

Women's History Month

Women Providing Health,
Promoting Hope

March 2022



Let's Consider....

- **The history and accomplishments of women should be integrated throughout the school year.**
 - The history of women in the United States is integral to American history. Therefore, it should be incorporated into multiple aspects of the curriculum throughout the school year to provide a multitude of cultures, knowledge, and information to students.
- **Build empathy with students.**
 - Make connections to other members of minority groups, people of color and oppressed people and find ways to incorporate their history, culture and struggle with the history and culture of women's experience.
- **Provide a balanced perspective.**
 - It is important not to send the message that women's history is not only about sexism and the fight for equity, which can feel like a "deficit-centered" approach. Have an equal balance of both the trials and triumphs that many have faced throughout women's history.
- **Be cognizant of intersectionality.**
 - Be aware of issues of intersectionality – a way of looking at the overlap and intersections of people's social group identities (e.g., race, class, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, etc.) and addresses the related and intersecting systems of bias, discrimination and oppression.

SOURCE: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, 2021

Let's Get Started...



01

Background Information

More information on the origins of Women's History Month and International Women's Day

02

Elementary Resources

Read alouds, websites, ideas for classroom activities

03

Middle & High School Resources

Tips for discussions, videos, suggested reading, etc

04

Ideas for All Ages

Tips for discussions, videos, book lists, additional exploration, etc



01

Background Information

How did Women's History Month get started?



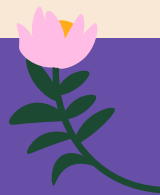
Women's History Month 2022



- 2022 Theme: *“Women Providing Health, Promoting Hope”*
- March 8th is International Women's Day
- We reflect on the contributions women have made in the past
- We celebrate the contributions women continue to make today
- We advocate for women's equality all year long



Women's History Timeline



1978

A California school district (Sonoma, CA) had a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society.

1980

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8th, National Women's History Week.

1987

In 1987 the National Women's History Project petitioned for the entire month be dedicated to Women's History.

1988-1994

Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month

1995 & beyond

Each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."





02

Elementary Resources

Some AMAZING women to follow, that
your students might not already know about!



Let's Learn About...

Sophie Cruz - American Activist (2010 - Present)

- Known as one of the youngest activists in the world. She began her activism at the age of 5, and advocates for the DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans) program.
- Sophie's parents migrated to the United States from Oaxaca, Mexico.
- During her speech at the 2017 Women's March in Washington DC, Sophie made a powerful statement about immigration and the separation of families,
- ***"Let us fight with love, faith and courage so that our families will not be destroyed"*** - Sophie Cruz
- Sophie's Speech (English/Spanish) - [Sophie Cruz at Women's March](#)
- Sophie Cruz, still advocating in 7th grade: [Sophie in 7th Grade](#)



Let's Learn About...

Sylvia Earle - Marine Biologist (1935 - Present)

- First woman to become Chief Scientist at the U.S. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- She developed the "Deep Rover" submarine with her husband Graham, a vessel capable of diving to depths as low as 3,300 feet for exploration.
- Fights tirelessly to educate the world about the dangers of oil spills, and the need to protect our fragile oceans for future generations.
- ***"Knowing is the key to caring, and with caring there is hope that people will be motivated to take positive action."* - Sylvia Earle**
- 60 years of Care - [Sylvia Earle on Saving the Oceans](#)
- Sylvia's Wish: [Ideas for Change](#)
- Get to know Sylvia: [Sylvia the Superhero](#)



Let's Learn About...

Naomi Osaka - Professional Tennis Player (1997 - Present)

- Japanese-Haitian American
- Naomi has lots of interests! She loves to play tennis, but also loves fashion. As a child, Naomi loved manga and anime. She even has a character that represents her.
- Today, she's only the third person in history to have won all four of her first Grand Slam finals - winning the U.S. Open and Australian Open twice.
- Naomi uses her platform not only to wow the world with exceptional tennis, but also to fight social inequity.
- [Naomi Osaka Winning the 2020 U.S. Open](#)





03

Middle & High School Resources



Let's Learn About...

Althea Gibson - Professional Tennis Player (1927 - 2003)

- The first Black player to compete at Wimbledon in 1951, where she won Women's singles and doubles
- Won the U.S. Open in 1958
- After earning an athletic scholarship, Althea considered quitting sports because of the barriers she experienced as a result of segregation
- The #1 tennis player, Alice Marble, criticized the sport for denying Althea to compete at such a high level when she was clearly qualified
- She took up Gold and was the first Black woman to compete on a pro tour
- [First Black Tennis Champion-Fast Facts](#)
- [Althea Gibson: She Always Wanted to Be Somebody](#)



Teachers: Read BEFORE presenting

If you will be covering the next slide, please be mindful that the discussion around school violence can be triggering. Please review the link below BEFORE engaging students in this discussion!

[How to Talk to Kids about School Violence](#)

Let's Learn About...

X Gonzalez - American Activist (1999 - Present)

- Survivor of 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida
- Turned their heartbreak into activism
- Served as President of their school's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Co-Founder of a gun control advocacy group called Never Again
- Helped organized the March for Our Lives, which became the largest student protest in American history
- They no longer identifies with she/her pronouns and would like to be called X.
- X now attends New College of Florida. According to South Florida Sun Sentinel, X is pursuing a degree in activism, has taken classes such as Manifestos, Alternatives to Capitalism and Socialism; Post-Colonial Literature; and Theory, Black Social and Political Thought, and Global Politics/Radical Comics
- [March for Our Lives Speech](#)
- ["We Call BS" Speech](#)



Let's Learn About...

Celia Cruz - Cuban American Singer (1925 - 2003)

- Celia is forever known as “The Queen of Salsa.”
- She grew up in [Havana](#), in an extended family of 14.
- Her musical breakthrough came in 1950 when she replaced lead singer Myrta Silva of the popular orchestra La Sonora Matancera. She was the ensemble’s first Black front person since its founding about 25 years earlier.
- She left Cuba after the revolution and first moved to Mexico, then to New Jersey. She recorded with Tito Puente, appeared in movies, and earned three Grammy Awards and four Latin Grammy Awards. She is beloved for her sweet voice and was called “Azucar” (Sugar)
- Celia singing [Guantanamera](#) early in her career
- Celia singing [Azucar Negra](#) in 1999



Let's Learn About...

Malala Yousafzai - Female Education Activist (1997 - Present)



- Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education.
- Malala began speaking out for a woman's right to education in Pakistan as early as 11 years old.
- Malala was injured in an attempt on her life in 2012 as she rode on a school bus. She survived, continued her schooling and activism, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.
- Malala opened a school for refugees near Syria in 2015, on her 18th birthday.
- Malala recently graduated from Oxford University in 2020 and continues her activism to this day. Malala offers HOPE to all girls who might currently not have the right to an education.
- Malala Talking About Her Children's Book: [The Magic Pencil](#)
- [The Magic Pencil Read Aloud](#)

Let's Learn About...

Bella Savitzky Abzug - Jewish Feminist Trailblazer (1920 - 1998)

- Daughter of Russian and Jewish immigrants
- Feminist and Civil Rights Advocate
- Served in Congress for 3 terms
- ***"This woman's place is in the house...The House of Representatives!"* - Bella Savitzky Abzug's 1970 campaign slogan**
- Abzug's political flair and unwavering determination helped inspire an entire generation of women and created a new model for future Congresswomen.
- [The Inspiring Life of Bella Savitzky Abzug](#)
- [Clips of Bella Speaking Out](#)



Let's Learn About...

Naomi Osaka - Professional Tennis Player (1997 - Present)

- Japanese-Haitian American
- Naomi has lots of interests! She loves to play tennis, but also loves fashion. As a child, Naomi loved manga and anime. She even has a character that represents her.
- Today, she's only the third person in history to have won all four of her first Grand Slam finals - winning the U.S. Open and Australian Open twice.
- Naomi uses her platform not only to wow the world with exceptional tennis, but also to fight social inequity.
- [Naomi Osaka Winning the 2020 U.S. Open](#)
- [Focus on Mental Health](#)



Let's Watch & Talk...

1. What are 3 words that came to mind when watching this video.
2. What emotions did you notice?
3. Why do you think women are labeled “crazy,” “nuts,” or any of the other adjectives for doing things that are out of the “norm” for women?
4. How can we encourage others to support rather than label women who are pushing boundaries?
5. If you're a woman...have you ever been called “crazy?”
6. How does this video inspire you?



Let's Reflect & Discuss...



“

From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

*President Jimmy Carter's Message designating
March 2-8, 1980 as National Women's History Week*

1. How does the word “befriended” resonate with you?
2. What are your thoughts on Carter’s message as a whole?
3. What contributions do you think American Indian women made to the building of our nation? Have these contributions been recognized?
4. How can YOU continue to ensure that the achievements of all women are recognized as vital and as worthy as those of their male counterparts?

Reflect & Discuss



Naomi Osaka Makes Us Come Face To Face With Mental Health Issues

1. What is your reaction to the criticism Naomi Osaka received for her withdrawal from the 2021 French Open?
2. Why do you think the mental health of athletes is not taken seriously?
3. What other athletes have you recently seen taking a stand for their mental and emotional health?
4. What kinds of questions would you have for Naomi if you met her?
5. Do you think pro athletes should be required to do press conferences?

Everyday Strong Women

Moms, Aunts, Sisters, Cousins, Teachers, Friends



Strong women are EVERYWHERE...

04



Ideas for All Ages



- 1) Have your class write a thank you note to a special woman in their lives
- 2) Research and write about a woman who peaks their interest
- 3) Have a pair or group discussion about women who are strong role models for others.
- 4) Incorporate easy directed drawings of these women in your lessons

Malala

Naomi

Celia



Additional Resources

[Timeline
Towards
Equality](#)

[Discover Her
Story](#)

[Digital
Classroom
Resources](#)

[Rad Women](#)



[Lesson
Plans](#)

[Elementary
Biographies
List](#)

[100 Women
Who Inspire Us
to Vote](#)

[50 Women Who
Are Changing
the World Today](#)

