



THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**FREE PRINTABLE
WORKSHEETS**

Black Power
Lesson and Activity Sheet

PART 2



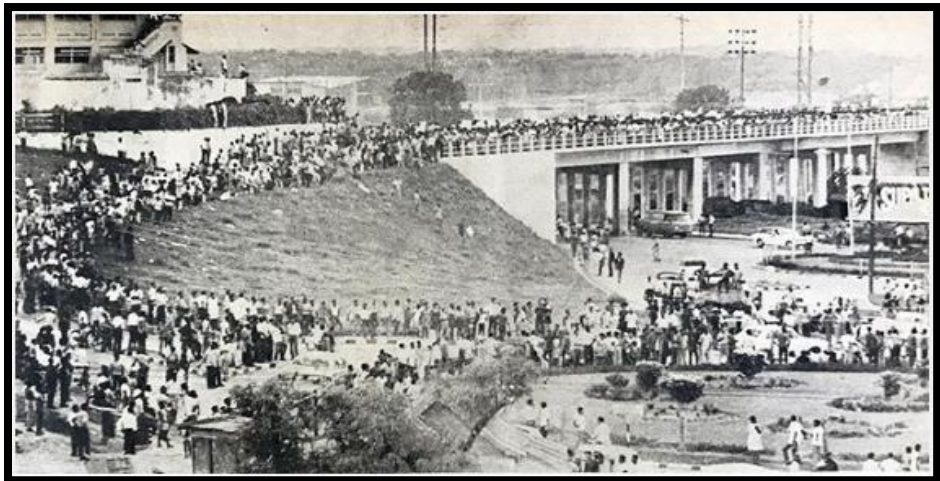


The Black Power Movement of 1970

In 1970, there were several protests and demonstrations across Trinidad and Tobago. This is known as the Black Power Movement. However, there were several events in the 1960s that led up to the Black Power Movement of 1970. People in Trinidad and Tobago were paying attention to the civil rights movements in the USA, and to what was going on in the Caribbean. This inspired them to take action against racism, unfair treatment and economic problems here. Check out Part 1 of this set of Printables on Black Power for more information on the topic.

Some of the groups involved were :

Organization	Key persons involved
The Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU)	George Weekes
Transport and Industrial Workers' Union (TIWU)	Joe Young and Clive Nunez
Students at the University of the West Indies (UWI)	Kafra Kambon (formerly Dave D'Abreau) Makandal Daaga(formerly Geddes Granger) Augustus Ramrekersingh Russel Andalcio
National Freedom Organisation of East Trinidad	Chan Maharaj
National Joint Action Committee (NJAC)	Makandal Daaga (formerly Geddes Granger)



Black Power Protesters on the Beetham Flyover, March 4th, 1970.

Source: National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago



NJAC was formed in 1969 by Makandal Daaga. NJAC played a key role in mobilizing the people of T&T in support of Black Power

NJAC's Main issues:

- Poor living conditions of black people
- Lack of employment for young black people
- Discrimination against qualified black workers
- Foreign ownership of companies
- Lack of respect for African culture
- Widespread Racial discrimination against non-white people, people were discriminated against because of race and skin colour.

To read a personal account of Black Power, visit our website at <http://nationaltrust.tt/prof-winston-suite/>. There you will read the real-life story of Professor Emeritus Winston Suite, a former Chairman of the National Trust of T&T. Professor Suite was detained on Nelson Island because of his participation in Black Power.

When school reopens you can come with us to visit Nelson Island and Woodford Square. Both were important sites during Black Power. We would love to take you with us!



TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

February 1969

UWI students in Trinidad prevent Governor-General of Canada, Roland Michener from entering campus.

In January 1969, students at the George Williams University, Canada protested against racism. In February, students in Trinidad and Tobago took action. The leaders were: Geddes Granger (Makandal Daaga), Dave Darbreau (Khafra Kambon) and Augustus Ramreckersingh.



April 1969

Major Bus Strike against Public Transport Service Corporation

The strike was led by the Transport and Industrial Workers' Union (TIWU) headed by Joe Young and Clive Nunez, the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), with more than 650 workers taking action against the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC). Many union members were fined \$10 or sentenced to 14 days imprisonment but the government could not imprison everybody; there were too many protesters.

26th February 1970

1st Major Black Power Demonstration in Port of Spain

NJAC organized a demonstration of over 200 people. They marched to the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception on Independence Square, the Canadian High Commission on South Quay, the Royal Bank of Canada on Independence Square and the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. The march ended with a meeting at Woodford Square, which was called the People's Parliament by protesters.

Nine of the leaders of this historic march were later arrested and faced charges, including a breach of peace and disturbing a place of



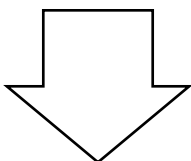
TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

4th March 1970

Black Power Leaders
Released. Protests continue
in Port of Spain

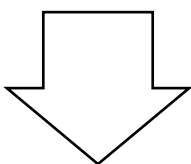
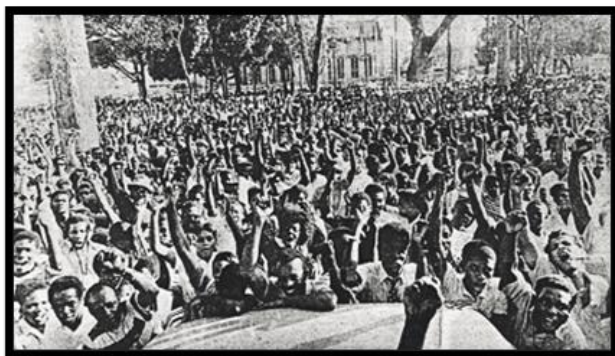
Thousands of supporters, including Black Power groups from rural and urban areas in Trinidad and Tobago, converged outside Parliament.

The marchers went to Woodford Square where several leaders gave speeches.



5th March 1970

Peaceful gathering turned
violent in downtown Port of
Spain



12th March 1970

March to Caroni
organized by NJAC

6000 marchers left Port of Spain and 4000 persons had joined them by the time they arrived in Caroni. This was a major event aimed at gaining the support of Indo-Trinidadians.



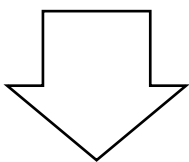


TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

23rd March 1970

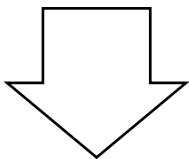
Prime Minister
Dr Eric Williams
addressed the nation

Prime Minister Eric Williams promised to appoint a commission to investigate accusations of racial discrimination in the business sector and to reduce unemployment by taxing certain companies.
The promises and assurances by the PNM did not appease the masses who wanted immediate improvements in their lives.



6th April 1970

Basil Davis, an unarmed
protester was killed by police



9th April 1970

Funeral of Basil Davis

Thousands of people from across T&T attended the funeral of Basil Davis. This event contributed to the resignation of ANR Robinson from the PNM.





TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

15th April 1970

Kwame Ture Banned from T&T
Tensions Rise

The Government prevented Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) from entering T&T, his country of birth. There was public outrage.



20th April 1970

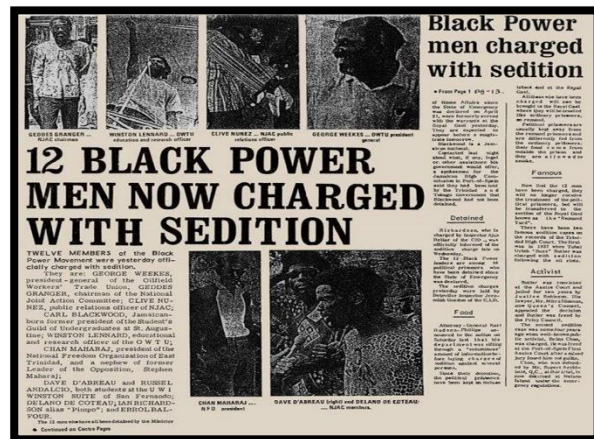
March from Couva to
Port of Spain

The march started on April 20th and was intended to reach POS on the 21st April. It never reached POS because it was met with significant police opposition. The government did not have control of the situation.

21st April 1970

National State of Emergency
Declared
Black Power Leaders Arrested
Soldiers of T&T Regiment
mutiny

In addition to the state-of-emergency, the government banned political activity and arrested fifteen Black Power leaders. The arrested leaders were imprisoned on Nelson Island. This was an effort to weaken the mass movement by removing the leaders from its ranks.



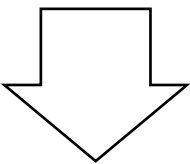
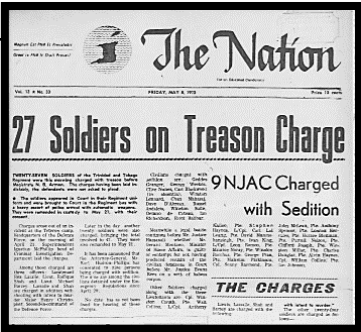


TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

25th April 1970

The Regiment mutineers
surrender. 5 persons killed
during the mutiny.

The mutineers were protesting the poor working conditions. Some leaders were Rex Lasalle, Raffique Shah and Michael Barzey. They took over Camp Teteron in Chaguaramas and held it for over a week. When they surrendered, they were arrested and charged for their actions. Some of them served time in prison.

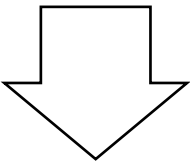


3rd May 1970

Prime Minister Williams
addresses the nation

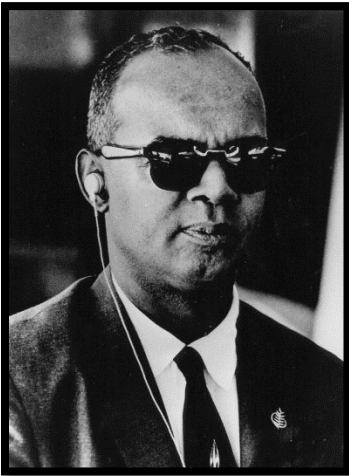
Williams claimed that there were plots to overthrow the government. He announced new initiatives as a response to Black Power:

1. Reconsideration of the role and function of the defence force
2. Aid to various Black Power enterprises such as the steel band movement
3. The establishment of cooperatives
4. Setting up a workers' bank
5. Reorganization of the civil service
6. Lifting of the curfew in rural areas
7. Cabinet changes
8. Williams took on the new portfolios of National Security and chair of a National Security Council; he also took on External Affairs and Tobago Affairs; and Community Development and Youth Affairs. He was already Minister of Finance, Planning and Development.



24th May 1970

Parliamentary Elections held,
opposition parties boycott the
election, PNM wins election

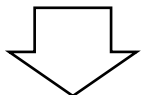




TIMELINE OF BLACK POWER EVENTS

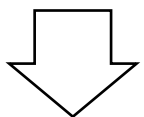
7 th August 1970

Government proposes National Security Act to give it more power to deal with public unrest.



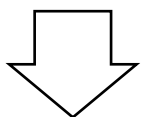
13th September 1970

National Security Act withdrawn because of complaints that it gave the government too much power



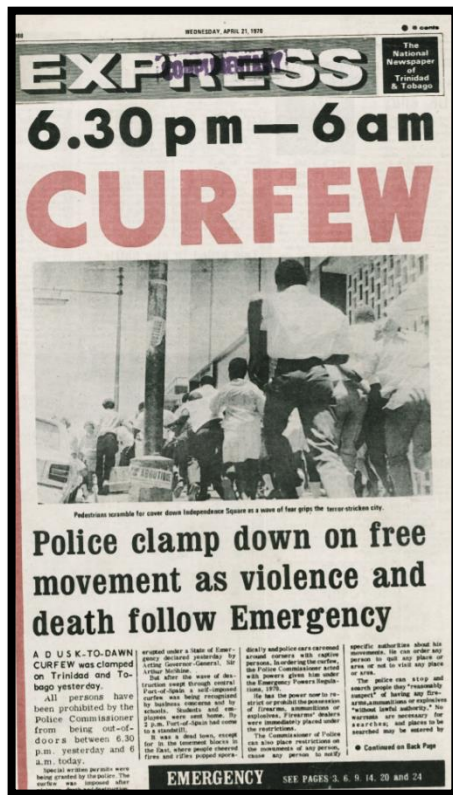
10th November 1970

State of Emergency ended after seven months



October 1971

State of Emergency Declared because of Labour Unrest





**Holding bay where Black
Power**

**Leaders were imprisoned
on Nelson Island**

Source: National Trust of T&T



**Jail Cell of
Apoesho Mutope,
Black Power leader,
on Nelson Island**

Source: National Trust of T&T



ACTIVITY SHEET

Hey there! Let's take a journey to the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, I have some amazing true stories to share with you. Come with me to an historic place called Woodford Square!

This public space has featured in several areas of our history, and this year is a special year which marks the 50th anniversary of a very important movement called the Black Power Movement! Several of the meetings and rallies were held in Woodford Square, which is next to the Red House, the seat of governance. These meetings created the basis for the unofficial renaming of the square to "The People's Parliament". You can read about 100 years of the history of Woodford Square on our website here: <http://nationaltrust.tt/100-years-woodford-square/>.

Sadly, during one of the meetings Mr. Basil Davis was shot and died at the eastern gate of the square. He is known as the first martyr of the Black Power Movement here in Trinidad. His funeral procession was one of the largest as it is said to have spanned from Woodford Square to the San Juan cemetery.

Some of the achievements of the Black Power movement are:

- Foreign and local companies began to sell shares to the workers
- Challenged employment based on race and colour prejudice
- Churches began stronger programmes to assist in depressed communities
- Cultural revival with greater pride in Afro and Indo cultural activities



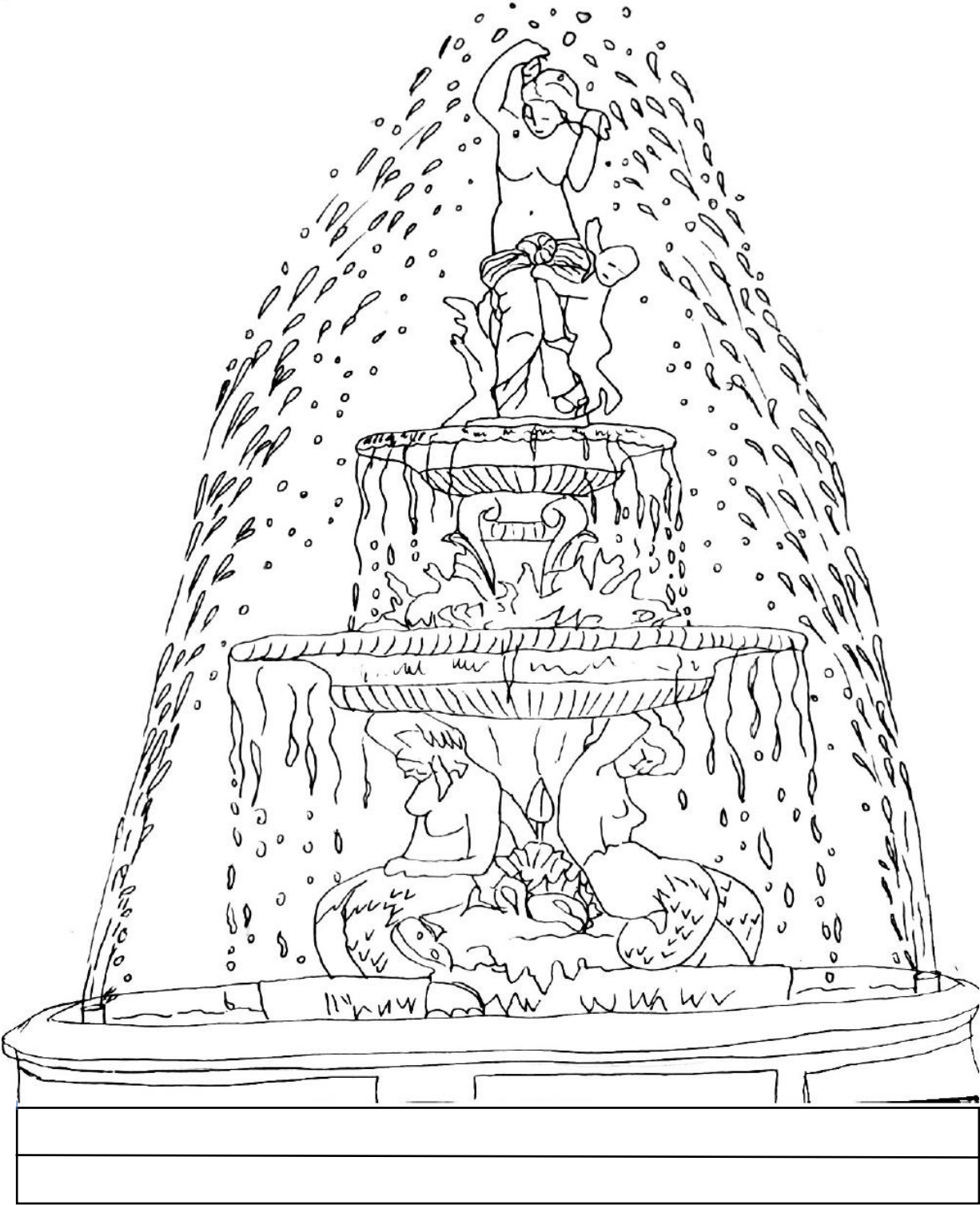
The Woodford Square Bandstand

**This is where the
leaders of the Black
Power Movement
addressed the crowds.**

Source: National Trust of T&T



COLOURING PAGE: THE FOUNTAIN AT WOODFORD SQUARE





For more information on sites associated with Black Power check out the following:

<http://nationaltrust.tt/1970-sites-of-power-and-contestation/>

For more information on women who were involved in Black Power check out the following:

<http://nationaltrust.tt/women-in-the-black-power-movement/>

A great source of information and photos:

https://natt.gov.tt/sites/default/files/pdfs/Revolution_Story_Boards_Apr_2015.pdf

Sources:

https://natt.gov.tt/sites/default/files/pdfs/Revolution_Story_Boards_Apr_2015.pdf

<https://wired868.com/2016/04/23/tts-1970-revolution-the-rise-of-peoples-politics-and-the-states-draconic-response/>

<https://wired868.com/2016/04/23/tts-1970-revolution-the-rise-of-peoples-politics-and-the-states-draconic-response/>

<http://www.trinicenter.com/1970/Blackpower9.htm>

<http://www.trinicenter.com/1970/Blackpower5.htm>

<https://news.power102fm.com/former-njac-chief-servant-makandal-daaga-has-died-38570>

The pictures used in this handout can be found at the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago. Check out their exhibitions here:

<https://natt.gov.tt/node/5>