

www.pbs.org/race

RACE – THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION

1. Click on **LEARN MORE** and Try the **SORTING PEOPLE** activity.

- How many people did you correctly guess their identities?
- Which people were the biggest surprises to you? Why?
- What did this activity teach you about racial assumptions?

2. Click on the **EXPLORE TRAITS** activity:

- Do the **SKIN COLOR** activity.
- What did you learn about the relationship of race to skin color?

- Do the **FINGER PRINT** activity.
- What did you learn about race and people's finger print types?

- Do the **BLOOD TYPE** activity.
- What did you learn about race and people's blood type?

- What new idea did you learn from this section of the website about racial categorization?

3. Next, move to the **HUMAN DIVERSITY** section.

Take the **HUMAN DIVERSITY QUIZ**.

- How many did you get correct?

- List two things that you were most surprised about.
 - 1.
 - 2.

Click on **EXPLORE DIVERSITY**

Click on **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Click on **SKIN COLOR**

Which continent has the greatest diversity of skin color?

What does skin color tend to correlate to?

Click on **NOSE SHAPE**

What did you learn about nose shape that challenges our assumptions about race?

Click on **HEAD SIZE**

What did you learn about head size that challenges our assumptions about race?

Click on **GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN**

What did you learn about the different periods of human migration?

Click on **GENETIC SIMILARITY** and explore the three cards of information.

- What percentage of DNA is genetically identical among all humans?
- Which continent are all humans related to?
- What else did you learn from this activity?

Where do racial categories come from?

In the last activities we learned that race is not a scientifically accurate category. Although people have different shades of skin and other physical characteristics, they do not really belong to different “races.” As the website says 99.9% of human beings DNA is the same.

Nevertheless, race and racism has been a powerful force in our history. So where do our concepts and categories of race come from. To explore this history go to **What is Race: Is Race for Real** and click on the 10 numbers and answer the questions below.

1. How did ancient society divide people?
2. Can you tell a person's race from his genes?
3. Did slavery begin with looking at racial differences?
4. Where did the idea of racial slavery originate?
5. Why did the founders not extend the idea of equality to African slaves?
6. What has race been used to justify?
7. Have we been around long enough to develop into separate races?
8. Are the genes for skin color related to other genes?
9. Does more human variation exist between races, or within individuals of the same race?
10. Is race a biological concept?

11. Does racism exist?

Now go deeper and use the **Timeline Activity** to find out.

1. How was slavery of the Ancients different from slavery in the Americas?
2. What is the origin of the word slave?
3. When does the term “white” appear in the colonies?
4. When were the slave codes passed in Virginia?
5. When did slaves lobby for freedom?
6. When was the term Caucasian used?
7. When do the Indians take on the racial identity of “red”?
8. When did “scientists” begin to measure skulls to suggest biological differences between the “races”?
9. How was Manifest Destiny related to the concept of race in our history?
10. When were “non-whites barred from testifying in court?
11. When did the courts begin to define who is “white?”
12. When were interracial marriages made legal?
13. What questions and thoughts does this new information bring up for you? Share your thoughts after finishing both activities.

