[Sequencing Concepts Related to] Race

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sequencing concept inspired by the work of Bree Picower

This is made to work in concert with Sequencing Concepts Related to Colonialism.

Tying in current events: ** BLM 13 Principles

Name
white
supremacy
culure as a the
set of rules that a
person of any race can
get rewarded if they follow
and get punished if they don't.

Name **racism** as a system
(something made up of a many
different parts that work together) that
gives much more safety and control to people
considered white. **

Name **race** as a made up thing, based largely but not exclusively, on skin color, hair texture and eye shape. Race was invented by people with light tan skin, for the purpose of keeping as much land, money and power to themselves. While race is an invention, it greatly affects people's health outcomes, safety, choices, and freedom.

Name **ancestry,** the people in our family who came before us, as the biggest factor in how much melanin a person has. The stronger the sun is in an ancestor's country of origin, the more melanin they have. Use the indigenous people's skin color map as a visual.

Name **melanin** as the cause of different skin colors. The more active, or busy, a person's melanin, the darker brown their skin is. Melanin is determined by ancestry as well as sun exposure--the more we are in the sun, the more active our melanin.

Name **skin color** (and hair texture and eye shape) with color words (light tan, dark brown, peach) when describing people. Skin color, as well as hair texture and eye shape are observable--they can be seen just by looking.

This pyramid is intended to suggest how to sequence children's learning about concepts related to race. I suggest begining at the bottom and moving up. At what age children will be able to understand these different layers will vary on the child and how often and how deeply children are engaged around these concepts. Naming skin color can happen during infancy, before children have language. The subsequent concepts can be built upon beginning when kids are toddlers. When children are ready to move up the pyramid should be determined based on comprehension, instead of age.