper (holding banner on left) and Vaiba Flomo (holding banner on right), Asatu Bah Kenneth (with the megaphone), and others.
- What language are the signs in? Liberians speak 20 different languages, but use English as the official language, which is what the signs were written in.
- Can you see the motorcade? Each day, the dictator/president Charles Taylor would have to drive past the demonstrations as he went to his office and house. He couldn’t ignore them!
- How many different patterns can you see? At the protests, the women wore traditional patterned skirts as well as white tee-shirts and head wraps to symbolize peace. They also chose not to wear their jewelry to signify that they mourned and grieved the horror of war.

### Discussion Questions:

- The Women of Liberia Mass Action For Peace took a bold stand to stop a horrific war. Where are wars happening today? Who is protesting against them?
- Why do you think it was important to have both Christians and Muslims join together to demonstrate for peace?
- Dreams and prayer played a powerful role in this campaign. Why do you think that was? Can you think of other movements that used dreams and prayer?
- Why do you think it was women—rather than men—who led the call for peace?
- What are you willing to do for peace? What kinds of risks would you take if you thought it would help end war?

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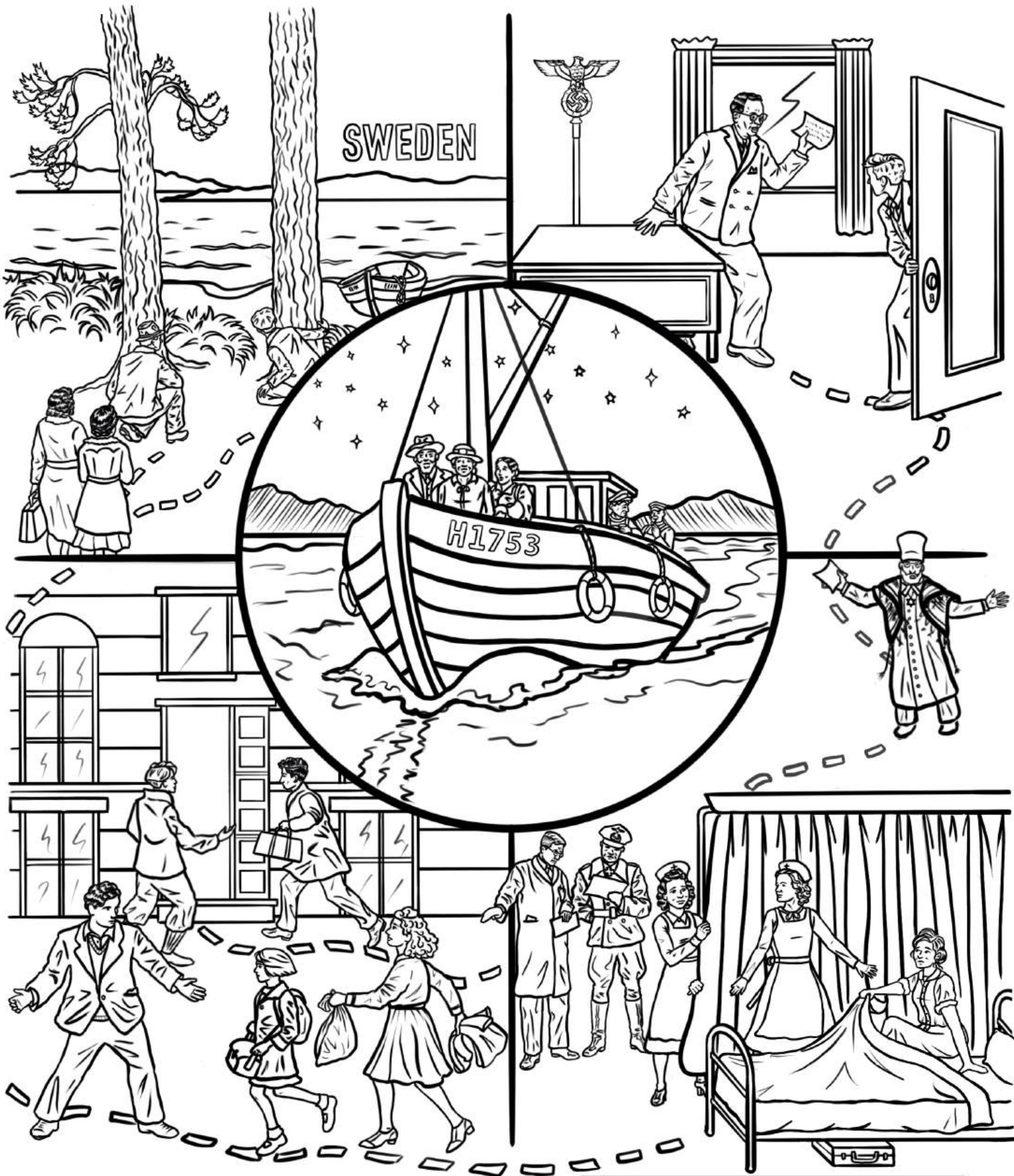
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Rescue of Danish Jews  
Denmark, 1943

## Rescue of Danish Jews, Denmark, 1943

In 1940, the Nazis invaded Denmark. The country did not resist militarily and surrendered after only six hours. Instead, they resisted the Nazi occupation in other ways. The government stalled, delayed, and thwarted many of the Nazi commands in the initial years. Shipyard and factory workers held work stoppages and slow-downs. In 1943, the Nazis planned to round up all the Jews and send them to concentration camps. Word of this plan was leaked and within a few days, most of the 7,800 Jews in Denmark went into hiding. People hid them in attics, basements, and store rooms. They also checked them into hospitals under false names. Then, the Danish resistance movement and citizens evacuated 7,220 of Denmark's 7,800 Jews (plus 686 non-Jewish spouses) by sea to nearby neutral Sweden. The Swedish king, who was not supportive at first, was convinced by a phone call from actress Greta Garbo and a meeting with physicist Niels Bohr. The US wanted to extract Bohr to work on the atom bomb, but Bohr refused to get on a plane from Sweden to the US until Sweden offered protection to the rest of the Jews. In a few weeks, right under the noses of the Nazis, the Danes helped more than 7,000 people get to safety. In contrast to the rest of Europe, nearly all the Danish Jews survived. It is one of the most dramatic rescue operations in history.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- What is that man in the upper right doing? Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz was a German whistleblower – someone who reveals hidden truths to prevent further harm. He spread the word to the Jewish rabbis that the Nazis planned to round up the Jews.
- What's going on in the hospital? Nurses and doctors checked Danish Jews in as patients under Christian names, misdirecting the Nazis. Doctors played an essential role in the rescue. Dr. Karl Henrik Koster and his team were responsible for saving 2,000 Jews through his hospital.
- Why are they hiding in the trees? Farmers and fishermen helped the Danish Jews travel undercover to reach boats to Sweden, which was only a few miles away over the ocean.

### Discussion Questions:

- If you lived in Denmark in 1940, would you be willing to hide people or take them to safety on a boat to help save their lives? Even if it meant risking your own life?
- Think about refugees in our world today. Who is crossing oceans or borders to find safety? Why have they left their homes? How are they being received?
- If your country was invaded and occupied, what kinds of nonviolent resistance do you imagine could be used to protect vulnerable groups and resist the occupiers?
- What role did famous people play in this campaign? How do famous people take a stand for social issues today?
- Do you think the Danish resistance to the Nazis had an impact on the war? Why or why not?

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The People Power Revolution  
Philippines, 1986



## People Power Revolution, Philippines, 1986

In 1983, US-backed dictator Ferdinand Marcos assassinated his political rival, Benigno Aquino, and banned media coverage. Only Radio Veritas dared to broadcast the news, but it was enough to set off weekly mass protests. By 1986, Marcos was forced to hold an unexpected *snap election*. Aquino's widow, Corazon, emerged as the leading candidate. The movement organized 20,000 poll watchers to make sure the election was fair. When Marcos falsely claimed to have won, everyone knew it was a lie. Fifty congress members walked out in protest. Boycotts hit Marcos' businesses. The bishops of the Catholic Church condemned him. A general strike was held - no one went to work or school. A military faction decided to try to take power. They asked Corazon Aquino to join them, but she turned them down, insisting on democratic process and nonviolent action. When Marcos sent his troops to massacre the rebels in the barracks, Cardinal Jaime Sin got on the radio and called the people of Manila into the streets to stop the loyalist military's attack using unarmed nonviolent protests. Nuns kneeled down in front of tanks. People gave water, food, and flowers to the soldiers. Marcos ordered his soldiers to fire, but instead they deliberately missed or claimed their weapons had jammed. For three days, people flooded the streets and brought the country to a standstill. At the end, Marcos fled the country and Corazon Aquino was sworn into office.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- What's that hand gesture? The letter "L." People used it to signal support for Laban, the Aquinos' political party. They also wore yellow ribbons and showered yellow confetti.
- Why is that nun handing the soldier a bowl of rice? Sharing food is an important part of Filipino culture. The People Power Revolution shared food to remind the soldiers that they didn't want to hurt their fellow Filipinos, especially in a civil war.
- Why are the nuns on their knees? They are saying the Rosary, a Catholic prayer. Through presence and prayer, they reminded everyone of their common values and upheld peace.
- What's that tower? That's Radio Veritas, the station that called the people into nonviolent action. *Veritas* is Latin for 'truth'.
- Are they singing or chanting? Both. Songs, chants, and prayers were widely used, along with friendly conversations to talk the soldiers out of attacking each other.

### Discussion Questions:

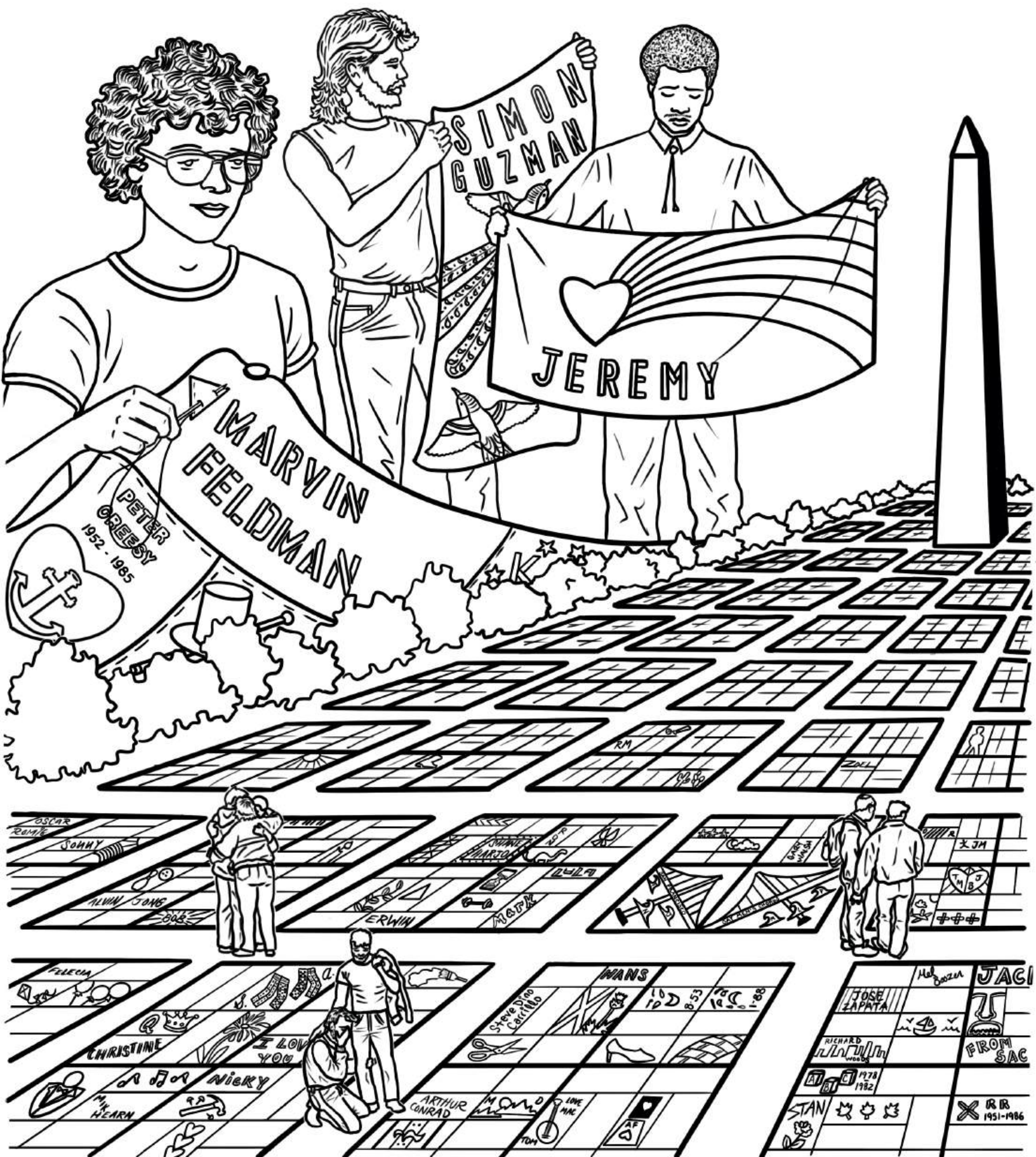
- Why do you think it is called the *People Power* Revolution?
- What is a dictator? How is a dictatorship different from democracy?
- Ferdinand Marcos was called "President." How do you know when someone is a dictator even if they are called a president?
- How do you think prayer, food, smiles, and songs helped prevent civil war?
- Corazon Aquino refused to be part of a military coup and insisted on democracy. Why is it important to follow the steps of a democratic process rather than just seizing power?

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AIDS Memorial Quilt  
 San Francisco, CA to Washington, D.C.,  
 1980s

## AIDS Memorial Quilt

### San Francisco, CA, to Washington, DC, USA, 1980s

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is the largest community art piece in the history of the world. It is made of 50,000 panels. Each 3ft by 6ft panel was handmade to remember someone who died of AIDS. In the 1980s, the mysterious disease started killing hundreds, then thousands, of people—especially in the LGBTQ+ community. People lost dozens of friends in a single year. Because of anti-gay discrimination, there was little research on this deadly disease. Medicine was expensive and hard to get. Many of the people who died of AIDS-related causes did not even receive funerals. Their families often shunned them, and funeral homes and cemeteries refused to handle the deceased's remains. In 1987, a group of AIDS activists worked with organizer Cleve Jones to honor the loved ones they had lost by stitching and painting memorial panels then sewing them into squares to form a giant patchwork quilt. The AIDS Memorial Quilt was first displayed on the Washington Mall on October 11, 1987. Volunteers ceremonially unfolded 1,920 panels as the names of the dead were read. More than 500,000 people visited the memorial that weekend. Over the next few years, the Quilt grew rapidly. Millions of people viewed it as it toured at schools, libraries, and community centers across the United States. Today, it honors 110,000 people. For many, the Quilt changed the way they thought about the AIDS crisis.

#### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Who is the man with the glasses? This is Cleve Jones, a gay organizer in San Francisco, who made one of the first panels in honor of his friend Marvin Feldman.
- What were the panels made from? Each cloth panel was roughly the size of a grave and featured a unique tribute to a loved one who had died of AIDS using sequins, lace, taffeta, beads, favorite pieces of clothing, wedding rings, and other personal belongings.
- What kinds of symbols can you see on the quilt panels? The designs for the panels depicted symbols that were meaningful to the loved one, including hearts, musical notes, tools, Jewish stars, flowers, and anchors for those who served in the Navy or merchant marines.
- Do you see the ABC blocks? Look closely at the dates. Most AIDS victims were adults, but children, teens, and youth also died of the disease.
- Are those real names and initials? Yes. The names honor the diversity of people who were lost to the AIDS crisis: Black, Latino, Asian-American, Native American, and white.

#### Discussion Questions:

- Due to stigma against gay people, millions of people held unexpressed emotional pain. How did the collective grieving of the AIDS Quilt offer personal and collective healing as well as social change?
- What made the Quilt so powerful? How is this type of action different from a protest?
- Can you think of other ways that deep emotions have contributed to social movements?
- Why is breaking through fear and stigma important if we want change?

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ENGLISH  
LESSONS



SEWING & TRADE TRAINING

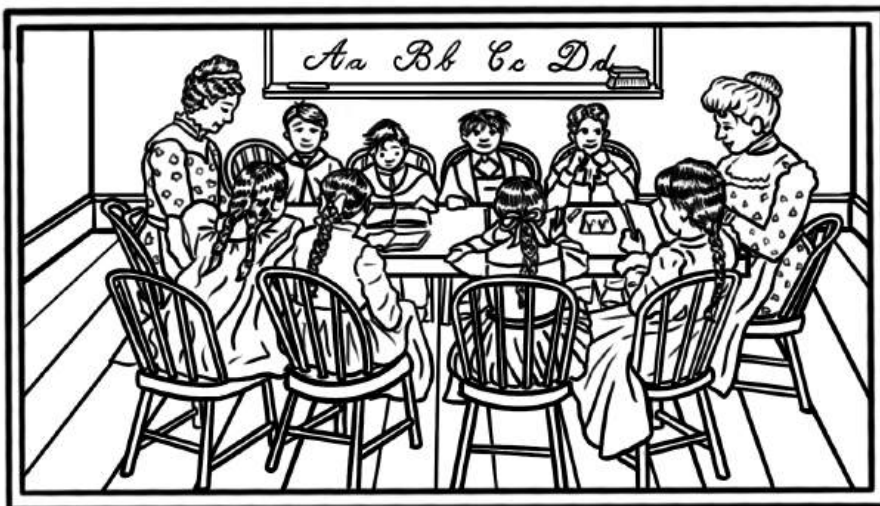


COMMUNITY  
NURSE



FIRST PLAYGROUNDS

FREE KINDERGARTEN



Casa de Castelar Settlement House  
Sonoratown, Los Angeles, USA 1894-1940



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook

## Casa de Castelar Settlement House Sonoratown, Los Angeles, USA, 1894-1940

In the 1890s, millions of immigrants came to the United States seeking a better life. In 1894, a group of young women founded Casa de Castelar Settlement House in Sonoratown, a district of Los Angeles, California. There they provided a welcoming center for immigrants of many backgrounds, including Mexican, Assyrian, French, German, and Italian. The women had been inspired by Jane Addams, the founder of the Hull House and a nationwide movement to support immigrants. At Casa de Castelar, people could learn English, gain trade skills, and enjoy social connection with their diverse community. The center also worked to end discrimination against immigrants, seeking “to help the privileged and the unprivileged to a better understanding of their mutual obligations.” They established a daily kindergarten, childcare, a bank, library branch, music programs, lectures, dances, and several social clubs for young women and men. The work at Casa de Castelar inspired similar projects in other places. Their groundbreaking work led to the formation of the Los Angeles Playground Department, the creation of the Housing Bureau, the juvenile court system, and the city’s public nurses program.

### Look Closer! Check out these details:

- Can you find the portrait of Jane Addams? She founded the Settlement House Movement and helped waves of immigrants adapt to living in the United States.
- How old are the students learning English? The students at Casa de Castelar were all ages. There were kindergarten classes, training in sewing or trade skills, and English lessons.
- See the sandbox? Playgrounds were a new idea at the time. Casa de Castelar’s popular sandbox was part of early efforts to create playing spaces for children. This led to the establishment of the Los Angeles Playground Department.
- What do you notice about the sewing class? Both men and women trained to work in the garment trade as tailors and seamstresses. Sonoratown and Chinatown overlapped, and there was a sizable, long-standing Chinese population living alongside the other residents in the area.

### Discussion Questions:

- How does our society today treat immigrants? What kind of support could help immigrants feel more welcome and included in our society?
- The activities of Casa de Castelar are a form of *constructive program*, a type of nonviolent action that builds alternatives or solutions to a social injustice. What other kinds of constructive programs can you think of?
- How did the different programs at Casa de Castelar make a difference in the lives of the immigrants and the broader community?
- Newspaper articles were used to build support for the work at Casa de Castelar and to challenge the prejudice against immigrants. Today, what are some ways that media—newspapers, blogs, social posts, podcasts, videos—helps or hinders social change?

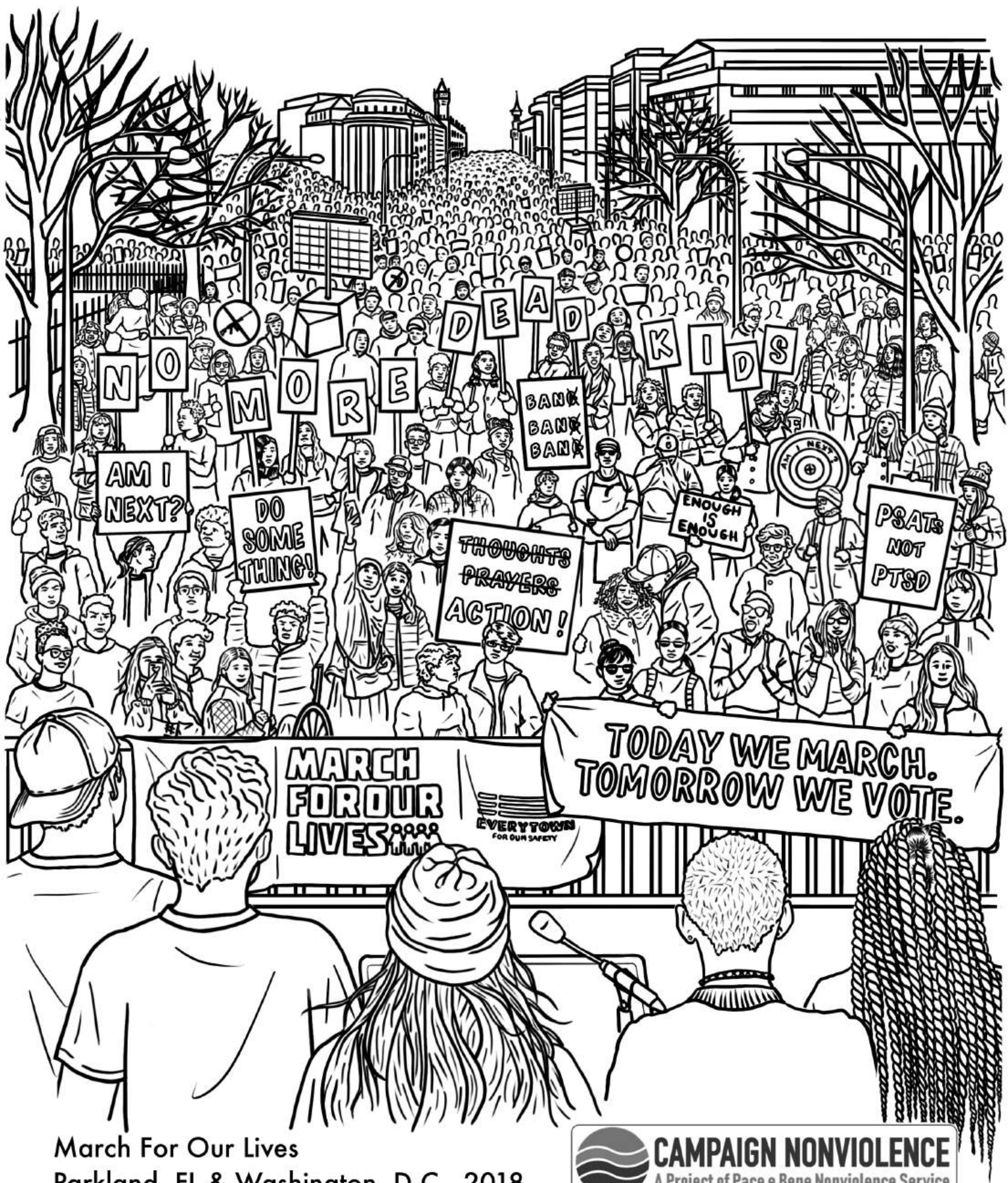
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March For Our Lives  
Parkland, FL & Washington, D.C., 2018



Artwork by Leah Parsons Cook



## **March For Our Lives**

### **Parkland, Florida & Washington, DC, USA, 2018**

In February 2018, a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killed 17 students and injured many others. Students held a rally days later to mourn - and to demand stricter gun control laws in the United States. Other protests followed across the nation. One month later, a national school walkout was held in over 3,000 schools. Nearly 1 million students left class for exactly 17 minutes (one for each of the victims of the massacre). Two weeks later, 800,000 students converged on Washington, DC for the March For Our Lives. Another 800 demonstrations took place in solidarity with over a million people participating. The speakers—all of whom were in high school or younger—included Marjory Stoneman Douglas students Cameron Kasky, David Hogg, and X González. In one of the most powerful speeches of the day, González spoke and named the 17 students killed then stood in complete silence for four minutes—close to the same time it took for the shooting to happen. The high school students denounced adult politicians' inability to pass stricter gun control in the wake of dozens of school shootings. Protesters urged for universal background checks for gun buyers, an assault weapons ban, and other measures. Led by the students, March For Our Lives was one of the largest protests in US history and brought the voices of young people to the heart of the issue.

#### **Look Closer! Check out these details:**

- What kinds of emotion can you detect in marchers' faces? The March evoked powerful feelings. Some felt energized and hopeful. Some grieved and mourned. Others expressed fear. There was anger and frustration. Some people felt resolve or determination. Many participants discovered a sense of strength and power through taking action together.
- Why are there no leaves on the trees? The March took place in the early spring before the trees in Washington, DC, budded out with leaves.
- What are the two grid-like signs? Those are called Jumbotrons, giant television screens set up along the street so the people far away could hear the speeches on the main stage.
- What do the signs say? The slogans and messages in the coloring page are taken from signs carried by participants in the March or related actions.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- How are people of all ages working to stop gun violence and mass shootings?
- Why do you think it's so hard to stop these tragedies in the United States?
- Can you name campaigns or protests where youth have been leaders and organizers?
- How can social movements express grief and sorrow as part of how they push for change?
- In March For Our Lives, young people who had survived mass shootings weren't just participants—they were leaders, speakers, and key organizers. Why is this important?
- In a few short months, students organized a local vigil, hundreds of protests nationwide, a walkout from class, and a giant march. How does holding a sequence of actions like this build momentum for a movement?

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