

## 1. Warmer

**A** Discuss in pairs or groups:

- Have you ever attended a march or protest? Which one(s)?
- What do you know about Pride?

**B** Read the article quickly. Is there any information about the questions above that is new to you?

### Say It Loud, Gay Is Proud

In 1969, hundreds of people demonstrated in New York after the police targeted a gay club called the Stonewall Inn. At that time, it was still illegal for people of the same sex to hold hands, kiss or dance in public. The police arrested 13 people, some for not dressing “gender-appropriately”. Hundreds of people marched in the streets in protest following this incident. One year later, on the anniversary, thousands of people marched in protest from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park. People chanted together “Say it loud, gay is proud.”

The march continued on every anniversary. Now Gay Pride, sometimes just known as Pride, is held every June and is an affirmation of LGBTQ+ identity.



During Pride it is common to see rainbow flags. This colourful flag was designed by artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. It originally had eight colours, but the most common version of it now has six, symbolizing life (red), healing (orange), sunlight (yellow), nature (green), art/peace (blue) and spirit (purple). The colours of the flag also reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.

In 1999, the US President Bill Clinton declared that every June would be Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in the US. The definition broadened in 2008 when President Barack Obama changed it to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month.

More than fifty years after Stonewall’s first march, around five million people of all sexual orientations and gender identities attend World Pride in New York City, and millions more in other cities around the globe. Now Pride often involves floats, dancers, music and other joyful expressions of identity.

## 2. Understanding the article

**A** Choose the correct way to finish each sentence.

1. In 1969, people from the LGBTQ+ community could
  - a ... not legally show affection to each other in public.
  - b ... wear whatever they wanted that expressed their identity.
2. The name ‘Pride’ comes from a
  - a ... song performed in the Stonewall Inn during the police raid.
  - b ... chant that people sang on the first Stonewall anniversary march.

3. The original rainbow flag
  - a ... did not reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.
  - b ... had two more colours than it has today.
  
4. Changes were made to Pride month to include bisexual and transgender identity
  - a ... in 1999 by President Bill Clinton.
  - b ... in 2008 by President Barack Obama.
  
5. Five decades after the first march, Pride brings together
  - a ... millions of people who belong to or support the LGBTQ+ community.
  - b ... people fighting for their rights to celebrate their same-gender identity.

### 3. Exploring the topic

**A** Choose a related topic to research. Find information online to complete the table below. Use your notes to write a short summary.

Possible topics:

- LGBTQ+rights in (my country)
- Gay representation in the Olympics / other events
- Oscar Wilde trial / LGBTQ+ people in history

Important date	Main events	Other notes