

Rwanda ~ Raindrops Over Rwanda

Film: 23 minutes



Explore traveled to the Kigali Memorial Centre in Rwanda to learn about the tragedy of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In just three months, over 1 million people were killed. See what they discovered along the way.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades 9 – 12

Civics, World History

Civics – Standard 22. Understand how the world is organized politically into nation-states, how nation-states interact with one another, and issues surrounding U.S. foreign policy

- Know that the world is divided into nation-states that claim sovereignty over a defined territory and jurisdiction over everyone within it, and understands why the nation-state is the most powerful form of political organization at the international level
- Know reasons for the breakdown of order among nation-states (e.g., conflicts about national interests, ethnicity, and religion; competition for resources and territory; absence of effective means to enforce international law), and understands the consequences of the breakdown of order among nation-states

World History - Standard 44. Understand the search for community, stability, and peace in an interdependent world

- Understand the role of political ideology, religion, and ethnicity in shaping modern governments (e.g., the strengths of democratic institutions and civic culture in different countries and challenges to civil society in democratic states; how successful democratic reform movements have been in challenging authoritarian governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; the implications of ethnic, religious, and border conflicts on state-building in the newly independent republics of Africa; significant differences among nationalist movements in Eastern Europe that have developed in the 20th century, how resulting conflicts have been resolved, and the outcomes of these conflicts)

Resource - [McREL Content Knowledge – Standards & Benchmarks](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ☞ *The Hutus and Tutsis have the same national heritage, speak the same language and associate with the same culture. Why do you think they fought against each other?*
- ☞ *Explain ethnic cleansing. Can you describe other examples of ethnic cleansing?*
- ☞ *At one time all Rwandans carried ID cards that distinguished them as Hutu or Tutsi. Why?*
- ☞ *What role did the radio play in the killings of the Tutsis? What was broadcast on the radio that helped in the mass killings?*



ACTIVITY

Learn about the [survivors](#)

- ☞ Read through the stories from the survivors of the Rwandan genocide.
- ☞ Choose a survivor and describe their story to your classmates.
- ☞ Discuss the similarities in their stories.

☞ *Who controlled the radio in Rwanda?*

Who controls the radio in the country where you live? Who should control the radio and other media transmissions? Why?

☞ *Explain the choice to display the preserved bodies of the genocide victims in the school buildings where they were killed. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?*

☞ *The survivor says he can forgive but he needs to have someone come and beg pardon. What does this mean? Why is that important to him?*

☞ *Think about the plaque displayed next to the pictures of children who were killed. It includes information about their favorite sport, food, drink and how they were killed. What effect does that have on the viewer?*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Excerpts from interview at [explore.org](#)

Honoré Gatera is the head guide at the [Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre](#) in Gisozi, Rwanda — one of Aegis Trust's two international centers of reflection and learning.

What is the mission statement of your organization?

The Aegis Trust campaigns to prevent genocide worldwide. Aegis activities include: research, policy, education, remembrance, advocacy, awareness of genocide issues in the media, and humanitarian support for victims of genocide.

What are three things about Aegis Trust that you wish people knew?

- I wish that the whole world should know that there are dedicated people who want to save humanity against its biggest challenge.
- I would like people to know that charity organizations like the AEGIS TRUST need more support from different people and at different levels to raise awareness about the danger of genocide to our future.
- I would like people to know that the only way to fight against genocidal ideologies is to work together with all our means because this is a very hard task. We need every single individual contribution.



Do you think media accurately portrays the issues your organization represents?

Yes but not at the required level. Media always concentrates on conflict issues and does not give any solution to them. I have personally had bad experience with media, but I still think it is a powerful tool to save our societies.

Why did you get involved?

I got involved as the work of the NGO is particularly related to my personal and country's experience. This kind of work needs much dedication and perseverance, many people are not able to stand for long through this work due to its character and yet it's a work for the future of humanity that I need to care for.

Did you have an inspirational figure in your life growing up?

Yes, Nelson Mandela, the former South African President.

If there is one place or issue out there in the world you could personally explore, what would it be?

I would personally like to explore places related to the history of violence that have marked humanity and really learn from them. Many people seem to ignore past experience, and we will not have a sure future if we don't learn from our past mistakes.

Why is it important to be a selfless person?

It's important to be a selfless person to understand the pain of others, it requires being selfless to understand that another person suffers like you do. The world does not have many selfless people and this is one of the reasons humanity has suffered a lot and has had violence and permanent inequity.

What do you believe to be the biggest challenge facing our planet today?

I believe that our planet today is facing the the loss of a sense of humanity. People want to become "super controllers" and this is the origin of all the problems we are facing.

What is the key to living a happy life?

The key to living a happy life is remain a true human being and work hard till you die for positive change. You will be happy that you didn't leave the world as you saw it when you were born.

