



Burnaby Central Celebrates Black History Month

CELEBRATING BLACK CANADIANS IN SPORT

LESSON GOAL

To understand the racial barriers that African-Canadian athletes have faced in the past and to celebrate their achievements in sports.

INTRODUCTION

Look at the sports teams and players on the next slides. Working in a small group, on a piece of paper note down any observations and/or thoughts you may have about the images.

When looking at the images, think about the following questions:

- How do you know who is a player and who is a manager or a coach?
- What do you notice about the players? Do they match what you think the players should look like in that sport? Does anything surprise you?
- What do you notice about the synchronized swim team?
- What do you notice about the Saskatchewan Roughriders athletes? How about the Toronto Raptors?
- What do you notice about the Canadian men's hockey team? Who do you see? Who don't you see?



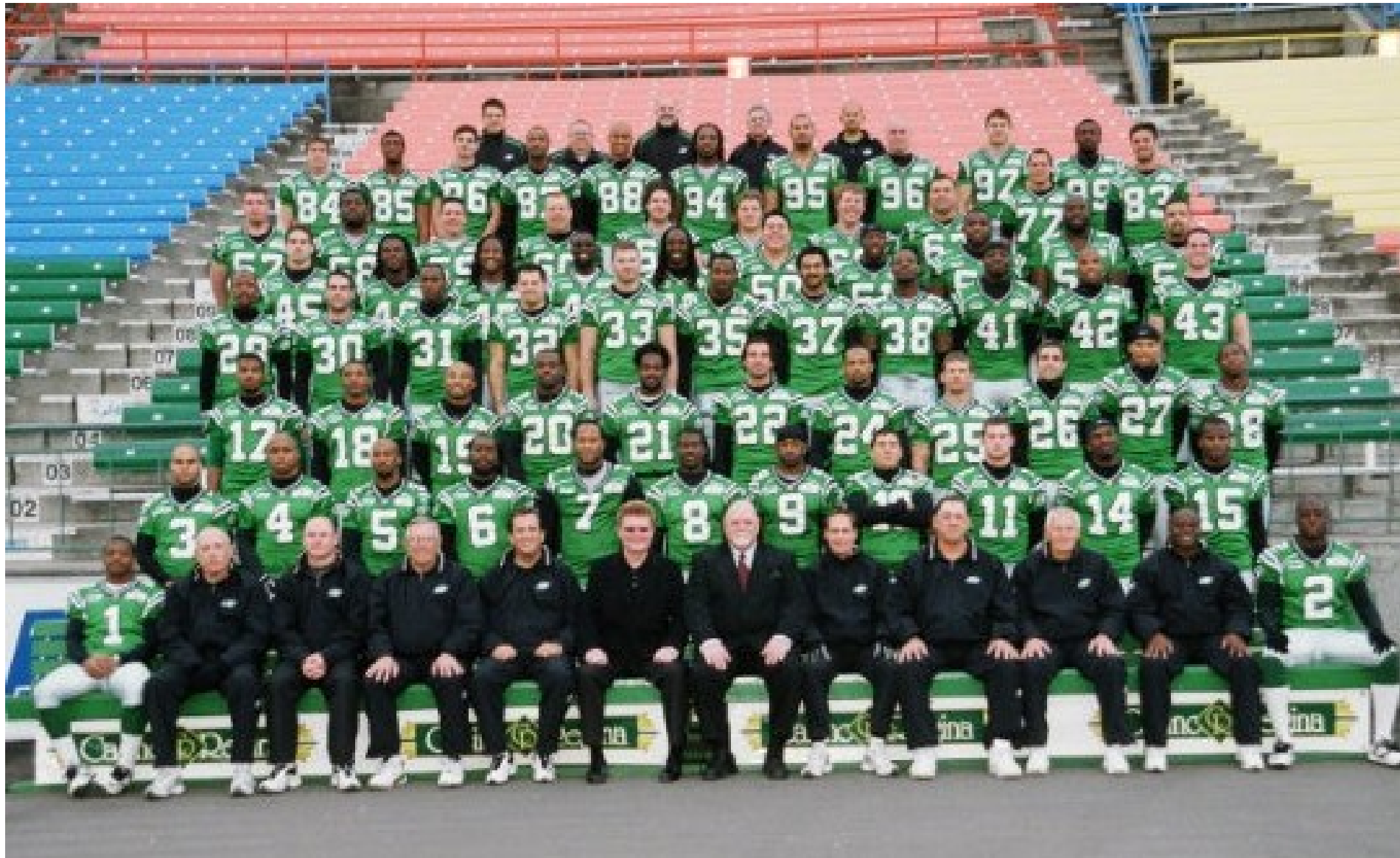
Toronto Raptors



Canadian Synchronized Swimming Team



Canadian Women's National Soccer Team



Saskatchewan Roughriders



Canadian Men's Relay Team



Canadian Men's Hockey Team

WHAT DID YOU NOTICE?

Now that you have viewed the images, record your thoughts. What are some commonalities that you see?

Decide on two or three points that you want to share with the class and record them in the centre section of the placemat. As groups share, record the main points on chart paper. When presenting, if a group has an idea that you agree with, add this to your own placemat.

Question: Review some of the points you and your group have made and think about what factors might contribute to the different teams looking the way they do.

BLACK ATHLETES IN CANADA

- Although Canada did not adopt a systematic system of racial laws like the United States, it did allow for voluntary *de facto* racial segregation. Many communities across Canada allowed racial segregation to be practiced in virtually all public places. The provinces of Nova Scotia and Ontario allowed public schools to be segregated along racial lines until the 1960s
 - Black Canadians in Ontario had to wait until 1964 for segregation to be declared illegal, bringing an end to racially separated classrooms in the province
- The 20th century was a big turning point for Black Canadians as many of them started to break the boundaries that they had been contained in for so long





DISCUSSION

- Consider the images we viewed of different Canadian athletes (at the national level of competition), and the teams' diversity or lack thereof. Why might this be? How might we make changes? One way is through exposure to what is not seen as the norm, to what is different.
- Consider sports coverage, for example, for the Canadian women's and men's hockey teams. How often do you recall hearing about the women's teams winning? Over the last five Winter Olympics, the women's team earned four gold medals and one silver. The men's team won only three gold. Was there equal coverage?
- Do you think there are barriers when it comes to playing sports? Is this in general or just for some sports?

ACTIVITY: TRADING CARDS

Pick a Black Canadian athlete and create a trading card about them. This will require to look up some information on them like where and when they were born, important moments in their lives and any awards or recognition they may have received

Need some inspiration? Check out these athletes:

- Andre De Grasse
- Angela James
- Donovan Bailey
- Herb Carnegie
- Jarome Iginla
- Michael “Pinball” Clemons
- Perdita Felicien
- Sam Langford
- Willie O’Ree
- P.K. Subban

WORK CITED

- Brown, Charmain, et al. “ETFO Black Canadian Curriculum.” *Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario*,
www.etfo.ca/SupportingMembers/Resources/ForTeachersDocuments/365%20ETFO%20Black%20Canadian%20Curriculum%20-%20Intermediate.pdf.
- Henry, Natasha L. “Racial Segregation of Black People in Canada.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 28 May 2019, www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/racial-segregation-of-black-people-in-canada.