

**BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN**

**BOX**

**JUST FOR KIDS**

# BECAUSE OF ELAINE BROWN

AGES 5-8



# CHAIRWOMAN ON THE THRONE



**Elaine Brown** (born March 2, 1943) is an American prison activist, writer, and singer. She was also a Black Panther Party **chairwoman**.

Elaine grew up in Philadelphia. Her mother, Dorothy Clark, worked hard to provide for Elaine's private schooling, music lessons, and nice clothing. As a kid, she studied piano and ballet for many years. She graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls, a public school for young women, and she studied at Temple University.

After leaving Temple University, Elaine moved to Los Angeles, California, to write songs.

During her time in California, Elaine

became involved with the **Black Liberation Movement**. She became involved in politics and began working for the newspaper Harambee. She led groups of Black students, in California. In April 1968, after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she attended her first meeting of Los Angeles' Black Panther Party.

During her time with the Black Panther Party, Elaine helped to create the Black Panther Party's initial Free Busing to Prisons Program, Free Legal Aid Program, and the Free Breakfast for Children program in Los Angeles. It's said that the Free Breakfast for School Children program was one of the most important things that the Black Panther Party created.

## GLOSSARY

**Chairwoman:** a woman chosen to preside over a meeting.

**Oppression:** cruel or unjust treatment or control.

**Revolutionary:** having to do with revolution.

**Revolution:** a very great change from things in the past.

**Political:** having to do with the study or practice of politics, politicians, or government

**Black Panther Party:** a revolutionary political organization founded by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton in October 1966 in Oakland, California. They had a message of black power and a commitment to ending police brutality and the oppression of Black Americans.

**Black Liberation Movement:** an ongoing movement of Black pride, economic empowerment, and the creation of political and cultural institutions for African-American people in the United States.

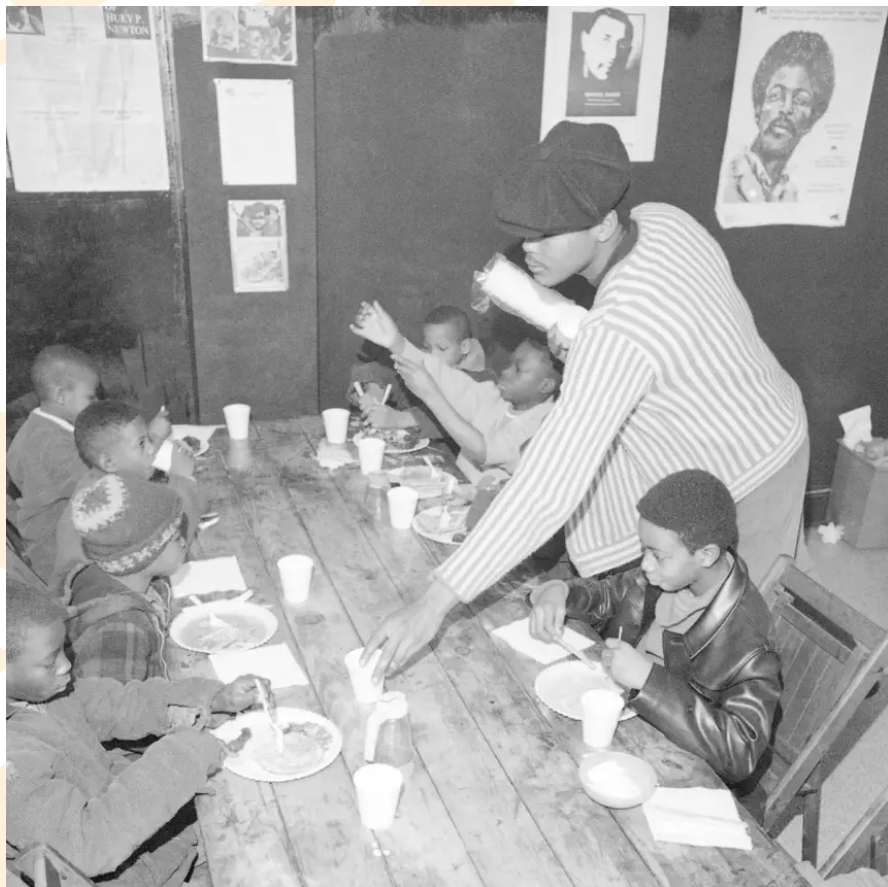
**Groovy:** excellent or highly stimulating.

**Donations:** an act or instance of presenting something as a gift or contribution.

**Government:** the group of people that has the power to make laws and important decisions for a community, state, or nation.

**Peak:** the highest part of a mountain, or the highest part of anything.

# BLACK PANTHERS' BREAKFAST PROGRAM



In 1969, a large group of children sat down to a free breakfast before school. There were many things on the menu, that looked like our school lunches today: chocolate milk, eggs, bacon, cereal, fruit and more.

However, this breakfast wasn't served by a school cafeteria. Instead, breakfast was served thanks to the **Black Panther Party** (BPP). The Black Panther Party was a **revolutionary political** organization founded by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton in October 1966 in Oakland, California. They had a message of black power and a commitment to ending the struggle of Black Americans. One of their most important contributions to The Civil Rights Movement was their BPP Breakfast Program.

“The children, many of whom had never eaten breakfast before the Panthers started their program,” the Sun Reporter wrote, “think the Panthers are ‘**groovy**’ and ‘very nice’ for doing this for them.”

The Free Breakfast for School Children began in January 1969 and within weeks it went from feeding a handful of kids to hundreds. The program was simple: people went to local grocery stores to ask for **donations**, and asked doctors about healthy breakfast, and cooked and served breakfast for free!

School officials immediately reported results in kids who had free breakfast before school. They stated that many students involved in the Free Breakfast for School Children program were more engaged in class and happier.

## THE IMPACT OF BROWN AND BREAKFAST

Elaine Brown continues to fight for the civil rights of African-American people. From 1995 to the present, she has given speeches at more than forty colleges and universities, as well as numerous conferences.

At its **peak**, the Black Panther Party fed thousands of children per day in at least 45 programs.

BPP's breakfast programs put pressure on the United States **government** to feed children before school. The Black Panther Party Breakfast program pushed the government to expand its own school food programs.

# READ & WRITE

1. HOW DID ELAINE BROWN HELP BLACK PEOPLE?



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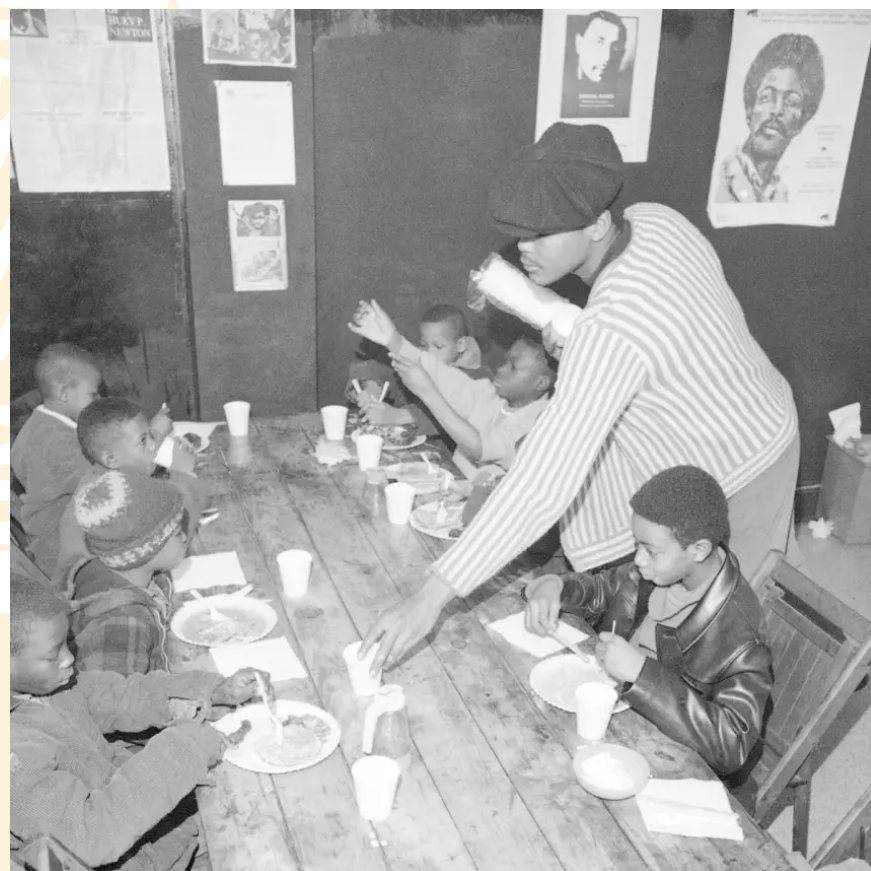
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2. WHAT DOES THIS PICTURE SHOW? HOW DOES IT RELATE TO WHAT YOU JUST READ?



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# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

**DIRECTIONS:** Below, you'll find two pictures. Can you spot the difference?  
(Hint: There are 12 changes!)



**Differences:** (1) The clock is showing a different time. (2) The clock has numbers. (3) The white poster is missing. (4) The yellow poster is blue. (5) The beret is gone from the boy on the right's head. (6) The man on the left is reading a Black Panther newspaper. (7) The maple syrup dispenser moved. (8) The middle child has pancakes instead of toast. (9) The fork on the bottom left is now a spoon. (10) The man is now wearing a watch. (11) The orange is cut in half. (12) The girl is wearing a bow in her hair.

# BREAKFAST PROBLEMS



**Directions:** Read and answer each question.  
Show your work!

1. Jordan had 9 carrots in her breakfast. She ate 6 carrots. How many carrots does Jordan have left?



2. A Black Panther Party member serves twenty children breakfast at 8 am. At 8:30 am, twenty-five more children arrive and are served breakfast. How many children did the Black Panther Party member serve, altogether?



ANSWERS: (1.) 3 carrots (2.) 45 children

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

**I WILL HONOR**  
THE SACRIFICES OF  
MY ANCESTORS.

**I WILL BELIEVE**  
IN ME.

**I WILL PURSUE**  
MY DREAMS.

**I WILL HELP**  
OTHERS ALONG  
THE WAY.