

PANTHER PROGRAMS PICTURE SET TEACHER KEY

Picture set 1:

What do you observe about the image on the left? What is happening in the image on the right? What issue do you believe is addressed in both images?

The title of this picture set is "People's Free Food Program." The Black Panther Party created several programs in their communities to address some of the issues they were facing. For this image (left), students should note the bags the two women are holding which say, "People's free food program." From here, they should be thinking about what issue this is addressing. For this image (right), students should note a man handing out a meal to children. Here they should also think about what issue is being addressed. After observing the two pictures, students should infer what is similar and what the pictures have in common. In both pictures, meals are being distributed. From this, students should infer the issue being addressed is a food disparity of some sort. If students struggle to get to this information, walk them through each photo pointing out the commonalities.

Picture set 2:

What is happening in the image on the left? What do you notice about the image on the right? What issue do you believe is addressed in both images?

The title of this picture set is "Peoples' Free Health Center." Another program created by the Black Panthers was health clinics in their communities to provide access to healthcare. From this image (left), students should note a woman providing some type of medical procedure to another individual. We also see a well-known Black Panther in the poster in the background that identifies this is the Party's program. From the image on the right, students should note a small mobile clinic labeled "Franklin Lynch Peoples' Free Health Center." The Black Panther party logo is on the sign on the trailer. Students should identify things in common in both photos. In both pictures, we see a form of medical access being provided by the Black Panther Party. We see the Party's logo in both images. Students should infer that the issue being addressed is access to healthcare. If students struggle to get to this information, walk them through each photo pointing out the commonalities.

Picture set 3:

What stands out to you in the image on the left? What do you notice about the image on the right? What issue do you believe is addressed in both of these images?

The title of this picture set is “Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.” The Black Panther Party was born out of the need to provide self-defense to members of their community. From this image (left), students should note two African-Americans holding guns while talking with a white police officer. Their attire and militant stance are also somethings that stand out. From this image (right), students should note a militant stance with attire that stands out and is similar to the first image. They should also observe that in the photograph on the right the man is standing next to a sign that states “Black Panther’s Party for Self-Defense.” After students have examined both photographs, they should be able to identify what they have in common. One commonality students should see is that the attire is similar in both. The Black Panther Party has adopted a militaristic look. In both, we also see a form of self-defense being advocated. We see this through both the weapons and the sign. The Black Panther Party was formed out of the need to provide security for members of their communities against police brutality and harassment. They began to carry guns with them as a sign of intimidation and observed police when they made traffic stops or arrests to ensure no excessive force was used. If students struggle to get to this information, walk them through each photo pointing out the commonalities.

Picture set 4:

What are some things that stand out to you in both of these images? What do you notice about wardrobe or hairstyle? Do these images seem different from others you have seen from this time period?

From this set of images, students are not necessarily looking for issues being addressed but looking at some of the characteristics that stand out about the Black Panther Party. Wardrobe and hair styles were important parts of the movement. In many ways, embracing natural hair spread the message that “Black is Beautiful.” The Party encouraged members and others to embrace their natural roots. Other things about the Party that often stood out was the “uniform.” The typical Black Panther uniform was a black leather jacket, dark sunglasses, and a black beret. The idea behind the uniform was to look like urban military. These things can be observed in both images. Students may mention them as things that stand out to them. Students might also mention the posture and how the men on the image in the left are lined up in a way that resembles the military. In both images, both men and women are wearing the Black Panther emblem on their shirts. Remind students that the time period is the mid-1960s. Ask them to think about other images they have seen in the Civil Rights Movement unit or other units. How are the Black Panther’s image different from or similar to others in this time period?