BLACK PANTHER

A VIEWING GUIDE

🐾 Fantasy and Sci-Fi franchises have a bad history of tokenizing and relying on racist stereotypes even when non-white characters are represented. How were the characters in Black Panther portrayed differently?

🐾 Bambadjan Bamba, who plays a military leader in Black Panther recently made the decision to join Define American's "coming out" campaign, revealing his undocumented immigration status after living in the United States for 25 years. He immigrated from the Ivory Coast with his family in 1992, fleeing political persecution. How do you Define American?

🐾 Wakanda has defined its own borders and relationships with the rest of the world, and relies upon stereotypes and assumptions about African nations in order to stay safe and hidden. What does this say about the way Western countries perceive African nations?

🐾 Colonialism is the practice of forcibly occupying and exploiting another country. Star Lupita Nyong'o said on ComicBook.com: "The little Kenyan child in me leaped for joy because it's such an affirmation. What colonialism does is cause an identity crisis about one's own culture." What do you think Wakanda represents as an African nation that escaped colonialism?

🐾 In our world the overconsumption and extraction of natural resources disproportionately impacts communities of color and is more often than not driven by colonialism. How did you see this reflected in the movie?

🐾 In Rolling Stone, filmmaker Ryan Coogler said: "I think the question that I'm trying to ask and answer in Black Panther is, 'What does [it] truly mean to be African?' [Marvel Cinematic Universe] has set itself in the real world as much as possible – so what does it mean for T'Challa to move around as this black man in a movie reality that tries to be a real world?" What do you think about this question, and how do you feel the movie answered it?

TAKE ACTION

Watch Bambadjan Bamba's story of coming out as an undocumented immigrant at defineamerican.com/bamba

Go to UndocuBlack.org to learn about how policy issues like the Dream Act, TPS and the Diversity Visa program impact Black immigrants.

If you are white, take time to learn more about deconstructing white supremacy by visiting organizations like The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (pisab.org) and Safety Pin Box (safetypinbox.com)

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