

Who Is Angela Davis?

**American
activist**



writer

scholar

Part 1. Read the informational text below. Highlight two sentences you find interesting. Share them with a peer.

Angela Davis was born on January 26, 1944. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Both of Angela's parents were teachers. When Angela was a child, she went to **civil rights** demonstrations with her family. She knew about racial **prejudice** from her experiences with **discrimination** in Alabama.

Angela was a great student. In 1965, she graduated with high honors from Brandeis University. She studied in Germany at the University of Frankfurt for two years. Next, she earned her master's degree from the University of California at San Diego in 1968. Soon after, she also earned her doctoral degree.

In 1969, Angela Davis was hired as an assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. She taught her students about philosophy. She also taught her students about black literature and political education. Her students liked her a lot! But soon, because of her **political beliefs**, she was asked to stop teaching. She continued to work as an activist on behalf of black prisoners. She wanted people to know about the need for prison **reform**. She believed people should be treated equally.

Angela Davis began teaching again at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She taught her students about women's rights and racial **justice**. She also wrote many books. Angela Davis is an American activist, scholar, and writer. She still speaks at many events and works hard to make sure everyone has equal rights.

Student answers will vary, but may include:

Part 2. Read the definitions. Next, write the definitions in your own words and draw a picture to show your understanding. Finally, answer the questions below.

Word	Definition	In My Words	Picture
civil rights	the rights that every person should have regardless of gender, race, or religion	equal rights for everyone so they can be happy and healthy	Pictures will vary.
discrimination	treating a person or group of people unfairly because of their gender, race, or religion	being mean and unfair to someone because of the way they look, who they are, or what they believe	Pictures will vary.
justice	the quality of being fair or just	when someone is fair or just, like a judge should strive to be just	Pictures will vary.
political beliefs	-a person's ideals and morals influence their political beliefs - a person's political beliefs influence who they vote for and the systems and rules they think should be in place in society (e.g., their communities)	the ideals people have that cause them to vote for and support certain people and systems/rules where they live	Pictures will vary.
prejudice	an unfair feeling or dislike for someone or something not based on reason or fact	if someone is prejudice, they might not like someone because of the way they look	Pictures will vary.
reform	to make changes to something to make it better	to try to change something to make it better than it was before	Pictures will vary.

Name _____

Date _____

Find two pieces of evidence from the text that support the following sentence:

Angela Davis and her family believed education was important.

<p>#1</p> <p>Both of Angela's parents were teachers.</p>	<p>#2</p> <p>Angela earned her doctoral degree.</p>
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What are some things you find interesting about Angela Davis? What are some questions you still have? Write them below. (Answers will vary.)
