



Bírmíngham Cíty Schools Dr. Craíg Witherspoon, Superintendent Dr. Martha Barber, Chief Academic Office

NATIONAL WOMEN HISTORY MONTH



Theme: Our History is Our Strength





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Dear Teachers,

The time has come to recognize the many contributions that women have contributed to the fabric of American History. Studying about the tenacity, courage and creativity of historic women provides a sense of strength, value and identifiable role models for all students. We encourage you to plan activities throughout the month of March to promote learning about unique women who have made tremendous impacts on our history.

The Social Science department is hopeful that this activity-planning guide provides you with some ideas for preparing engaging lessons for your students. Please contact the SSD if you have any additional activities you would like to share.

Thank you in advance for your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Jackson, Social Science Program Specialist





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ACTIVITIES for ALL AGES

- 1. Forging the Way: Have all your students write a short paragraph (essay depending on age) about how they want to positively influence America's society. Assist them with identifying a female who had forged the way and became successful in doing what they aspire to become. Students are to provide a photo of themselves and the female they researched. Display final projects on a bulletin board or in the hallway.
- 2. My Personal Heroine: Allow students to interview a woman they believe has made a considerable contribution to their lives. They will write an editorial (1-3 paragraphs) and provide a photo. Hang the students' editorials in the hall.
- 3. <u>Flower Day!</u>: Present every female staff member at your school with a floral boutique to thank them for their contributions. (Tissue Paper Boutiques) http://crafts.kaboose.com/flower2.html
- 4. Our First Lady: Have students to research a First Lady. Students will identify the First Lady's husband (president) and the term he served. Require students to identify the First Lady's contributions (if any) to America's society. Ask them what attributes they admire most. Have students to suggest ways they can continue the First Lady's legacy.





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Bring Women's History to Life in the Classroom

Educate and inspire tomorrow's men and women with activities relating to important women of the past and present! Included: Cross-curriculum activities for all grades!

Congress has declared March to be Women's History Month and now is the perfect time to make students more aware of the important contributions women have made throughout history. The activities below will help you seamlessly incorporate those lessons into many different areas of your curriculum.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

ABC order. Provide students with a list of historically important American woman, such as those found at the <u>Distinguished Women</u> Web site. (That site's list includes Rosa Parks, Jeannette Rankin, Amelia Earhart, Elizabeth Blackwell, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, and Eleanor Roosevelt.) Ask students to put the names in alphabetical order (by last name).

Write a letter. Invite students to read about <u>Michelle Obama</u> to learn about our current first lady. Encourage students to write her a letter or send an e-mail. Students can tell her about an issue that concerns them. Younger students might ask a question about the role of the first lady.

Geography. Invite students to go to the <u>Amelia Earhart</u> Web site to learn about her life. Provide students with a map of the world and ask them to trace the path of her final flight.

History/art. Encourage students to look at the <u>U.S. postage stamp</u> honoring the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Ask students to design their own stamp in honor of this year's Women's History Month.

<u>Career education/art.</u> Arrange students into groups and assign each group a career category, such as technology, medicine, or entertainment. Ask students to research as many jobs as possible within their assigned category and create a poster encouraging other students to enter that career field. Remind older students to research and include specific information on their posters, such as job descriptions, educational requirements, and salary ranges.

History. Write the name of each first lady on a separate index card and ask each student to pick a card. (Some students might pick more than one card.) Have students research the first lady they chose and write a brief description of that first lady on the card. (Students might use the <u>First Ladies' Gallery</u> as a resource.) Arrange students into teams and have teams take turns reading the descriptions and guessing the identity of each first lady. When the game is over, invite students to name the president married to each first lady.

<u>More geography</u>. Invite students to go to the Goals Online site featuring <u>Karen</u> <u>Thorndike</u>, the first woman to sail around the world alone. Print the map under **Positions**





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and have students plan a trip around the world that includes the places, they would like to adentic office visit. Ask students to calculate how many countries they would visit, how many miles they would travel, and how long their trip would take.

Write a biography. At the Encyclopedia of Women's History, kids can read biographies of famous women and submit an original biography of a famous woman they admire. Younger students might write a biography of an important woman in their lives.

Geneology. Suggest that students read My Grandmother's Legacy Lasts for Generations and encourage them to create their family tree. Younger students might just include their parents and grandparents.

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http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson053.shtml

Women of Accomplishment: An Internet Scavenger Hunt

March is National Women's History Month, a time to honor the achievements of American women and to recognize the historical impact of those achievements. This month, expand your students' knowledge about the many ways in which women sustain the American spirit by posing a question a day about women's history! Included: Links to sites detailing the accomplishments of 23 remarkable American women.

From Virginia Dare, the first baby born to English parents on American soil to Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman astronaut to command a space shuttle mission, American women have left an indelible mark on the history of the United States. March is National Women's History Month, a time to honor those women -- and all the women -- whose accomplishments have made this country great. To help you focus your students' attention on the contributions and achievements of women, Education World has created this question-a-day calendar on women's history. Whether they work in small groups or on their own, students will enjoy searching for information and learning about these women of accomplishment!

DIRECTIONS: Create a March calendar and include the name of a famous woman or a famous event for each day. Assign your students homework answering the question for each corresponding day.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson102.shtml



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DIRECTIONS: Neglected for years, the historical contributions of chief Academic office women are celebrated during March, the official National Women's History Month. Supplement your textbooks with the other half of history -- the achievements of women -- by posing a question about women's history during every school day of the month!

March 1 Rosa Parks

How many days did the Montgomery bus boycott last?

http://www.grandtimes.com/rosa.html

March 2 Jackie Joyner-Kersee

How many Olympic medals did she earn?

http://espn.go.com/sportscentury/features/00016055.html

March 5 Sacajawea

What famous team of explorers did she travel with?

http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/sacajawea.html

March 6 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

What prominent organization was led by these two women?

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/women/suffrage.html

March 7 Janet Reno and Madeleine Albright

What jobs did these women hold during Bill Clinton's presidency?

http://www.wic.org/bio/jreno.htm

http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/biography/albright.html

March 8 Betsy Ross

Who asked her to make the first American flag?

http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagtale.html

March 9 Harriet Tubman

By what nickname did slaves call her?

http://www.civilwarhome.com/tubmanbio.htm

March 12 Sally Ride

What sport did this famous astronaut play as a young woman?

http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/whos who level2/ride.html

March 13 Helen Keller

What is the title of her autobiography?

http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=91

March 14 Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Which president nominated her to the Supreme Court?

http://www.supremecourthistory.org/justice/ginsburg.htm

March 15 Amelia Earhart

What was Earhart's role on her first transatlantic flight?

Jacqueline Jackson, Program Specialist Alicia Sims Bailey, Curriculum Support

Brenda W. Guyton, Curriculum Support





http://www.ninety-nines.org/earhart.html

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March 16 Georgia O'Keeffe

Which museum presented the first retrospective exhibit of work by a woman artist?

http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/okee-geo.htm

March 19 <u>Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis</u>

What job did Jackie have before she married John F. Kennedy? http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/jk35.html

March 20 Hillary Clinton

To what official role did President Bill Clinton appoint her? http://www.wic.org/bio/hclinton.htm

March 21 Equal Rights Amendment

Who wrote the ERA, passed by the Senate in March 1972? http://www.now.org/issues/economic/cea/history.html

March 22 Molly Pitcher

What heroic acts did she perform during the Battle of Monmouth, in June 1778?

http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/notable/pitcherm/

March 23 Clara Barton

Why wasn't she permitted to work with the International Red Cross? http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/bart-cla.htm

March 26 Gloria Steinem

Which two magazines did she help found? http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=150

March 27 Sandra Day O'Connor

What "first" did she accomplish in the Arizona Senate? http://www.loc.gov/rr/women/oconnor.html

March 28 Eleanor Roosevelt

What was the title of the newspaper column she wrote? http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eleanor/peopleevents/pande01.html

- March 29 Make up a question about a famous woman from your state.
- March 30 Make up a question about a famous woman from your state.

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ANSWER KEY

March 1	381 days
March 2	six medals three gold medals, two silver, and one bronze
March 5	Lewis and Clark
March 6	National American Woman Suffrage Association
March 7	Attorney General (Reno) and Secretary of State (Albright)
March 8	George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross
March 9	Moses
March 12	tennis
March 13	The Story of My Life
March 14	President Bill Clinton
March 15	She held the official title of commander, but she was only a passenger.
March 16	Museum of Modern Art
March 19	"inquiring photographer" for a newspaper
March 20	head of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform
March 21	Alice Paul
March 22	She brought water to the men, tended to the wounded, and manned a gun.
March 23	She was a woman.
March 26	New York Magazine and Ms. Magazine
March 27	She was the first woman in the United States to be elected majority leader of a state senate.
March 28	"My Day"
March 29	Answers will vary.
March 30	Answers will vary.





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Women's Words of Wisdom

Grade

- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9-12

Brief Description

Create a bulletin board of inspiring quotes by famous women.

Brief Description

Students

- use library or Internet resources to collect quotes by famous women.
- reflect on what might have inspired those quotes.
- create a Women's History Month bulletin board that mimics the Library of Congress's Women's Words of Wisdom Web page.

Keywords

Women's History Month, women, quote, quotations, famous quotes

Materials Needed

books and/or Internet resources

Lesson Plan

"I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail their failure must be but a challenge to others."

--- Amelia Earhart

"In a world where there is so much to be done, I felt strongly impressed that there must be something for me to do."

--- Dorothea Dix

"I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say -- I never ran my train of the track, and I never lost a passenger." --- Harriet Tubman

Those are just a few of the inspiring quotes spotlighted on the <u>Women's Words of Wisdom:</u>
<u>Thoughts Over Time</u> exhibit on the Web site of the Library of Congress. Share some of the other quotes from famous women that are part of that exhibit. Then challenge students to dig through





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library (encyclopedias, biographies...) and Internet resources to find additional quotes from hief Academic Office women.

Create a bulletin board that looks similar to the layout presented on the <u>Women's Words of Wisdom</u> Web site. Combine images gathered from the Internet with <u>thought or talk bubbles</u> in which their quotes are written.

A Few Quote Sources on the Internet

- Quotations By Notable Women
- Women's History: Quotes By Famous Women
- Famous Women Quotes
- Quotable Women An Archive of Memorable Quotes by Women

Online Quotation Dictionaries

- Bartleby.com
- QuotationReference.com

Assessment

Challenge students to reflect on one of the quotes on the bulletin board. They might respond to one of these questions:

- How does that quote reflect the life of the woman who spoke it?
- Why does that quote have special meaning/inspiration to you?

Lesson Plan Source

EducationWorld.com

Submitted By

Gary Hopkins

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/dailylp/dailylp/dailylp062.shtml

Additional Sites for Women's History Month

- 1. http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/women/index.htm
- 2. http://fun.familyeducation.com/womens-history/holidays/33330.html
- 3. http://www.nwhp.org/
- 4. http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html