MA’AT CULTURAL CURRICULUM CONSULTANTS

Dick Gregory and Malcolm X

Lives, Friendship, and Pan Indigenous Activism

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Grades 6 to 12 interdisciplinary Research Simulation Task
Social Studies • English Language Arts • Mathematics • Science

Essential Question

How can friendship and solidarity strengthen struggles for human rights while respecting the distinct identities and rights of different peoples?

Read the numbered passages, examine the map and data, and compare evidence. Complete the five daily tasks, 15 assessment questions, and final RACE response. Sources are identified by S numbers and listed on page 8. Historical readings are original instructional summaries, not quotations.

Vocabulary	Meaning in this inquiry
Solidarity	Working with others toward justice while respecting their leadership.
Self Determination	A people’s ability to shape its own future.
Sovereignty	The authority of a nation to govern itself.
Treaty	A formal agreement between governments.
Pan Indigenous Activism	Cooperation across distinct Indigenous peoples and nations around shared concerns.
Corroboration	Checking a claim against additional evidence.

Pan Africanism connects African peoples and people of African descent across borders. Pan Indigenous organizing connects distinct Indigenous peoples. Their concerns can overlap without making their histories, citizenship, or treaty rights identical.

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Day 1 • Lives Shaped by Injustice

Do Now

What makes a public figure an activist? Give one possible example of action.

Reading A • Two Lives and Different Public Voices

A1 Richard Claxton Gregory was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 12, 1932. He became an athlete, served in the United States Army, and developed a career in comedy. He used humor to expose racism. He also joined voter registration efforts, demonstrations, and fundraising events. His public voice helped draw attention to people whose demands were often ignored. [S1]

A2 Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925. He experienced racism while growing up. As a minister and speaker associated with the Nation of Islam, he emphasized Black dignity and independence. He broke with that organization in 1964. His pilgrimage to Mecca and travels abroad broadened his thinking. He continued to challenge racism and defend human rights. [S2]

A3 Gregory frequently used nonviolent protest and public performance. Malcolm defended the right of self defense and emphasized community control. Their approaches were not identical. Comparing them means asking what each person wanted to change and how each method might reach an audience. Malcolm was assassinated on February 21, 1965. Gregory continued his activism for decades and died on August 19, 2017. [S1, S2]

Quick Write

Use A1 and A2 to explain one shared goal and one difference in their public voices.