

# LGBT+ History Month

February

A time to reflect and celebrate diversity

This activity contributes to the following badges:



**Thought about peer leadership?**  
Could one of your young people lead this activity for their Section?

**We want everyone to feel safe, happy and included in Scouting.** LGBT+ History Month is celebrated in February in the UK but our work to challenge homophobia, biphobia and transphobia continues throughout the year. For Scouting, LGBT+ History Month is the perfect opportunity to reflect on how we are creating a safe space for everybody in the movement, and celebrate the diversity we see in our communities

## What Does LGBT Mean?

Ask your colony/pack – does anyone know what LGBT stands for?

- Lesbian – a woman who falls in love with another woman
- Gay – a man who falls in love with another man
- Bisexual – a person who can fall in love with either a man or a woman
- Transgender – Some people do not feel their bodies fit their gender e.g. boys sometimes feel they should have been born girls and girls sometimes feel they should have been born as boys. Some times they feel like neither and sometimes they feel like both

People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are part of a community of people known as the LGBT+ community. LGBT+ people exist in every area of Scotland, across all ages and communities. There are lots and lots of famous LGBT+ people, just a few of them are: Tom Daley (Olympic diver), Ian Mckellan (Gandalf!), Mhairi Black (MP). Does anyone know any more?

Famous LGBT people in history include:

**Alan Turing:** a codebreaker during WWII, Alan deciphered the top secret German Enigma machine, allowing the Allies to defeat Adolf Hitler much sooner, saving millions of lives

**Alexander the Great:** one of ancient history's most famous conquerors, Alexander ruled a vast empire and spread Greek culture across Europe and Asia

**Leonardo Da Vinci:** genius, inventor and artist who painted the famous Mona Lisa

**Sally Ride:** America's first female astronaut, an engineer, physicist and role model for women in science. She flew the Space Shuttle twice

## Activity (1hr)

We use the rainbow to represent LGBT+ diversity. Show your support for the LGBT+ community with these colourful rainbow suncatchers to brighten up your home or share online. You will need:

- Paper plates
  - Coloured crepe paper
  - Coloured paints
  - Scissors, glue, paintbrushes
1. Cut a paper plate in half. Starting from the outside in, paint the colours of the rainbow in bands until you reach the centre
  2. Flip the plate over. Cut the crepe paper into long ribbons and glue them to the back
  3. Cut all the hanging ribbons to the same length. You should have something like [this](#) to hang at home!

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## Why Do We Have A Rainbow Flag?

Ask your colony/pack – does anyone know what the rainbow flag stands for?

The rainbow flag is used by the LGBT+ community to celebrate diversity. This means respecting everyone and all of the differences that make us unique. However, the colours of the rainbow flag also have their own specific meanings:

- Red – life
- Orange – healing
- Yellow – sunlight
- Green – nature
- Blue – peace
- Violet – spirit

The flag was first created in the USA in the 1970s but since then has become a symbol of acceptance and peace across the world

In cities all over the planet people celebrate Pride every year with thousands of rainbow flags. Pride celebrates the LGBT+ community and remembers the challenges that have been overcome to be where we are today

## Activity (1hr)

Show your support for the LGBT+ community with a recycled rainbow collage to decorate your home. You will need:

- A large variety of coloured recyclables cut to size- this will need prep in advance- think paper, card, fabric, plastics, feathers, foam, ribbon, foil- anything that can be glued
- A large board or piece of card to form the back of your collage
- Glue, scissors

**\*You may want to back your board with coloured card first to create a rainbow\***

1. Once you're ready, glue the recycled materials by colour to create a beautiful, environmentally friendly rainbow collage
2. Hang this collage in a prominent place to remind those who see it about our commitment to diversity, acceptance and looking after our world and each other

An alternative way to run this activity could be done using coloured post it notes- this will give a similar effect but is not as good for the environment (or as fun!)

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## A Brief LGBT+ History of Scotland

**1971** Scotland's first gay night, Cobweb Disco, takes place in Edinburgh

**1980** Homosexuality is decriminalised in Scotland for people over the age of 21

**1989** LGBT Youth Scotland is established in Edinburgh with a mission to empower LGBT young people

**1995** Scotland's first Pride march gathers on Barony Street in Edinburgh on 17 June

**2000** The newly-formed Scottish Parliament repeals Section 28 (Clause 2a in Scotland), the law which prohibited the 'promotion' of homosexuality in schools in Britain

**2003** Margaret Smith and Patrick Harvie become Scotland's first out LGB MSPs

**2004** The Gender Recognition Act is passed, providing legal recognition for transgender men and women

**2005** The first same sex civil partnerships take place in Scotland on 20 December

**2007** Equal rights are granted to same-sex couples applying for adoption

**2009** Carol Ann Duffy becomes the first woman, the first Scot and the first LGBT Poet Laureate

**2010** The UK government passes the Equality Act 2010, providing protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

**2014** The first same-sex weddings take place at 00.01 on Hogmanay

**2016** Playwright Jo Clifford is the first trans woman to perform 'Reply from the Lassies' at a Burn's Night celebration in Glasgow

## Activity 1 (15m)

Show your support for the LGBT+ community with a pledge board. Use post-its to create a wall of pledges and promises for being more LGBT+ inclusive and ideas for supporting a friend who is coming out. You can use this at your online zoom meetings.

## Activity 2 (15m)

Create visual symbols of your support for the LGBT+ community. Using rainbow coloured ribbon, create small bows with a safety pin to show your acceptance and support

## Activity 2 (1hr)

Plan for your next Pride event! Research your local Pride event and plan how you could attend/fund this. Is there a march you could take part in? How could you show support? Would you like to make special banners/signs to take with you?