

LGBTQ+ History Cards

Directions for the teacher: Before the lesson begins, print out and cut up the context cards to hand out to the students. Students should either have a context card or a context image.



Antinous, a 19-year-old man who was the Roman Emperor Hadrian's favourite lover, mysteriously dies in the Roman province of Egypt. After finding out about Antinous's death, Hadrian creates a cult that gave Antinous the status of a god and built several sculptures of him throughout the Roman Empire.

The poet and playwright Oscar Wilde is charged with 'gross indecency' and sentenced to two years in prison when details emerge of his relationship with another man.

Police raid the Stonewall Inn in New York City in the early hours of June 28. This leads to four days of struggle between police and LGBTQ+ people. Transgender people, LGBTQ+ people of colour, and youth are a major part of these "riots" that mark the birth of the modern LGBTQ+ movement.

Francis Bacon, a noted gay man who coined the term "masculine love," publishes "The Advancement of Learning—an argument for empirical research and against superstition." This deductive system for empirical research earned him the title "the Father of Modern Science."

Roberta Cowell is the first known British trans woman to undergo reassignment surgery and have her birth certificate changed.

The Homosexual Law Reform Society is founded to campaign for the legalisation of same-sex relationships in the UK.

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The Labour MP Chris Smith becomes the first openly gay MP (ten years after Labour MP Maureen Colquhoun came out as the first lesbian MP in 1974).
Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners campaign is launched in support of workers in the miners' strikes in 1984 and 1985.

The Liberal Party (now the Liberal Democrats) becomes the first UK political party to support LGBTQ+ rights, passing a motion at conference to support 'full equality for homosexuals', including equalising the age of consent.

UK Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, introduces Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988. The Act states that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".
To protest against Section 28, lesbian activists abseil into the House of Lords and storm the BBC News studio during the live broadcast of the Six O'Clock News.

The first Pride is held in London, attracting approximately 2,000 participants, and Gay News, Britain's first gay newspaper, is founded.

The first memorial to the Nazi's gay victims is unveiled at the Neuengamme concentration camp. The pink granite stone monument is inscribed with the words "Dedicated to the Homosexual victims of National Socialism."

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 decriminalises sex between two men over 21 and 'in private'. It did not extend to Scotland (decriminalised in 1980), Northern Ireland (decriminalised in 1982), Guernsey (decriminalised in 1983), Jersey (decriminalised in 1990) or the Isle of Man (decriminalised in 1994) or the Merchant Navy and the Armed Forces (decriminalised in 2000), where sex between two men remained illegal.

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GRID (Gay-Related Immunodeficiency Disorder) has its name changed to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). Terry Higgins dies of AIDS in St. Thomas' Hospital. The UK's first AIDS charity, the Terrence Higgins Trust, is set up in his name.

Justin Fashanu becomes the first professional footballer to come out as gay. He later dies by suicide.

The Admiral Duncan, a gay pub in Soho, is bombed by former British National Party member, David Copeland. The attack kills three people and wounds at least 70.

Denmark becomes the first country in the world to give legal recognition to same-sex partnerships.

The World Health Organisation declassifies same-sex attraction as a mental illness.

Waheed Alli becomes the first openly gay member of the House of Lords and one of a few openly gay Muslims.

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Trans Day of Remembrance is founded in the USA, and then later in the UK and worldwide, to memorialise those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the trans community.

Activist and trade unionist Phyll Opoku Gyimah, aka Lady Phyll, founds and organises the first UK Black Pride.

The age of consent for same-sex relationships is lowered to 16 (having been lowered from 21 to 18 in 1994), making it the same as the age of consent for straight people.

Ruth Davidson is elected to lead the Scottish Conservatives. She is the first openly gay leader of a political party.

Two new acts are passed. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 which gives same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married straight couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, and The Gender Recognition Act 2004, which gives trans people full legal recognition in their appropriate gender.

Section 28 is repealed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, lifting the ban on local authorities from 'the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality' (it was repealed in Scotland in 2000).

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The UK census includes questions on gender identity and sexual orientation for the first time. The Government announces plans to legislate to ban conversion therapy.

Scotland becomes the first country in the world to require schools to embed LGBTQ+ inclusive teaching throughout the curriculum.

BBC Radio 4's, *The Archers*, the world longest running soap, introduces its first openly gay character, Sean Myerson.

A new PSHE curriculum is introduced in England, requiring that lessons include acknowledgment of LGBTQ+ rights and protect the physical and mental wellbeing of LGBTQ+ children. The curriculum had not been updated since the year 2000 (before Section 28 was repealed).

Alan Turing is given a posthumous royal pardon for his conviction of 'gross indecency' which resulted in his being chemically castrated and later dying by suicide.

Olympic diving champion Tom Daley comes out gay.

The first Trans Pride event takes place in Brighton.

The first Black Gay and Lesbian Group is formed in the UK.

Marriages between same-sex couples become legal in England, Wales and Scotland, but not in Jersey (legalised in 2016), the Isle of Man (2016) and Northern Ireland (2020).

Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations becomes law in the UK, making it illegal to discriminate against lesbians, gay and bi people in the workplace.