



## G is for Grace Lee Boggs | ABC's of AAPIs

This lesson plan is about Grace Lee Boggs and her legacy.

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In partnership with the Asian American Advocacy Fund (AAAF), WQED Education took AAAF's ABC's of AAPIs coloring book project and created lesson plans for educators to use in the classroom to provide a creative activity and resource for AAPI Studies.

**Time Allotment:** 1 class period

### Learning Objectives

- Learn about Grace Lee Boggs and her legacy
- Define activism and revolutionary
- Think critically about social and civil rights movements of the past and recent times

### Prep for Teachers

- Print enough copies of the coloring sheet and poem
- Prepare video clips for viewing

### Supplies

- Pencil
- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- "G is for Grace Lee Boggs" coloring sheets

### Support Material for Teachers

- Further Information - Documentary: American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs | POV

### Learning Activities

1. Distribute copies of the coloring sheet and put students into small groups to read and analyze the poem: "G is for Grace Lee Boggs."
2. Each group should write a reflection question for classmates to consider and respond to in regards to the poem.
3. Have students watch the following clips from [American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs](#) (under the tab "More Clips & Previews")
  - [Meet Grace Lee Boggs](#)
  - [American Revolutionary: Violence vs. Non-Violence](#)
  - [American Revolutionary: Violence vs. Non-Violence 2](#)



4. Ask students to do some research using credible sources and answer the following questions. For this section, you can group students into small groups to split up the questions:
- Through their research, did students answer their reflection question(s) from the poem?
  - Had you heard of Grace Lee Boggs before this clip? Why or why not?
  - Define activism? What are simple ways anyone can become more of an activist in their lives?
  - Grace Lee Boggs was influenced by Immanuel Kant and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. What were these two philosopher's main ideas? How did their philosophy manifest itself in Grace's activism?
  - Grace Lee Boggs once said, “If we stick to those categories of race and class and gender, we are stuck.” Discuss this statement. How are certain movements (black power, feminism, sexual rights, etc.) both empowered and hindered by becoming siloed and specific?
  - Grace Lee Boggs believed that personal transformation was a powerful means to bring about societal change. What does this mean?
  - If you look back 50 years into the history of your community, do you see any similarities with the history of Detroit? How do the events of half a century ago inform current events in your community?
  - Is there any difference between an activist and a revolutionary?
  - Do you believe in the power of conversation, or are actions the only real way to bring about change? Discuss the power of conversation over the power of physical actions. Can you find historical examples of both being successful? Why did conversation or action succeed or fail in different circumstances?
  - Grace Lee Boggs had a very extensive FBI file, do some research on why she and many other civil rights activists had FBI files. What do civil rights activists stand for on a symbolic level from a government perspective?