

FANDOM FORWARD >

# BLACK PANTHER



Fandom Forward is an international non-profit that turns fans into heroes by making activism accessible through the power of story. This toolkit provides resources for fans of Pokémon to think more deeply about the social issues represented in the story and take action in our own world.

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@defineamerican



@undocublack

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Black Panther toolkit! We are excited to have you here with us to talk about the wonderful world of Wakanda. This Fandom Forward toolkit is a guide to using Black Panther as a way to further explore social justice issues. In this toolkit we'll be discussing **racial justice**, **colonialism**, and **immigrant justice**. We encourage you to share what's in this toolkit with your friends, family, and community. Each section ends with discussion questions (Talk It Out) and action items (Take Action) so you can turn your love of Wakanda into positive social or political change.

Black Panther is an incredibly important film. Here's just one voice on why Black Panther is so important:

I WAS RECENTLY PRIVILEGED TO LAND A ROLE IN THE FILM BLACK PANTHER. TO ME, THIS WAS MORE THAN A ROLE. IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF A SOCIALLY RELEVANT GROUNDBREAKING FILM. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY GOAL AS AN ARTIST. POP CULTURE WAS A BIG PART OF HOW I LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN, AND ULTIMATELY INSPIRED ME TO BECOME AN ACTOR AND FILMMAKER. WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO THE SOUTH BRONX IN 1992 BEING AFRICAN WASN'T COOL AND WEARING AFRICAN CLOTHES MADE YOU THE LAUGHING STOCK OF YOUR PEERS. TODAY, DUE TO THE FILM BLACK PANTHER EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING AFRICAN HERITAGE BY WEARING AFRICAN CLOTHES TO GO WATCH THE MOVIE. THAT'S ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES OF HOW IMAGERY AND REPRESENTATION IN FILMS HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS. THE BLACK PANTHER'S STORY HAS GIVEN US A RARE POP-CULTURE CONDUIT TO USE SOCIAL JUSTICE THEMES IN THE FILM AND COMICS TO ENGAGE FANS IN REAL-WORLD ACTION AROUND PAN-AFRICANISM, RACE, IDENTITY, AND IMMIGRATION.

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# FACILITATOR TIPS

You are welcome to use this toolkit on your own time, but if you plan on working through the toolkit with a group it's important to keep some things in mind that we hope will make it a better experience for everyone.

## *1. Support Each Other*

You never know what a particular subject may mean personally to someone or how a discussion may impact them. A great way to start is to set some guidelines as a group for what is and is not acceptable in your circle. If things start to get too uncomfortable, don't be afraid to end a line of discussion or steer it to another topic. Remember that not all of us are ready to go on this kind of journey – make sure you let your group know they'll be participating in a discussion or action beforehand so that everyone can choose whether or not to participate.

## *2. Listen to Each Other*

Every member of your group has a unique viewpoint and things to share. These subjects are complicated, and different viewpoints are okay – take time to listen, let everyone speak, and challenge each other without devaluing each other or resorting to personal attacks.

## *3. Think First*

It's important to discuss these subjects before immediately taking action. Use the Talk It Out sections to think more deeply about the subjects at hand before deciding how you want to tackle them.

## *4. Don't Jump to Conclusions*

Don't assume you know everything about a subject, even if you feel knowledgeable about it already. If you have anyone in your group whose identity or lived experiences are impacted by a subject that does not directly impact you, consider asking them ahead of time if they would feel comfortable contributing to or even leading the discussion. This way you know in advance whether or not they want to be called upon to share those experiences with the group.

## *5. Take Action*

When you and your team feel ready to jump in, use the Take Action suggestions to get started. If your team comes up with a different idea, that's awesome – don't be afraid to get creative!

## *6. Keep Learning*

We've only begun to scratch the surface – these subjects are highly complex and constantly evolving. Take what you learn from this kit and continue to educate yourself.

### *Need Backup?*

That's okay, there's a whole team of volunteers ready to help. Just send us an email at [info@fandomforward.org](mailto:info@fandomforward.org) – we're happy to answer questions or help you with facilitation or action items.

### *All Characters Are Flawed*

We've done our best to represent the issues in this toolkit as accurately as possible, but because these subjects are so complex there are bound to be things we missed or things you have different views on. If you find factual errors in this toolkit, please let us know!

# WAKANDA FOREVER

## IN MEMORY OF CHADWICK BOSEMAN



When this toolkit was first published in 2018, most of the world didn't know Chadwick Boseman was fighting stage three colon cancer, nor that he had been throughout the filming of *Black Panther*. His death in August 2020 was felt across the world during a year in which the Black community was already suffering deep loss amidst the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other unarmed black

people. Here at Fandom Forward, we want to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible legacy of Boseman's life and career.

While best remembered for his role as King T'Challa, Boseman also played a number of other iconic roles such as real life heroes Jackie Robinson

(42), Justice Thurgood Marshall (Marshall), and James Brown (Get On Up). Actors who worked alongside Boseman described him as "someone who radiated power and peace" and an actor who "the ancestors spoke through." *The Root* called his portrayal of King T'Challa "a worldwide movement of joy and celebration for members all across the African diaspora, and was a symbol of strength and goodness for little children everywhere."

Boseman inspired us with his ability to tell moving, captivating stories and bring heroes to life. He once said of the character Black Panther, "There's a hero here that I hope people grow to love." We certainly have. Thank you, Chadwick. Rest in peace.  
**Wakanda Forever.**

# REPRESENTATION

When we begin looking at issues in a story, we always begin with representation – how well is this story representing the true diversity of our world? Marvel has a long history of good and bad representation, which gives us a lot to think about when it comes to Black Panther. There are both positive and negative examples of representation in Black Panther, and while we won't cover all of them, we hope that this overview gives you a good sense of the show's wins as well as its missteps.



**BONUS!**

## ***THE BEGINNING OF BLACK PANTHER***

The character of Black Panther first appeared in a 1966 issue of The Fantastic Four, which eventually led to a starring role in Jungle Action. **Jungle Action** was a series of comics that, to put it lightly, were rife with racism and sexism. However, the series did lead to the creation of the first solo Black Panther comic, created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

Black Panther is a **revolutionary** film. It showcases Black excellence without exploiting or tokenizing the Black experience.

## *Flipping the Script*



**DEFINED!**

## ***TROPES***

Tropes are “conceptual figures of speech, storytelling shorthand for a concept that the audience will recognize and understand instantly, to exemplify storylines or problems.”

Black Panther successfully flips the script on some harmful tropes. First and foremost it subverts the **token minority** trope, which adds people of color to plots without giving attention to the characters or their experiences. Filmmakers have used this trope used countless times to make their films seem “inclusive” by adding in characters of color that oftentimes perpetuate prejudicial stereotypes. In fact, even in the original comics M'Baku was a racist trope character called “Man-Ape.” The Black Panther movie features only two white main characters, Klaue and Everett K. Ross. The message comes across clear: Wakanda doesn't need a white savior and neither does Black Panther.



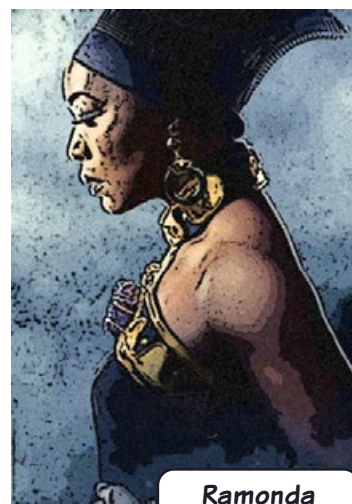


T'Challa

Another trope present in countless films, especially superhero films, is the **disposable women** trope. This trope centers around a woman, usually a love interest, who exists in the script for no reason other than to be a **damsel in distress** for the male protagonist. She exists to get kidnapped or killed merely to further a man's storyline. In Black Panther, Killmonger's (unnamed) girlfriend serves as a disposable woman. She exists so that we, the audience, can easily understand that Killmonger is ruthless and unsentimental. She also serves as a way to convey that Killmonger is very different from T'Challa, who values and respects the women around him. It's unfortunate that we have little information about other women in Killmonger's life.

The women of Wakanda are a massive, beautiful subversion of the disposable women and damsel in distress tropes. The women are not disposable nor are they damsels. They fight, create, spy, innovate, lead, and exist as whole people apart from the men in the film.

Another trope that Black Panther subverts is the **men don't cry** trope. Black Panther squashes the notion that crying is unmanly, unheroic, or a sign of weakness. T'Challa cries, Zuri cries, T'Chaka cries. The men of Black Panther, the men of Wakanda, are allowed to have emotions.



Ramonda

## Representation Behind the Camera

Representation behind the camera is just as important as representation in front of the camera. The writers, directors, costume designers, and set designers all use their knowledge and experiences to create the stories we see on screen. Unfortunately, the film industry is rife with white, cisgender, heterosexual male privilege. Black creators and other creators of color, women creators, queer creators, and disabled creators are all underrepresented in the entertainment industry. This lack of representation doesn't just hurt the creators, it hurts the stories that are being told.

Fortunately, Black Panther has an amazing crew that is miles ahead of many other blockbuster films. Take a look at just some of the talented people who made Black Panther.



Writer and director  
Ryan Coogler

*As I got older, I wanted to find a comic book character that looked like me and not just one that was on the sidelines. (source)*

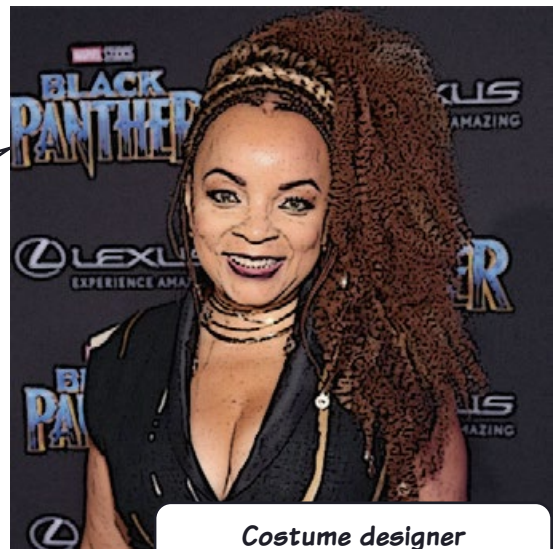


Production designer  
hannah beachler\*

I drew from a lot of different places, I think, and keeping the tradition involved in the aesthetic and the design language was of the utmost importance, because it's about black representation, the black future and agency using architecture and history and science and myth and biomimetics, and biomorphosis, and all of that went into the design. (source)

\* She also worked on Moonlight and Beyoncé's Lemonade!

Our aesthetic was always to bring about positive visuals to the African diaspora in this country, And to dispel stereotypes. To be about a forward thinking community that empowered the Black community, women, and even natural hair.. (Source)



Costume designer  
ruth carter

## Black Panther & Gender

Wakanda is full of awesome women. They are powerful warriors, spies, intellectuals, and politicians who are integral to Wakanda and to the film. Many, if not most, superhero movies fail to include women in their narratives. Black Panther dismantles that trope. The women in Black Panther are essential to the storyline and to T'Challa's eventual success.

So, who are the **women of Wakanda**? Queen Ramonda, played by **Angela Bassett**, is T'Challa's mother and mentor. She helps him grapple with the realities of his new responsibilities as king and supports him as he makes difficult decisions. Nakia, played by **Lupita Nyong'o**, is a spy who lives beyond the borders of Wakanda so she can help people in need. She believes that Wakanda should help the outside world, especially its neighboring African countries. Okoye, played by **Danai Curira**, is the leader of the Dora Milaje, the king's all-woman personal protective force, the general of the nation's army, and T'Challa's leading intelligence officer. Shuri, played by **Letitia Wright**, is T'Challa's teenage sister and head of Wakanda's technological innovations. Putting it lightly,



okoye

she is a **brilliant scientist** and a badass princess.

What about the men? Black Panther also portrays a wide range of masculinity. Men in the film are given time and opportunity to explore emotions apart from the usual anger, love, and hate. T'Challa grieves for his father, expresses doubts about his society's traditions, empathizes with his enemies, and acknowledges his weaknesses. Likewise, Erik Killmonger is more than a one-dimensional villain. We see him grieve for his father and express frustration that Wakanda isn't helping more people with their resources. M'Baku, who initially is introduced as T'Challa's rival, exemplifies masculine leadership that heeds sound reasoning, expresses empathy, and exudes it all with charm and wit.

The relationships between women and men in the film are also very positive, especially compared to other superhero movies. T'Challa respects the women that surround him. He takes guidance from the women around him, including his sister and mother.

## **Black Panther & Sexuality**

While it was rumored that Black Panther would showcase a canonically queer relationship **present in the comics**, many fans were disappointed when it didn't make it into the film. In **World of Wakanda**, written by the brilliant **Roxane Gay** and **Yona Harvey**, two members of the Dora Milaje are in a happy and healthy queer relationship. There was speculation that Okoye and Ayo would be in a relationship in the film due to a deleted scene. However, in the film Okoye is in a relationship with W'Kabi. As journalist Carmen Phillips **articulates**, "I would have been perfectly happy to imagine Okoye and Ayo in a queer relationship on my own time. Unfortunately, they didn't leave it alone. Instead, Okoye is saddled into a heterosexual relationship with W'Kabi, the head of Wakanda's border patrol." Why straightwash the relationship? While it doesn't make the film worse, it does leave some fans (queer, black fans) without full representation when it could have been there.

## **Black Panther & Race**

In our first topic of this toolkit we'll explore the connections between Black Panther and racial justice. But first it's important to talk about how Black Panther is an example of positive representation for Black children and all children of color (and all children). There have been very few superhero movies with non-white heroes. There are even fewer non-white superheroes in films that have leading roles. This lack of representation has real effects on young audiences. As journalist Tre Johnson **writes**, "*As a child in school, I rarely reached for the black or brown Crayola crayons in my superhero coloring books; I have a lifetime's worth of Halloweens where I weighed how often I could or should dress as the white superheroes. I couldn't find ones that looked like me both outside of and underneath the mask.*"

Having positive, visible representation is important for all people and especially children. Having someone to look up to, to fantasize about, to embody is one of the many wonderful aspects of fiction. White children have an endless list of superheroes that look like them—Superman, Captain America, etc.





**BONUS!**

### **AFROFUTURISM**

Afrofuturism is a movement in literature, music, art, etc., featuring futuristic or science fiction themes which incorporate elements of black history and culture.

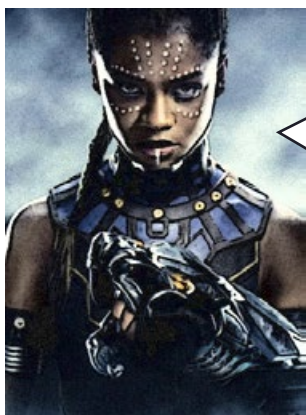
A few amazing creatives who create or created Afrofuturist art include:

**Octavia Butler**  
**Nnedi Okorafor**  
**Sun Ra**  
**George Clinton**  
**Wanechi Mutu**

“A narrative that simply features a black character in a futuristic world is not enough. To be Afrofuturism, it must be rooted in and unapologetically celebrate the uniqueness and innovation of black culture.” -**Jamie Broadnax**

# RACIAL JUSTICE

Wakanda is a fictional country in Africa that represents an African nation untouched by the effects of colonialism (we'll get more into that later). It's absolutely filled with amazing technology, a strong government, and even some pretty cool fashion. But there's *one* catch: in order to protect themselves from those who would want to invade and take the precious vibranium that powers their technology, Wakanda has hidden and isolated itself from the rest of the world. While this has had a lot of plusses, it has also meant that Wakandans have stood by while a lot of injustice happened both around the world and very **close to home** -- specifically, Erik Killmonger questions how Wakanda could have let **racism** continue unchecked throughout the **African diaspora**.



## Shuri Says:

*Two things you should know before we keep going:*

The **AFRICAN DIASPORA** is the communities throughout the world that are the result of people from Africa -- though the term *diaspora* can be used to refer to descendants of people who moved voluntarily, it's important to remember that the African diaspora is primarily the result of the displacement of people from Africa to the U.S., Europe, and the Caribbean during the Transatlantic Slave Period.

**RACISM** is the systematic oppression of a specific racial group based on the belief that another race is superior. Basically, it's discrimination, prejudice, stereotyping, and violence against people on both an individual and broad institutional (think government or religion) scale. Racism is experienced by black people throughout the African diaspora. And hey, white people, before you go there, remember: "reverse racism" isn't a thing. [This guide](#) will break it down for you.

Wakanda's new king, T'Challa, is faced with a difficult decision: how will he respond to Wakanda's history? Will he follow the example of his ancestors and keep Wakanda hidden? Or will he listen to allies (and enemies) and create a new future for his kingdom?

## NAKIA

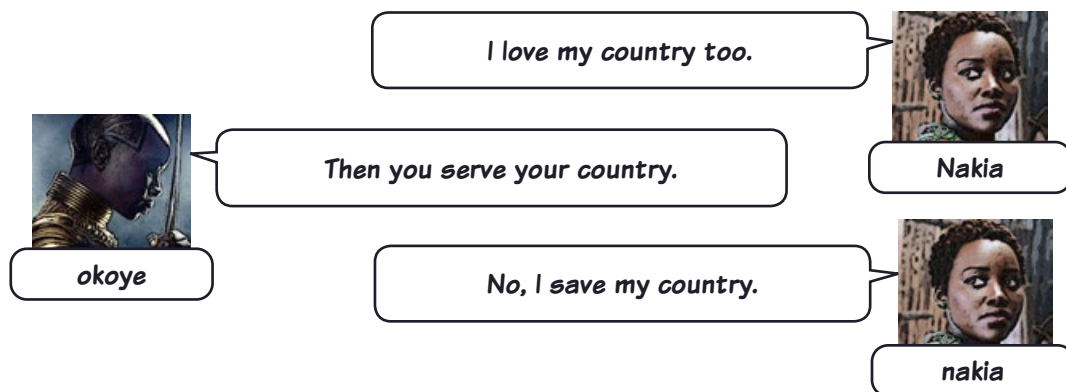
When we first meet Nakia she's already working to help those outside of Wakanda. As an undercover agent, she has infiltrated a kidnapping by war criminals and is working to free a group of young girls (this may be a representation of the **Boko Haram and #BringBackOurGirls**). Nakia has seen what's going on outside Wakanda and understands the complexities of the violence at work -- not only does she save the girls being kidnapped, she stops T'Challa from hurting a young boy who has been turned into a child soldier.



nakia

Nakia does not shy away from sharing her feelings with T'Challa or even separating her feelings *for* T'Challa from her desire to help the world. Still, she understands the pressure that T'Challa is under -- when he almost kills Klaue in public she warns him of the “eyes of the world” watching them, a double-consciousness felt by many people of color (see W. E. B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk* for further reading on this).

Despite her criticism, Nakia loves Wakanda and wants to see her home become a better place *because* she loves it. When she and Okoye debate what to do about Erik Killmonger taking the throne, they share this exchange:

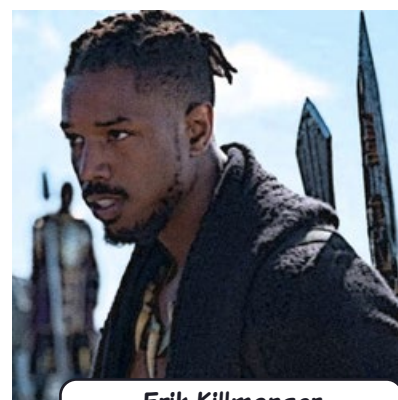


Black women play a huge role in movements in our own world, too -- in fact, **Black Lives Matter** was founded by three women: **Patrisse Cullors**, and **Alicia Garza**, and **Opal Tometi**.

## ERIK KILLMONGER

Erik Killmonger is Wakandan himself: he is T'Challa's cousin, the son of the late king's brother N'Jobu. N'Jobu was sent to Oakland, California as a spy, but he ended up falling in love and becoming dedicated to helping the people there. This ultimately led to him helping Klaue break into Wakanda and to his brother the king killing him during a confrontation. Erik was left behind.

This experience of his father's murder, his abandonment by both his family and the nation that was supposed to be his people, and his continued experiences of racism in the United States obviously and understandably left Erik traumatized. Like Nakia he believes that Wakanda has been wrong in allowing injustice to happen in the rest of the world, but his painful experiences have led him to very different ideas about what a response to that should look like.

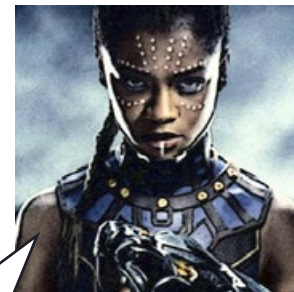


Though Erik is technically the villain of Black Panther, the complexity of his story has resonated deeply with people in the real world. Marjua Estevez **wrote extensively** about her experience and what Erik represents for the African diaspora.

“Killmonger was looked at as an outsider; he was not of Wakanda as far as Wakanda was concerned. Even if the movie didn't portray it or expound on it, anyone of us could make the connection that the Killmongers of the world are often made to feel lost, perhaps ostracized. Maybe like we don't belong anywhere; like we are not enough of any one thing to simply belong. There's

a brutal history of slavery, of rape and genocide, and thusly of displacement that lends to the notion that black people in the Americas don't know where they come from. In knowing and speaking with people from Nigeria, Ghana and other nations in West Africa, I've come to realize that they are taught to view black people outside of their nations as "other," while those of us in places like the Caribbean aren't even taught about slavery, which occurred in larger deposits before hitting the Southern region of the United States."

Erik explicitly connects his trauma back to the violence of slavery, saying "Bury me in the ocean with my ancestors who jumped from ships, 'cause they knew death was better than bondage." As Jonita Davis **writes**, Erik is in many ways a symbol of black pain, not just from an oppressive history, but of the racism experienced every day by black people. Davis writes "Killmonger's pain comes from living in 'separate but equal'-style impoverished neighborhoods that are overrun by gun violence, abusive authority and death."



### SHURI SAYS:

Here are some quick facts about racism in the United States, where Erik grew up:

- People of color are significantly overrepresented in the U.S. prison population, making up more than 60 percent of the people behind bars.
- People of color are more likely to become entangled in the criminal justice system.
- The so called War on Drugs has Disproportionately affected people of color.
- People of color, particularly black males, face longer sentences than their white non Hispanic counterparts for similar crimes.
- During traffic stops, people of color are more likely to be searched than their white counterparts.
- Students of color continue to face harsher punishments at school than their white non Hispanic counterparts.
- People of color are extremely overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.
- Voting restrictions on the formerly incarcerated have disenfranchised millions of voters, particularly African Americans.

Erik spent his entire life training to become a warrior in every way he knew how, even learning from the enemy, but T'Challa says that instead he has become the enemy. As Audre Lorde **says** in *The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*:

"Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference -- those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older -- know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.

Instead, organizers in our world, like those of Black Lives Matter, work to find strength from within their communities to reimagine a system that *can* bring about genuine change. Organizer Frank Leon Roberts has outlined **5 lessons we can learn from Black Panther** about transforming black politics.

Even though Killmonger may not have gone about his mission the right way, his presence and story are just as important to the film's message as Wakanda. As teacher and writer Brittany Willis **describes**, "Killmonger reminded me of the Black boys in my classroom. He reminded me of all the pain and anger that is brought to me every weekday because nobody else acknowledges it."

Jonita Davis **captures** the importance of a character like Killmonger to continued conversations around racial justice:

“By unleashing [the pain] upon the MCU, Coogler ensures that Killmonger’s Black pain, and that of an entire community, will be not only acknowledged by popular culture, but also taken in and understood. The struggles of the Black community will share a space in the conversation from now on because it has been legitimized as an issue of importance by the Marvel Cinematic Universe, its heroes, and villains. This instills the hope in fans like me that Killmonger won’t be the last character with whom we connect so completely.”

## THE VERDICT?

Ultimately, T’Challa takes a middle ground -- while he doesn’t agree with Erik’s plan to conquer the world, he *does* decide that Wakanda can no longer remain uninvolved. In the end, we see T’Challa and Shuri bringing their technology to Oakland and beginning to share their knowledge with the UN.

HEY, ALL YOU BROKEN WHITE BOYS (AND GALS, AND NONBINARY PALS)



So you’re a Black Panther fan, you want to make a difference like T’Challa, Nakia, and Shuri, and you’re white -- what’s the best course of action?

You may want to consider yourself an **ally**, a member of a privileged group who utilizes that privilege to support the work of those experiencing oppression. But it’s not as simple as just calling yourself an ally -- you need to work hard to live up to the title, and there are some things you should keep in mind to make sure you’re actually helping.

1. **THINK** about what you believe about racism already. What assumptions are you making? Where have you learned about the issue? For example, Agent Ross is at first quite certain that a farming-based African nation has nothing to share with the world; what does that say about his ideas about those people?
2. **LEARN** more about racism and systems of oppression. Read books and articles, especially those written by black people and other people of color -- but *don’t* ask people of color to do the work of teaching you. If someone has already published information, great! But don’t ask every person of color you meet (or your friends, for that matter) to tell you what they think about Black Panther or share their experiences of racism. It’s your responsibility to check your privilege, not theirs.
3. **UNLEARN** things you used to think, but now know differently. Here’s the deal: you were raised in a racist society, and therefore you have probably internalized some racist ideas *even if you have the best of intentions*. Unlearning these internalized ideas is likely to be one of the most challenging parts of becoming an ally. Remember that if someone points out that something you said or did was racist, there’s no need to get defensive -- listen, acknowledge, and endeavour to do better next time. For example, as a white man used to getting all the opportunities to speak, Agent Ross begins to interrupt and explain a story that is not his before M’Baku and the others remind him it’s not his place. Agent Ross likely doesn’t intend to talk over (or for) the black people he is with, but his internalized racism causes him to do so without thinking about it.



4. **ASK** people of color what they need. It's easy to make assumptions about what a movement needs without fully understanding what is most helpful. Take the lead from organizers of color and support their movements with the actions they request, not what you assume would be helpful.

5. **LISTEN** to what people of color say! Active listening is one of the most important parts of being a good ally. Agent Ross took instruction from Shuri, Nakia, and T'Challa and helped support their movement.

**ACT** on everything you've learned. Being an ally is not a passive role.

6. **RECRUIT** other allies! Once you begin this process, one of the best things you can do is *talk to other white people about racism*. Ask your white friends or family members to go on this journey with you and engage in the process together.
7. By doing so, you take some weight off the shoulders of people of color to undo racist systems and help grow the movement to work for an equitable world.

Thinking about the work that goes into true allyship, you may understand why some organizers don't even use the word ally, but prefer to use terms like **co-conspirators**. The idea is that while people have a tendency to claim allyship without actively participating in the work, while co-conspirators understand that true solidarity means a lot of active labor.

# TALK IT OUT!

» Fantasy and sci-fi franchises have an unfortunate history of tokenizing and relying on racist stereotypes even when non-white characters are represented. How were the characters in *Black Panther* portrayed differently?

» Wakanda has defined its own borders and relationships with the rest of the world by relying upon stereotypes and assumptions about African nations in order to stay safe and hidden. What does this say about the way Western countries perceive African nations?

» In *Rolling Stone*, filmmaker Ryan Coogler said: “I think the question that I’m trying to ask and answer in *Black Panther* is, ‘What does [it] truly mean to be African?’ [Marvel Cinematic Universe] has set itself in the real world as much as possible – so what does it mean for T’Challa to move around as this black man in a movie reality that tries to be a real world?” What do you think about this question, and how do you feel the movie answered it?

# TAKE ACTION!

- » Get involved with movements like **Black Lives Matter**.
- » Keep supporting movies with awesome representation like Black Panther! Show movie studios that these are the kinds of heroes we want to see.
- » Get going on a reading list:
  - Paul Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*
  - Darryl C. Thomas's *The Theory and Practice of Third World Solidarity*
  - Kelvin Santiago-Valles' "*Subject People' and Colonial Discourses: Economic Transformation and Social Disorder in Puerto Rico, 1898-1947*" (1994)
  - Cedric J. Robinson's *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*
- » Host a Pan-Diaspora post-viewing meetup! Use the film as an opportunity for developing understanding and striking up conversations between the global Black community about shared history, culture, and justice today.
- » Support Black businesses! Use services like **WhereUCameFrom** or **Official Black Wall Street** to find Black-owned businesses in your community, and make it a point to shop there if you are able.
- » If you are white, begin or continue the process right now of becoming an ally and co-conspirator. Look for resources from places like:
  - **The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**
  - **The Safety Pin Box**
  - **Showing Up for Racial Justice**
- Remember: recruit! Don't keep this toolkit to yourself! Share it, talk through it, and work through it with other white people in your social circles who are Black Panther fans.

# COLONIALISM

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, COLONIZER!

Colonialism plays a major role in Black Panther. Star Lupita Nyong'o **said**: "The little Kenyan child in me leaped for joy because it's such an affirmation. What colonialism does is cause an identity crisis about one's own culture." **Colonialism** is the control by one power over an area or people; it is the **practice of domination**, rooted in violence and oppression. Though Shuri may have been kind-of-joking, she was absolutely right to call Agent Ross "colonizer." Many countries continue to feel the effects of hundreds of years of European colonialism and imperialism. Likewise, direct - and indirect - colonialism **still exists** today.



## SHURI SAYS:

Here are a few different types of colonial rule:

**Trading Companies:** European countries gave private companies territories to rule. These companies focused on exploiting the land for resources and the people as slaves.

**Indirect Rule:** Used heavily by Great Britain, indirect rule used African traditional rulers to work on their behalf to subjugate their fellow Africans.

**Settler Rule:** Moving a population from one country to another to live permanently and rule over native populations.

They're all terrible!

## COLONIALISM IN AFRICA

Wakanda represents what an African nation may have been like without experiencing the **violence and oppression of colonialism**. Only two nations in Africa were able to escape colonialism -- Ethiopia and Liberia -- but even those were heavily influenced by other nations for periods of time. The colonization of Africa was carried out through the murder of millions of indigenous African people, and the trauma of that period plays a huge role in many of the continued conflicts and instability in Africa today. We recommend educating yourself on this history using resources like **Tess Raser's guide** (remember: co-conspirators learn!).

**It's important to remember that Africa has a rich and vibrant history.** Africa was the birthplace of humankind and has held some of the most advanced civilizations ever to exist. One of the many devastating effects of colonialism is the continued and systematic erasure of Africa's history and cultures. Wakanda may be fictional but it is based on many real African nations.

**BONUS!**

### **HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF AFRICAN INSPIRATIONS FOR WAKANDA**

The Wakandan warriors wear blanketed coats that are inspired by the **Basotho Heritage Blankets** from Basotho, Lesotho.

The Wakandan language is inspired by **Nsibidi**, an ancient script found in Nigeria.

The Dora Milaje are believed to be inspired by a real-life version of female soldiers **who existed** from the 1600s in Dahomey, present-day Republic of Benin in West Africa.

The gold rings worn around the necks of the Dora Milaje come from the **Ndebele** tribe of South Africa.

The Dora Milaje's red armor and spears are based on **Maasai warriors** from Kenya/Tanzania.

Queen Ramonda wears a large disc headdress, which is inspired from the **isicolo** worn by married women in Zulu culture.



## **CONTINUED COLONIZATION**

Colonization today might not look like what you imagine as violent warfare, but there are many ways that colonizers continue to oppress indigenous people and reinforce colonialist practices:

### **EXTRACTION OF RESOURCES**

One of the primary reasons Wakanda decides to keep itself hidden from the world is that it is situated atop a large mound of vibranium, the rich resource they believe other nations will wage war upon them to get. In our world, resources are often extracted from indigenous land and at the expense of the lives of indigenous people and other people of color. This is one aspect of **environmental racism**, wherein the effects of climate change and unsustainable practices disproportionately impact people of color. Here are just a few examples among thousands that illustrate the serious effects of environmental racism today:

1. In the United States sovereign indigenous land and sacred sites are stolen and desecrated regularly in the name of resource extraction. At **Standing Rock**, the Dakota Access Pipeline was built through **sacred lands** after being rerouted from a primarily white town that complained about the danger. The **pipeline has already leaked multiple times**.
2. In the Amazon, although activists have made some **progress in the realm of deforestation**, the situation is still dire. Indigenous activists and those who support them continue to **protect indigenous lands** from **clearcutting**.
3. In **Hawaii**, businesses like Monsanto and Syngenta have taken over large amounts of the best farming land for their mass farming productions, which include the use

4. of dangerous pesticides. Many share fences with schools and communities.

In **Flint, Michigan**, environmental racism led to the use of an unsafe water source and an increase in lead poisoning among residents. Flint has continued to have unsafe drinking water for 4 years at the time of writing.

Residents of Louisiana's "**Cancer Alley**" continue to suffer from severe health conditions, likely a result of the continued recent petrochemical industrialization of the area (including a brand new methanol plant and a planned oil pipeline).

In January 2018, a **Baltimore** teacher posted a video of his mittens-and-jacket-clad young students discussing how the cold inside their classrooms affects their ability to learn. Baltimore schools, like so many others, are underfunded to the point of being unable to provide adequate heating for their six-year-old charges.

Residents of **Oxnard, California** and other agricultural areas are fighting for their right to live and send their children to school without being subject to the harmful effects of pesticides. These local activists feel that the EPA's response was unimpressive and unhelpful.

#### PROFITING OFF STOLEN ART AND ARTIFACTS

In *Black Panther*, we see Erik Killmonger in a British museum. He asks the white curator about some African pieces and she talks about their "discovery." But, as Killmonger points out, they weren't really *discovered* - they were stolen by European colonists. Many museums have artifacts and artwork that were taken without consent. Recently there have been movements aimed at returning stolen artifacts to their cultures or countries of origin, such as the British

Museum **returning Benin bronzes to Nigeria**. But returning stolen works is only one solution to a myriad of problems. Museums in Europe and North America profit highly off stolen artifacts and artwork. For example, **one Benin head** was sold for \$2.3 million by a London-based auction house in 1990. This illustrates one of the ways that colonizing nations continue to benefit from colonization at the expense of those colonized. Museums need to continue to have conversations about creating ways to **change their practices**.



ERIK KILLMONGER, BRITISH MUSEUM

#### Jackie Copeland

The director of education and visitor services for the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture

*It's important for museums to listen to people who are from those countries whose cultural artifacts they are. Just because you have a Ph.D. doesn't mean you know everything there is to know about an object. (source)*

Cultural appropriation happens when someone from a dominating culture adopts aspects of a culture that has been systematically oppressed. Some examples include

**white celebrities wearing black hairstyles** and music festival attendees wearing **Native American inspired headdresses**. Cultural appropriation also exists as a continuing function of colonialism.

UDOKA OKAFOR

*During colonization, the colonized countries lost a lot, because not only were they forcibly being indoctrinated into a culture that was not their own, but with that indoctrination, they lost pieces of their culture as well.*

During colonization, dominating countries strip colonized countries of their environmental and cultural resources. Invaders take artwork, literature, history, and fashion to use and profit from as they see fit. In many instances, individuals in colonized cultures are barred from speaking their own languages and practicing their own religions. However, their sacred texts and artworks are able to be seen in museums for those who can pay the entrance fee.

# TALK IT OUT!

- » What did you learn about Africa in school? Discuss how it may not have reflected the complexities of African countries.
- » What do you think of when you think of colonialism? Why?
- » How many African countries can you name from memory? What do you know about them? Where did you learn that information?
- » What do you know about current politics in African countries? What do you know about current politics in European countries? Discuss where you get that information and the differences between the two.
- » What foreign languages did your schools offer classes for? Any from non-European countries? Why does this matter?
- » In our world the overconsumption and extraction of natural resources disproportionately impacts communities of color and is more often than not driven by colonialism. How did you see this reflected in the movie?
- » In what ways could you be considered a colonizer? Talk with your family about your history and how colonization has shaped your own experiences.



# TAKE ACTION!

» **Learn more about the history of Africa** that was probably left out of your history class. Resources like this **toolkit** give you a good starting point, but the internet is your friend! Don't stop at the history – learn about the communities and cultures of Africa today. Better still, share what you learn with your friends and family.

» When engaging with environmental issues, give your time and money to organizations and movements that include environmental racism as part of the conversation and action, like **Green For All, WE ACT for Environmental Justice**, and **Greenaction**, or one local to your own community.

» The next time you visit a museum, **ask them how they acquired any artifacts** not from your country or from indigenous communities within your country. Better yet, you may want to schedule a trip for your group specifically to examine these exhibits. While you're there, consider how the artifacts are being displayed and how the cultures they come from are being discussed. Does anything about the exhibit reinforce colonialist ideas? Ask a staff member about them!

- If you work in a museum yourself (or you're just curious about a museum educator's perspective), take a look at The **Dreamspace Project's workbook** and think about how you can push for these conversations in your institution.

» When considering fashion and decorating choices, **think about what (or who) inspired what you're wearing or displaying, who made it, and where you bought it from**. As the success of Black Panther grows, you may start to see more businesses trying to cash in on African inspired designs -- make sure that you are supporting actual **African makers and artists** who have created works they feel comfortable sharing with the general public.

# IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

*In times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build walls.*

Black Panther couldn't have been made without immigrants - from the artists behind the screen to starring actors, immigrants played an invaluable role in the movie's creation. As the movie so clearly highlights, an open and integrated world is better than a closed off and homogeneous one.

Furthermore, in the 2011 comic series **Black Panther: The Man Without Fear**, the Black Panther character lives as an undocumented immigrant in New York City, and in a Washington Post **article**, Black Panther actor Bambadjan Bamba writes about how T'Challa's story in the series mirrors his own experience as an undocumented immigrant.

## BAMBADJAN BAMBA

*[Black Panther: The Man Without Fear] resonated with me because, while I was trying to maneuver through life without legal status, I was also dealing with the realities of being black in America. To be black without papers meant that I was walking on an additional layer of eggshells, never wanting to appear too 'aggressive' or 'suspicious' for fear of giving law enforcement a reason to criminalize me and triggering deportation proceedings*

This experience is shared by too many. **Studies show** that although only 7% of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are black, they make up **20%** of the population facing deportation.

**Immigration and race** are interconnected. Racism has always played a part of **U.S. immigration** and continues to do so today. Many other countries, like the **United Kingdom**, also have a history of racist immigration policies.

Black immigrants are more likely than natural born citizens to have earned a college degree [**Pew Research**]. Despite their educational achievements, and despite high participation rates in the workforce, Black immigrants have an unemployment rate of 7.4%, the highest among immigrant groups. The median household income of Black immigrants is \$4,200 less than that of all immigrants. There is more work to be done to ensure justice and opportunities for Black immigrant communities.

# Celebrate Black Immigrant Excellence!



*Danai Gurira*

*Parents immigrated from Zimbabwe*

*Daniel Kaluuya*

*Parents immigrated from Uganda*

*Letitia Wright*

*Immigrant from Guyana*

*Florence Kasumba*

*Immigrant from Uganda*

*Bambadjan Bamba*

*Immigrant from Ivory Coast*

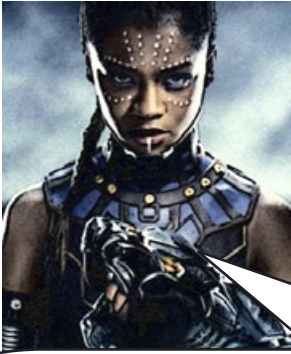
*Lupita Nyung'o*

*Born in Mexico to parents from Kenya*

The **UndocuBlack Network (UBN)** is a multigenerational network of currently and formerly undocumented Black people that fosters community, facilitates access resources, and contributes to transforming the realities of undocumented Black people. The UndocuBlack Network's mission is twofold: 1) to "Blackify" America's understanding of the undocumented population and 2) to facilitate access to resources for the Black undocumented community.

## FAMILY MIGRATION

What is **family migration**? Legally known as a "family preference immigration," the term "chain migration" is a racially tinged, political phrase used by anti-immigrant hardliners. It is a derogatory term, similar to the term "anchor baby" which is used to describe U.S. citizen children of immigrants. **Family-based immigration** is the movement of individual people from one place to the next, then bringing their immediate family to live with them. In the United States it has been the legal migration pattern since the founding of the country.



### **SHURI SAYS:**

Media outlets in the United States perpetuate a lot of negative stereotypes about immigrants. It's important to understand what's being talked about.

**Constitution-Free Zone:** A zone within 100 miles of the U.S. border where immigration authorities can operate immigration checkpoints at random. In this zone, it is **not uncommon** for border patrol agents to engage in unconstitutional traffic stops and property searches and for undocumented immigrants to be immediately detained.

**Continuous Residence:** When applying for citizenship, applicants must prove continuous residence or that they have maintained residence in the U.S. for a specified amount of time.

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):** DACA is a program that allows individuals who came to the U.S. as children and meet several requirements to apply for temporary work eligibility and protection from deportation for a period of two years. DACA does not provide a path to citizenship. The Trump administration has decided to phase out this program beginning on March 5th, 2018. For more information, visit the [USCIS](https://uscis.gov) webpage and [DefineAmerican.com/DACA](https://DefineAmerican.com/DACA).

**Deportation:** Deportation occurs when the federal government orders forced removal of an undocumented individual from the United States. A common misconception is that deportation is only pursued when criminal laws have been violated. In reality, individuals are and continue to be deported for things like minor traffic offenses or no reason at all other than unauthorized status (like deportation of unaccompanied minors).

**Green Card:** A green card is an informal name for a permanent resident card which allows immigrants to live and work permanently in the United States.

**H-1B Visa:** A specialty visa that allows U.S. employers to hire foreign workers into specialty occupations.

**Mixed-status family:** When individuals within a family unit have different citizenship and/or immigration statuses.

# TALK IT OUT!

- » Bambadjan Bamba, who plays a military leader in Black Panther recently made the decision to join Define American's "coming out" campaign, revealing his undocumented immigration status after living in the United States for 25 years. He immigrated from the Ivory Coast with his family in 1992, fleeing political persecution. How do you Define American?
  
- » What is your experience with citizenship and immigration? Have you seen your experience reflected in the media?
  
- » Do you have friends or family members that are immigrants? How are their experiences different from yours?
  
- » The majority of American families have an immigrant background. Where did your family come from and how did they get here?
  
- » In the after-credits scene in Black Panther, T'Challa addresses the United Nations saying, "In times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build walls." What is your community doing to break down barriers of all kinds to create a more welcoming community? What bridges are you and your community building to provide equitable access to resources and safety for all residents regardless of documentation?
  
- » In response to T'Challa's speech, a UN ambassador asks, "What can a country full of farmers offer the world?" This moment underscores how many view African nations, which President Trump referred to as "shithole nations," while reaping the benefits of their resources. Essentially, it underscores the hypocrisy of colonialism, and the value judgements made on immigrants when entering the United States. Have you ever felt judged based on your circumstances? Should we decide the value of an immigrant or any person by their form of employment?
  
- » What are your representatives' views on immigration? Are they representing your views?
  
- » The end of Black Panther reveals Wakanda's new plan to support racial justice and economic prosperity worldwide, which starts with building an education center in Oakland. What do you envision to be the next steps? What will the world look like in Black Panther 2 and how can they specifically support Black immigrants?

# TAKE ACTION!

- » Share your story with Define American at [defineamerican.com/stories](https://defineamerican.com/stories)
- » Wakanda is powerful and successful because of the strength of their community. Work to strengthen your own community by exploring how immigration is addressed in your local media and running a #WordsMatter campaign. Find out more at [defineamerican.com/wordsmatter](https://defineamerican.com/wordsmatter).
- » Put your money where your mouth is! Find local businesses owned by Black immigrants to support – who knows, you may even find a new favorite restaurant.
- » Watch Bambadjan Bamba's story of coming out as an undocumented immigrant at [defineamerican.com/bamba](https://defineamerican.com/bamba) and share it on social media.
- » Go to [UndocuBlack.org](https://undocublack.org) to learn about how policy issues like the Dream Act, TPS, and the Diversity Visa program impact Black immigrants.
- » The success of the Black Panther film has already inspired some real-world action from Disney itself in the form of \$1 Million they've donated from the film's profit to open STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education centers in predominantly Black communities including Oakland, just like T'Challa does in the film. You can promote educational equity in your community by pushing college campuses to protect undocumented students and provide them with access to the same resources as any other student. Many Define American Chapters are doing this through petitions at [change.org/DefineAmerican](https://change.org/DefineAmerican).
- » Do undocumented Americans in your community have access to photo IDs? For the over 11 million undocumented Americans who are not DACA recipients, it is often very difficult or even impossible to have a form of recognized photo identification necessary to access basic public and private services like opening a bank account. If this is the case in your community, you can help by lobbying your local government or even public library to offer photo identification to everyone regardless of immigration status. If you would like support in launching such a campaign reach out to Define American at [chapters@defineamerican.com](mailto:chapters@defineamerican.com), we'd love to help!

# RESOURCES

## *Representation*

**Jungle Action comic** via Wikipedia

**Black Superheroes Matter: Why a 'Black Panther' Movie is Revolutionary** via Rolling Stone

**Tropes** via TV Tropes

**Token Minority** via TV Tropes

**Disposable Woman** via TV Tropes

**Damsel in Distress** via TV Tropes

**Men Don't Cry** via TV Tropes

**Director Ryan Coogler Says 'Black Panther'**

**Brought Him Closer to His Roots** via NPR

**Building Wakanda: An Interview with 'Black Panther' Production Designer Hannah Beachler**

via Film School Rejects

**How Black Panther's costume Designer Created a New Vision of Africa** via Refinery29

**Women of Wakanda: Powerful Heroines Shine in 'Black Panther'** via ESPN 4

**Angela Bassett** via IMDb

**Lupita Nyong'o** via IMDb

**Danai Gurira** via IMDb

**Letitia Wright** via IMDb

**Shuri is Described as Being "Smarter Than Tony Stark" by 'Black Panther' Producer** via MCU

Exchange

**The 'Black Panther' Lesbian Romance that Almost Was** via Out

**World of Wakanda** via Wikipedia

**Roxane Gay** via Wikipedia

**Yona Harvey** via Wikipedia

**I Love 'Black Panther' With All My Heart, and**

**I Deserve to See My Queer Self in It Too** via Autostraddle

**If You Loved Black Panther's Dora Milaje, Meet the Dahomey Amazons** via Teen Vogue

**What The Heck Is Afrofuturism?** via Huffington Post

**YTASHA WOMACK ON AFROFUTURISM AND THE WORLD OF BLACK SCI-FI AND FANTASY** via Bitch Media

**Octavia Butler**

**Nnedi Okorafor**

**Sun Ra**

**George Clinton**

**Waneci Mutu**

## *Racial Justice*

**Reverse Racism? Mmmm... Not a Thing** via Youth Radio

**Black Lives Matter** via Black Lives Matter

**'Black Panther,' Erik Killmonger and the Disconnect Within the African Diaspora** via Vibe

**'Black Panther' Villain Killmonger is a Symbol of Black Pain** via People's World

**The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House by Audre Lord** via Collective

Liberation

**Five Lessons From 'Black Panther' That Could Save Our Lives - and Transform Black Politics** via Medium

**The Polarizing Responses to Killmonger Reflect our Inability to Deal With Black Childhood**

**Trauma** via RaceBaitR  
**Take Action** via Black Lives Matter  
**The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness** via Harvard University Press  
**The Theory and Practice of Third World Solidarity** via Google Books  
**'Subject People' and Colonial Discourses: Economic Transformation and Social Disorder in Puerto Rico, 1898-1947 (1994)** via Cambridge University Press  
**Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition** via The University of North Carolina Press  
**Undoing Racism** via The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond  
**The Safety Pin Box** via The Safety Pin Box  
**Showing Up for Racial Justice** via Showing Up for Racial Justice  
**Slavery in Libya: Life Inside a Container** via Al Jazeera  
**Nearly 250 Refugees Feared Dead After Two Migrant Boats Sink in Mediterranean** via Independent  
**Boko Haram Has Kidnapped Dozens of Schoolgirls, Again. Here's What to Know** via Time  
**The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois** via Project Gutenberg  
**Patrisse Cullors**  
**Alicia Garza**  
**Opal Tometi**  
**8 Facts You Should Know About the Criminal Justice System and People of Color** via Center for American Progress

## *Colonialism*

**Colonialism** via Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy  
**Residual Colonialism in the 21st Century** via United Nations University  
**Understanding Wakanda and the Traumas of Colonialism in Africa** via Huffington post  
**Wakanda Curriculum: Black Panther Film Movie Companion for Middle Grades**  
**Types of British Colonial Rule in Africa**  
**Unit 1: Why Study Africa** via Exploring Africa  
**Marvel's 'Black Panther' is a Broad Mix of of**

**African Cultures -- Here are Some of Them** via Quartz Africa  
**Basotho Heritage Blankets** via Aranda  
**Nsibidi** via Smithsonian  
**If You Loved Black Panther's Dora Milaje, Meet the Dahomey Amazons** via Teen Vogue  
**Culture of South Africa: South African Tribes -- Ndebele Tribe** via The South Africa Guide  
**The Maasai People** via Maasai Association  
**Isicolo** via Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
**Environmental Justice, Explained** via Crist on YouTube  
**Stand with Standing Rock**  
**America Uprising: Protesters Lost the Fight Against DAPL - Here's Why They're Still Hopeful** via Refinery29  
**Five Spills, Six Months in Operation: Dakota Access Track Record Highlights Unavoidable Reality - Pipelines Leak** via The Intercept  
**Calculating Deforestation Figures for the Amazon** via Mongabay  
**Rain Forest Warriors: How Indigenous Tribes Protect the Amazon** via National Geographic  
**Amazon Destruction** via Mongabay  
**One Hawaiian Island is Losing the GMO Fight** via Outside Online  
**Lead-Laced Water in Flint: A Step-by-Step Look at the Makings of a Crisis** via NPR  
**Western Museums Try to Forge Deal With West Africa to Return the Benin Bronzes** via The Guardian  
**Cultural Appropriation: When 'Borrowing' Becomes Exploitation** via Huffington Post  
**Why Museum Professionals Need to Talk About Black Panther** via The Hopkins Exhibit  
**'Black Panther' Raises Difficult Questions in Museum Community** via Baltimore SUN  
**Seven Reasons Why White People Should Not Wear Black Hairstyles** via Everyday Feminism  
**Native Americans Review Music Festival Fashion** via As/Is on YouTube  
**Cultural Appropriation: The Act of Stealing and Corrupting** via Huffington Post  
**Standing Rock News** via Standing Rock  
**The Best Ways to Support the #NODAPL**



**Protectors** via Other 98

**Deep South Center for Environmental Justice Green For All**

**WE ACT for Environmental Justice Greenaction**

**SPARK Video Series** via Fandom Forward on YouTube

**Lupita Nyong'o calls 'Black Panther' "Brave for an Action Film"** via Comic Book

## *Immigrant Justice*

**Black Panther: The Man Without Fear - the Complete Collection (Trade Paperback)** via Marvel  
**The World's Most Popular Superhero is an Undocumented Immigrant** via The Washington Post

**The 'Double Punishment' for Black Undocumented Immigrants** via The Atlantic  
**How Legacies of Racism Persist in U.S. immigration Policy** via Scholars Strategy Network

**Aliens Act 1905** via Wikipedia

**The Network** via UndocuBlack

**#FactsMatter: What Trump Really Means By "S\*\*\*hole Countries"** via Define American

**Immigrants and Immigration: A Guide for Entertainment Professionals** via Define American  
**Stories - Let's Hear From You!** Via Define American

**#WordsMatter** via Define American

**Stand With Bambadjan Bamba** via Define American

**UndocuBlack.org**

**Protecting Undocumented Students on Every Campus** via Define American on Change.org

**The Constitution in the 100-Mile Border Zone** via ACLU

## *Additional Resources*

**The Revolutionary Power of Black Panther: Marvel's New Movie Marks a Major Milestone** via Time

**'Young Black People Can Be Heroes Too': the Campaign to Send Kids to See Black Panther** via

The Guardian

**The Black Panther Lesbian Romance That Almost Was** via Out

**Women of Wakanda: Powerful Heroines Shine in 'Black Panther'** via ESPNW

**Why the Women of Wakanda Rule 'Black Panther'** via Variety

**A 'Black Panther' Reflection Through the Lens of a Queer Guy Who Hates Superhero Flicks** via The Grio

**Find Your Representative** via the United States House of Representatives

**Find Your Senator** via the United States Senate

**Giving the Facts a Fighting Chance: Addressing Common Questions on Immigration** via American Immigration Council

**Helping New Americans Find Their Way by Tori DeAngelis** via American Psychological Services

**How Does Immigration Benefit the UK?** Via Immigrations Advice Services

**How Can I Help Immigrants** via Immigrant Hope

**How to Help Refugees** via International Refugee Committee

**How to Send Your Owls to Congress** by Fandom Forward via YouTube

**Impossible Choices Game** via impossiblechoices.org

**Ten Ways Immigrants Help Build and Strengthen Our Economy** via WhiteHouse.gov

**UNHCR: Get Involved** via the United Nations Refugee Center

**The Dreamspace Project: A Workbook and Toolkit for Critical Praxis in the American Art Museum** via Dreamspace

**Standing Rock Solidarity Toolkit** via Showing Up for Racial Justice

**Anti-Colonial and Fundraising Resources** via Black Mesa Indigenous Support

# VIEWING GUIDE

- » Fantasy and Sci-Fi franchises have a bad history of tokenizing and relying on racist stereotypes even when non-white characters are represented. How were the characters in Black Panther portrayed differently?
- » Bamba, who plays a military leader in Black Panther recently made the decision to join Define American's "coming out" campaign, revealing his undocumented immigration status after living in the United States for 25 years. He immigrated from the Ivory Coast with his family in 1992, fleeing political persecution. How do you Define American?
- » Wakanda has defined its own borders and relationships with the rest of the world, and relies upon stereotypes and assumptions about African nations in order to stay safe and hidden. What does this say about the way Western countries perceive African nations?
- » Colonialism is the practice of forcibly occupying and exploiting another country. Star Lupita Nyong'o said on ComicBook.com: "The little Kenyan child in me leaped for joy because it's such an affirmation. What colonialism does is cause an identity crisis about one's own culture." What do you think Wakanda represents as an African nation that escaped colonialism?
- » In our world the overconsumption and extraction of natural resources disproportionately impacts communities of color and is more often than not driven by colonialism. How did you see this reflected in the movie?
- » In Rolling Stone, filmmaker Ryan Coogler said: "I think the question that I'm trying to ask and answer in Black Panther is, 'What does [it] truly mean to be African?' [Marvel Cinematic Universe] has set itself in the real world as much as possible - so what does it mean for T'Challa to move around as this black man in a movie reality that tries to be a real world?" What do you think about this question, and how do you feel the movie answered it?

## TAKE ACTION!

**WATCH BAMBADJAN BAMBA'S STORY OF COMING OUT AS AN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT AT [DEFINEAMERICAN.COM/BAMBA](https://defineamerican.com/bamba)**

**GO TO [UNDOCUBLACK.ORG](https://undocublack.org) TO LEARN ABOUT HOW POLICY ISSUES LIKE THE DREAM ACT, TPS AND THE DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM IMPACT BLACK IMMIGRANTS.**

**IF YOU ARE WHITE, TAKE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DECONSTRUCTING WHITE SUPREMACY BY VISITING ORGANIZATIONS LIKE [THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR SURVIVAL AND BEYOND](https://www.pisb.org) AND [SAFETY PIN BOX](https://www.safetypinbox.org).**



@fandomforward @defineamerican @undocublack  
#fandomforward #BLACKPANTHERPRIDE

LEARN MORE AT [defineamerican.com/blackpanther](https://defineamerican.com/blackpanther)

# THANK YOU

Amanda Neumann

Christine Roberts

Tianna Mignogna

Cheyenne Chadwick

Robyn Jordan

Bayana Davis

Porshea Patterson

Kim M. Clark

Chuck Tyler

Emma Ulali'a Oto-Pale

TK Lawrence

Shawn Taylor

Krupa Hebbar