

WHAT DOES QUEER MEAN?

BACK TO BASICS



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What does it mean to *be queer*?

Queer is used as an umbrella term for folks who are a part of the LGBTQI+ community.

Queer is a reclaimed term. In the 19th century, the term was a slur meaning *odd*, *strange*, or *other*, used against members of the LGBTQI+ community.

Reclamation of the term queer began in the 1980s to push back against conservatism within, and outside of the LGBTQI+ community.



WHO IS QUEER?

"Queer" should always be a self-identified label.

Anyone who identifies as "queer" is queer!
No proof, experience, or aesthetic is needed.

The word queer has political social roots which means people in the same communities may feel differently about the term "queer" and that's okay!

Respect everyone's right to self-identification with the terms that feel good to them!

DOES EVERYONE IN THE LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY IDENTIFY AS QUEER?

No!

Not everyone uses
this term, and that's
okay!

Remember:

*Just because folks don't
use the word "queer" to
self-describe does not
mean they are straight
or cisgender.*

Not everyone in the LGBTQI+ community
identifies with the word queer and that's okay.
When in doubt ask to make sure folks are
comfortable with the terminology you're using
for them.