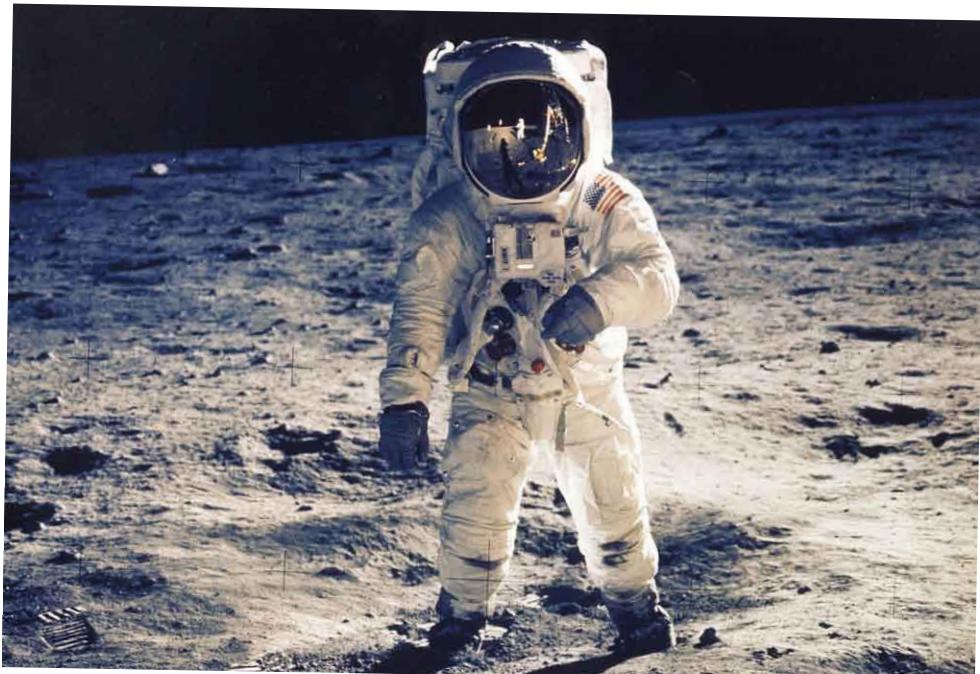


Pictures that changed the world

Throughout history, people have sought new ways to change the world. In the first half of the 19th century, the way we perceive our surroundings was revolutionized by two French inventors, Joseph Niépce and Louis Daguerre, who for the first time created lasting, realistic images of the world – photography. Much has changed since their first steps within this new medium, but the power of their invention continues to make a difference in our lives.





Pictures that changed the world: Activities

For general classroom discussion:

- Which photos are you already familiar with? Say what you know and how you know it.
- What aspects of the photos you would say are ‘powerful’? Why?
What other adjectives would you use to describe them?
- Each of these photos became world famous, and there are many who would agree they were able to change the world, in their own way. What issues did/do they stand for?
- How much background information do you think is necessary to be able to judge the power of a photo? Are some images timeless? Explain.

For further discussion:

- Imagine you are a historian. Think about which events (natural, political, scientific, etc.) have recently changed our world. Pick one ‘moment in history’ you would like to have photographed and explain why. What would be in the picture?
- What limits do you feel there should be in news photography regarding ‘shock value’?

Photo-specific tasks / Project tasks:

‘Man on the moon’

- Imagine you are a news reporter broadcasting live from Mission Control in Houston the day of the first moon landing. Tell your audience about the Apollo Space Missions and how the first footsteps on the moon’s surface will change the world.
- One of the most influential names in science fiction is Gene Roddenberry, the man who created ‘Star Trek’. His imagination has inspired thousands of scientists around the world to turn his ideas into reality. Think of devices we have today that have come about due to science fiction and of ideas humans have not yet been able to recreate, but should.

‘Tank man’

- By the time the famous shot of ‘tank man’ was taken, many protesters in Tiananmen Square had already been killed by the Chinese military; the man must have known that. So would you say it was particularly courageous – or particularly stupid – to defy those tanks?
- Imagine you are the tank driver – what is going through your head as the pedestrian blocks your way? Write a dialogue between you and the rest of the tank crew deciding what to do.

‘Black Power salute’

- Find out more about this (in)famous Olympic medal ceremony. Then imagine you are a reporter writing a newspaper article about the event. Think about how you would structure the article, which aspects of the picture you would draw the reader’s attention to, what you would say about each of the three athletes, and then write your article.
- Imagine you are the Australian athlete Peter Norman, the white man on the podium. What is going through your head as the other two athletes (Tommie Smith and John Carlos of the USA) are silently protesting the political conditions in their homeland?

‘Famine in Sudan’

- How does this photograph make you feel?
- Is the photo shocking? Why / Why not?
- Kevin Carter was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for informing the world about the horrific situation in Sudan with his powerful photo. But Carter also received much criticism for taking the photo and not helping the little girl. Was it right to criticize him? Explain.
- Do you think it would be ethical to use the photograph in an ‘Aid for Sudan’ advertising campaign? Weigh the pros and cons.
- For a group presentation, do research on Kevin Carter, his work in photojournalism both in Sudan and elsewhere, and on his suicide shortly after winning the Pulitzer Prize for his famous photo.

- Damit die Fotos möglichst groß zu sehen sind und damit L selber entscheiden kann, wie er/sie mit den Fotos umgehen möchte, befinden sich alle Aufgaben auf einer separaten Seite in diesem Download (Seite 3).
- Einige der Aufgaben im Abschnitt *For general classroom discussion* setzen nicht unbedingt Vorkenntnisse seitens der S voraus; klar ist jedoch, dass die S eher früher als später während des Unterrichts Fragen zu den Hintergründen haben werden. Dazu findet der L auf S. 4-5 detaillierte Informationen zu allen vier Bildern.
- Einige der *photo-specific tasks* sind bereits als Projekte angelegt; andere könnten leicht in Richtung Projektarbeit ausgebaut werden.
- Im unteren Abschnitt sind für L alle Hintergrundinformationen zu jedem Foto gebündelt. Die Angaben sind auch schon deswegen auf Englisch verfasst, da es sich gleichzeitig um potenzielle Lösungsvorschläge handelt, je nachdem welche Aufgaben auf der *Activity page* gewählt worden sind.

'Man on the moon'

- **The photo:** *The picture shows Buzz Aldrin, an astronaut in the Apollo 11 space mission, after landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. Just 15 minutes before, Neil Armstrong had become the first human ever to walk on the moon; Aldrin was the second.*
- **Historical importance:** *The famous photo made the cover of newspapers and magazines around the world and quickly became iconic as a symbol of technological advancement. It also became the symbol of America's triumph over the Soviet Union in the 'space race': America's ego had been dealt a huge blow when the Soviets became the first to send a human into space, and the US felt it could not afford to be second again.*
- **The photographer:** *Neil Armstrong took the photo. It had originally been planned for Aldrin to take shots of Armstrong as well, but the extremely tight schedule, as well as a special message from President Nixon, cut the photo session short.*

'Tank man'

- **The photo:** *The picture captures the moment on June 4, 1989, when an anonymous Chinese protester stood in the way of several tanks during the student revolts in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. After the People's Liberation Army violently cracked down on the demonstrations, killing an estimated 3,000 protesters, the student protests became known around the world (but not in China) as the Tiananmen Square Massacre.*
- **Historical importance:** *The photo became a symbol of the Chinese student revolution, but also of the courage of a single person against a powerful dictatorship. The man must have known that he was truly risking his life, since the army had just killed many other protesters in the streets around Tiananmen Square prior to the photo being taken.*
- **The photographer:** *Different photographers captured the 'tank man' moment, but the Jeff Widener version shown here is the one that has become iconic.*
- **The fate of the man:** *The tanks stopped for the man; they did not roll over him. He was seen being pulled out of the tanks' way by two men in uniform, but the man's trace disappears thereafter. Was he executed by the Communist authorities, as were many of the protesters after the revolt was crushed? Did he escape China to live in Taiwan or elsewhere? It is still unclear to this day.*

'Back Power salute'

- **The photo:** *The photo shows the victory ceremony for the 200m sprint at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Two American athletes won gold and bronze (Tommie Smith and John Carlos, respectively), with Australian Peter Norman winning silver. Both Smith and Carlos are wearing a black leather glove to show support of the Black Power movement. A lesser-known fact: In the photo, Norman is wearing a badge for the Olympic Project for Human Rights, as his way of showing support for Smith and Carlos.*
- **Historical importance:** *The Black Power salute at the Mexico City 1968 Olympics, broadcast on live television to an audience of hundreds of millions around the world, is regarded as one of the most powerful Olympic moments ever, on or off the field. It shocked many, some calling it the worst abuse of the Olympics for political reasons since the Nazi Party's propaganda-driven Games in 1936. Many others, however, sympathized with the black athletes and their show of support for the civil rights movement which at the time was one*

of the predominant topics in American and Western society. (Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and presidential hopeful civil rights advocate Robert F. Kennedy had both been assassinated only months before.) The photo is said to be the second-most famous image in the world (the first being the 'Man on the moon' photo), and will forever be the symbol of both the 1968 Olympics and more importantly of the Black Power movement.

- **The photographer:** The Associated Press photo is credited to no single photographer.

'Famine in Sudan'

- **The photo:** This shocking image shows a starving young Sudanese child (a girl, as it turns out), and a vulture awaiting the child's apparently imminent death. The girl had been on her way to a feeding centre.
- **Historical importance:** After first appearing in the New York Times in 1993, the photo quickly became well-known around the world. In the 1980s there had been plenty of horrific images circulating through the world media of starving Africans in drought-stricken places such as Ethiopia. But none of those photos had shown a starving African together with a vulture, a bird associated with animal carcasses. The vulture's presence seemed to say that there was no difference between animal and human life; to a vulture, any dead or dying body, whether human or animal, was a meal. Human life seemed to be worth nothing in this part of the world.
- **The photographer:** Photojournalist Kevin Carter (1960-1994) was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. He won the world's most important journalism award, the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Photography, for his photo of the girl and the vulture. He also received much criticism for shooting that photograph and not helping the little girl. Along with the horrific things he saw during the famine in Sudan, Carter also documented atrocities such as brutal public executions during the Apartheid years in South Africa. Eventually, suffering depression from what he had seen and experienced, Carter committed suicide in 1994.
- **The fate of the girl:** Apparently, the girl managed to walk away from the vulture, though her further fate remains unknown. (Carter had chased the vulture away after taking his photo.) It is not clear whether she survived much longer than that day.