

Just Add Water: Swim Caps

Objectives

- Students will engage in discussions on swimming pool access, the Civil Rights Movement swim-ins, and stereotypes on swimming abilities.
- Students will create a painted swim cap as a reflection of their learning.

Grade Levels: 6th-8th

Vocabulary and Terms

Swim-in, Civil Rights Movement, swimming pool access

Resources

This [article](#) about swim-ins during the Civil Rights Movement, leading to the Civil Rights Act being passed. *Blackish* episode called, *Sink or Swim*, from season 2.

Materials

Swim caps, acrylic paint

Procedures

1. Watch episode of *Blackish* and discuss themes present in show: access to swimming pools, stereotypes around swimming abilities, fear of water, etc.
2. Read articles on Civil Rights Movement swimming pool access and protests called, swim-ins.
3. Introduce swimming cap painting project. The project is open-ended so students can reflect on discussion topics to design a swim cap. As they knew it would eventually be exhibited at our museum, they could think about their cap as a piece of art meant to be informative or educational.
4. Write artist statements to accompany swim caps.

