



The Cockroach Janata Party

Podcast length: ~16 min

Lesson time: 40–50 min

Episode: *An Introduction to The Cockroach Janata Party*



Listen to the episode

Scan the code or visit takaromedia.com/episodes to hear "An Introduction to The Cockroach Janata Party."

Learning Focus

Understanding how a joke or satire can become a social movement, and how people use collective action to make their voices heard in a democracy.

Learning Strands

Primary: Think Critically

Supporting: Understand the News, Understand Others

Key Vocabulary

satire

activism

movement

democracy

protest

collective action

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Explain how the Cockroach Janata Party developed from a joke into a larger movement.
- Identify how satire, social media, and collective action can draw attention to an issue.
- Evaluate how a group can use peaceful civic action to communicate demands for change.

Materials Needed

- Podcast / audio
 - Board or chart paper
-

Learning Outcomes

Students can:

- Summarize why the Cockroach Janata Party attracted support.
- Explain how satire helped communicate a serious message.
- Use evidence from the episode to explain how people can participate in a democracy.

Before Listening **3–5 min**

Ask students:

What happens when someone uses an insult against a group of people, but that group decides to turn the insult into something positive?

Give students a minute to think, then ask:

Can humor be used to make a serious point? What are some ways?

Listen to the Podcast 15–16 min

Ask students to listen for three things:

1. What was the original "cockroach" insult?
2. How did people turn the insult into a movement?
3. What serious issues and demands did the movement raise?

Check for Understanding 8–10 min

1. **Recall:** How did the Cockroach Janata Party begin?
2. **Explain:** Why did the idea connect with so many people?
3. **Identify:** How did the movement use satire to communicate a serious message?
4. **Evidence:** What serious demands did the movement make? Name two.
5. **Reasoning:** Why do you think thousands of people joining the protest made the movement more noticeable?

Choose One 10–12 min

OPTION A — DISCUSSION

Can a Joke Create Real Change?

- Why might humor and satire make it easier for people to talk about serious issues?
- Can a movement that begins as a joke become a serious force for change? Why or why not?

Here's a useful sentence structure students can use when making their arguments: "The Cockroach Janata Party used _____ to draw attention to _____. I think this was effective/not effective because _____."

OPTION B — EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Turn an Issue Into a Movement

Put students into small groups. Give each group a fictional issue that students might care about, such as:

- There is not enough green space in their community.
- Students have no voice in decisions about school activities.
- A school rule is affecting students unfairly.

Ask groups to create a name, symbol, or slogan for a peaceful movement around their issue. They must decide:

1. What problem are you trying to change?
2. What is your movement called?
3. What is one serious demand you would make?
4. How would you get other people to support your cause?

Groups present their movement in a 30-second pitch. Then ask: What made some of the movements more memorable or persuasive than others?

Exit Ticket 2–3 min

One way people can make their voices heard in a democracy is _____.