

SCIENCE BITE:

ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY



Elizabeth Peratrovich
Tlingit name: *Kaaxgal.aat*
Member of the *Lukaaḡ.ádi*
clan, of the Raven moiety

Introduction:

The state of Alaska recognizes February 16th as a day to celebrate Elizabeth Peratrovich. She was a Native civil rights champion who helped pass the first anti-discrimination law in the United States.

Discrimination is when a person or a community is treated unfairly because of some part of their identity. This prevents the person or community from doing things that other people can do freely. Having a law against this type of treatment allows people to fight for more equal opportunities.

Just like some people pass laws for equality, we can all take individual steps to make opportunities more fair for everyone. We all have some influence, whether it is with our friends, family, or neighbors.

Complete the activity below to test your math skills and witness the power that speaking about anti-discrimination can have. Then check out the reading list to continue learning about discrimination in the United States and other Civil Rights leaders.

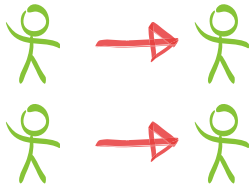
Activity:

Elizabeth Peratrovich is one person who has had an immense impact on our community. Her influence led to more freedoms and equity for all people.

What happens if one student spreads a message against discrimination to one person every day? What if the people they talk to spread the message to someone new the next day? What sort of chain reaction could that create?



Day 1: 2 people with the message



Day 2: 4 people with the message

Continuing with the pattern above, how many people would have the message after a whole week, or 7 days? What equation describes the type of growth that is happening?

Answer key below reading list

Social Justice Reading List

For elementary students:

- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o*
- *Look What Brown Can Do!* by T Marie Harris
- *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson*
- *Something Happened in Our Town* by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard
- *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester*
- *Skin Again* by bell hooks*
- *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez*
- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard*
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom*

For middle schoolers:

- *Becoming Kareem: Growing up on and off the Court* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar*
- *Betty Before X* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renée Watson*
- *Blended* by Sharon Draper*
- *Shuri* by Nic Stone*
- *I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day*
- *Two Roads* by Joseph Bruchac
- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang*

For high schoolers:

- *Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich* by Annie Boochever and Roy Peratrovich Jr.*
- *Where the Dead Sit Talking* by Brandon Hobson*
- *Apple in the Middle* by Dawn Quigley*
- *Give me Some Truth* by Eric Gansworth*
- *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero*
- *Here to Stay* by Sara Farizan*
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds*
- *Feminism: Reinventing the F-word* by Nadia Abushanab Higgins*

*Available at Sitka Public Library

Answer Key:

Continuing with the pattern above, how many people would have the message after a whole week, or 7 days? What equation describes the type of growth that is happening?

After 7 days, 128 people would have heard the message.

The equation you can use to show this relationship is:

$$x = 2^n$$

x is the number of people who have heard the message

n is the number of days that have passed