

## The Origins of Sexuality: Voiceover Only

Did you know that before the 1890s, people didn't think of themselves as gay?

That doesn't mean same-sex relationships and gender variance didn't exist before then.

Women in the nineteenth century often formed intimate friendships that sometimes became romantic. Rebecca Primus and Addie Brown exchanged love letters for more than eight years. While some people questioned their relationship, it didn't stop Rebecca and Addie from participating in the Black community in 1860s Connecticut.

For hundreds of years, Native American communities have included people known as two spirits, who combined the appearance and daily tasks of men and women. Two spirits have been documented in over 150 tribes. While traditions varied across time and place, they often served as spiritual leaders, healers, and caretakers.

Today, we might use the word "queer" to describe people like Rebecca, Addie, and two spirits. But Americans didn't begin using modern labels for sexuality until 1892, when psychiatrists claimed those with same-sex desires were biologically different from the rest of society. These people were also deemed abnormal because they didn't use sex for reproduction.

These claims were based on faulty science. But it didn't take long for distrust of homosexuals to spread through a society that valued the word of medical authorities. Sexual labels continued to shift, drastically affecting the way queer people would be treated throughout the twentieth century.

## The Origins of Sexuality: Voiceover and Description of Visuals

Voiceover	Visuals
Did you know that before the 1890s, people didn't think of themselves as gay?	A large question mark draws on screen, then zooms along a timeline before stopping on 1890.
That doesn't mean same-sex relationships and gender variance didn't exist before then.	Two men sit with their arms wrapped around one another, looking at each other and smiling.
Women in the nineteenth century often formed intimate friendships that sometimes became romantic.	Three windows spring onto the screen, with women standing behind two of them and looking at one another.
Rebecca Primus and Addie Brown exchanged love letters for more than eight years. While some people questioned their relationship,	Two letters move across the screen, one addressed to Rebecca and one to Addie—both addresses are in Hartford, Connecticut.
it didn't stop Rebecca and Addie from participating in the Black community in 1860s Connecticut.	Split screen shows Rebecca teaching a class, pointing to letters on a chalkboard, while Addie irons a sheet.
For hundreds of years, Native American communities have included people known as two spirits, who combined the appearance and daily tasks of men and women.	Zuni two spirit We'wha pops up, and looks side to side as four gendered Zuni tasks appear on screen: An axe chopping wood, a bow letting an arrow fly, a pot spinning on its base, and a loom weaving.
Two spirits have been documented in over 150 tribes. While traditions varied across time and place,	We'wha disappears, and a map draws on the screen labelled with tribes that included two spirits (including but not limited to Arapaho, Cherokee, Navajo, Ojibwe, and Sioux. Map then disappears.

<b>Voiceover</b>	<b>Visuals</b>
they often served as spiritual leaders, healers, and caretakers.	In order, the following items appear on screen: A pair of hands lifted into the air, a pestle smashing herbs in a mortar, and a baby playing.
Today, we might use the word “queer”	The word “queer” appears on screen.
to describe people like Rebecca, Addie, and two spirits.	Rebecca, Addie, and We’Wha pop up, pushing the word “queer” off screen.
But Americans didn’t begin using modern labels for sexuality until 1892,	The word “homosexual” appears above Rebecca, Addie, and We’Wha, who look up. Question marks appear near their heads.
when psychiatrists claimed those with same-sex desires were biologically different from the rest of society.	A dotted line appears to the side of the group, then pushes them to the side. On the opposite side of the line, a group of people appear and the word “heterosexual” lands right above them.
These people were also deemed abnormal because they didn’t use sex for reproduction.	The dotted line reforms to create a less than sign pointing away from the homosexual group.
These claims were based on faulty science.	A tube surrounds Rebecca from below, sweeping her up into a flask and off screen.
But it didn’t take long for distrust of homosexuals	A finger taps the flask, shaking Rebecca off balance.
to spread through a society that valued the word of medical authorities.	Red droplets land around Rebecca and begin to spread before covering the entire screen.
Sexual labels continued to shift, drastically affecting the way queer people	Five distinct sexual labels appear at center screen one after another: Homosexual, Sexual Inversion,

<b>Voiceover</b>	<b>Visuals</b>
would be treated throughout the twentieth century.	Psychosexual Hermaphroditism, Sexual Perversion, Sexual Psychopath