#### Why Black and Brown Kids Don't Ice Skate



Ice skating is a popular winter sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. However, there is a noticeable lack of diversity in the sport. In fact, according to a study by the University of Michigan, only 3% of ice skaters are Black and 2% are Hispanic.



## WHY BLACK AND BROWN KIDS DON'T ICE SKATE: A discourse on the disparities of race in figure skating

by Michael McKinley

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There are a number of factors that contribute to this disparity. One reason is that ice skating is often seen as a white sport. This perception is reinforced by the fact that most ice skating rinks are located in white communities and that the majority of professional ice skaters are white.

Another reason why Black and Brown kids don't ice skate is that it can be expensive. Ice skating lessons and equipment can cost hundreds of dollars, which can be a financial burden for many families. Additionally, many ice skating rinks are located in areas that are not easily accessible by public transportation.

Finally, there is a lack of positive role models for Black and Brown kids in ice skating. There are few Black and Brown professional ice skaters, and the media often portrays ice skating as a white sport. This lack of representation can make it difficult for Black and Brown kids to see themselves in the sport.

The lack of diversity in ice skating is a problem for a number of reasons. First, it deprives Black and Brown kids of the opportunity to participate in a fun and healthy activity. Second, it reinforces the stereotype that ice skating is a white sport. And third, it limits the pool of potential talent for the sport. There are a number of things that can be done to increase diversity and inclusion in ice skating. One important step is to make ice skating more affordable and accessible to Black and Brown families. This can be done by providing financial assistance, offering free or low-cost lessons, and locating ice skating rinks in more diverse communities.

Another important step is to increase the visibility of Black and Brown ice skaters. This can be done by featuring them in the media, supporting their participation in competitions, and creating mentorship programs.

Finally, it is important to challenge the stereotype that ice skating is a white sport. This can be done by educating people about the history of ice skating and by promoting the participation of Black and Brown kids in the sport.

By taking these steps, we can help to create a more diverse and inclusive ice skating community that is welcoming to everyone.

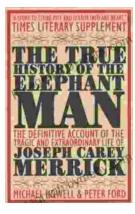


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