



A FREE RESOURCE PACK FROM EDMENTUM

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# Women's History

PreK-6<sup>th</sup>

Grade Range

## What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help you and your students mark Women's History Month, which is a national celebration that highlights the contributions of women in history. To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

LESSON PLANS:	
<b>Pre-K – Grade 5</b>	<b>Pre-K – Grade 5</b>
Read two passages about Amelia Earhart and answer questions about the text.	Research and find facts about a famous woman from history.
FACT SHEETS:	
<b>Pre-K – Grade 6</b>	<b>Pre-K – Grade 5</b>
Discover the history of some famous women.	Learn about Rosa Parks and discover how she became such an influential woman.
CRITICAL THINKING QUESTION:	
<b>Pre-K – Grade 5</b>	<b>Pre-K – Grade 5</b>
How many famous women from history do your students recognize?	Why do your students think Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man?

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### Overview

In this 50-minute activity, students will ask and answer questions about a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for their answers.

### Materials

- two short nonfiction passages about famous women

### Lesson Preparation (10 minutes)

- Copy the passages onto the board or onto chart paper.

### Lesson (30 minutes)

#### Introduction

Tell students that when they read, it's important to ask themselves questions about the text in order to make sure they understand what they're reading.

#### Procedure

##### Part I

- Read the first passage aloud to students.
- Ask a few 5W questions about the text; answers should readily be contained within the text.

##### Part II

- Divide students into small groups.
- Ask each group to compose questions about the 2nd passage on the board.
- Have groups share their questions with the class.

#### Conclusion

Remind students that asking questions will help them better understand what they are reading.

### Assessment (10 minutes)

Choose a number of the questions written by the groups. Have students answer the questions and tell where the answers are found in the text.





### Overview

In this 2-day, 120-minute activity, students will work in small groups to research and find facts about a famous woman from history. They will then use multimedia software to write a biography that they will present to the class.

### Materials

- chronological order graphic organizer
- computers with Internet access (optional) and word processing software

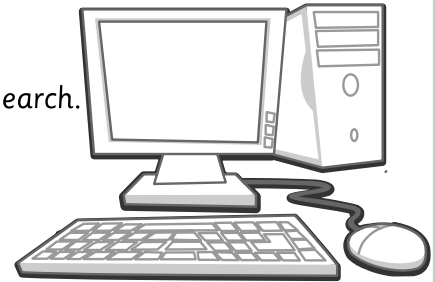
### Lesson Preparation (5 minutes)

Reserve time in the computer lab and/or library for students' research.

### Lesson (100 minutes)

#### Introduction

Ask students if they have heard of Ada Lovelace. Show students the Famous Women ThinkIt and read through it together. Explain that Ada Lovelace was born nearly 200 years ago, however, she was very forward thinking and was able to recognise the potential of computers and their role in the modern world.



Discuss the other women who are included on the ThinkIt. Have students brainstorm a list of other notable women and list the names on the board.

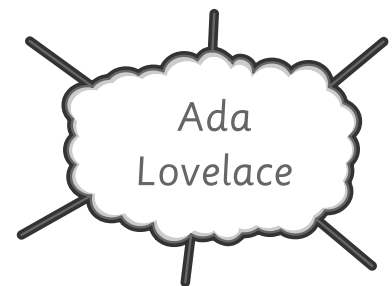
#### Procedure

##### Day 1, Part I

Explain to students that they will be researching different famous women in history. They will then use the research to write a biography.

Elicit from students that a biography is usually organized chronologically. Using a chronological order graphic organizer, discuss subheadings that students could use for their research notes, for example,

- Early Life
- Growing up
- Why they are Famous



##### Day 1, Part II

Assign the students to small groups to research a famous woman from history. They may choose any of the women listed on the board, or get approval to research a different woman. Instruct the students to use the chronological order graphic organizer for note-taking as they research. Allow the students to work in the library or on a computer with Internet access



to find facts about their subject. Monitor students to ensure that they are finding enough facts for each of the subheadings on their graphic organizer.

### **Day 2, Part I**

Have the student groups reconvene and recall the facts that they learned about the famous woman they were researching. Explain to students that they will use the facts to create a biographical presentation that will be organized chronologically. Each group will present to the class so that other students will also learn about these women and why they are famous.

### **Day 2, Part II**

Introduce students to the software that they will be using to write their biography. Explain some of the key features of the software with students, including how to add text and headings, how to insert images, and how to add graphics.

### **Day 2, Part III**

Have students work together in their groups to write a biography about the famous woman that they researched, using their graphic organizer as a guide. When students have finished their biographies, ask them to rehearse presenting it to the class, allocating parts to each student in the group.

### **Conclusion**

After the presentations are complete, wrap up the activity by telling students that Women's History Month is celebrated in March of each year in order to honor women such as those the students researched.

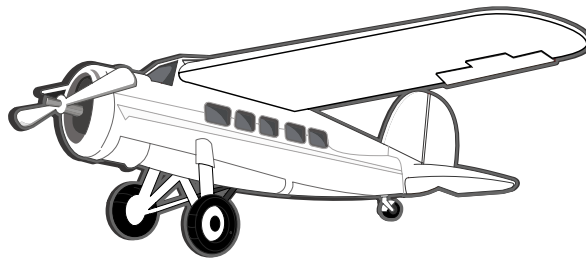
### **Assessment (15 minutes)**

Have students recall the names of each of the women that the class researched. Write the names on the board, then ask students to recall a few facts about each of the women and why they are considered key figures in history.



## Amelia Earhart

- Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas, in 1897.
- In December 1920, Earhart was given a plane ride, and from then on, she knew she was going to be a pilot. She took her first flying lesson in January 1921, and by the summer, she had saved enough money to buy her own airplane, which she called “The Canary,” because it was painted bright yellow.
- In 1928, Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- On June 1, 1937, Earhart and her navigator set out to fly 29,000 miles around the world. On July 2, the pair set off for Howland Island, which was scheduled to be a stop on their trip. During the flight, radio contact was lost and Earhart and her navigator were never heard from again.



## Sally Ride

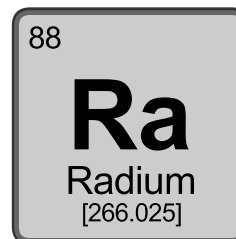
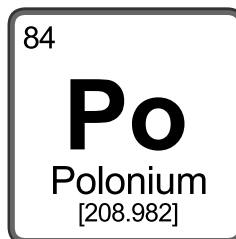
- Sally Ride was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1951.
- In 1977, NASA began searching for women astronauts. At the time, Ride was studying physics at Stanford University. She applied for the space program and was accepted.
- On June 18, 1983, at the age of 32, she flew as a Mission Specialist on the space shuttle Challenger, becoming the first American woman in space.
- She flew again in 1984. In total, she spent more than 343 hours in space.
- After she retired from NASA, she wrote many science books for children.
- Ride died on July 23, 2012. After her death, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.





## Marie Curie

- Marie Curie was born Maria Sklodowska in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867.
- Marie married scientist Pierre Curie in 1895. Together, they worked together to better understand the rays that come from uranium. Marie called this “radioactivity.”
- Marie and Pierre discovered two new elements, polonium and radium.
- In 1903, Marie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in physics. In 1911, she won a second Nobel Prize, this one in chemistry. She was the only person to win twice in multiple sciences.
- During World War I, Marie encouraged the use of portable X-ray machines to assist battlefield surgeons.
- Curie died in 1934. It is believed that her long-time exposure to radiation was the contributed to her death.



## Helen Keller

- Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880.
- When she was 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  years old, she became ill with a disease that caused her to lose her hearing and eyesight.
- In 1887, a teacher named Anne Sullivan came to live with the Keller family to teach Helen how to communicate. Anne used her finger to spell words into Helen’s hand. One day, Anne ran cool water over Helen’s hand, then spelled the word “water” for Helen. This is when Helen began to understand that the words that Anne was spelling into her hand had meaning.
- Helen graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904, making her the first deaf-blind person to earn a





Bachelor of Arts degree.

- Keller went on to become an author and speaker. She also worked as a fundraiser for those with disabilities.
- In 1964, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- Keller appears on the Alabama state quarter. Her name is imprinted in the quarter in Braille, a writing system often used by the blind.
- Keller died in June 1968, at the age of 87.







### Rosa Parks



- Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama.
- She is sometimes called the “first lady of civil rights.”
- In the U.S. in the 1950s, black people were often segregated, or kept separate from, white people in public places.
- On December 1, 1955, Rosa got on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama after a day’s work as a seamstress. She sat in a seat in an area that was for “colored” passengers.
- As the bus continued on its route, it began to fill with passengers. The bus driver saw that some white passengers were standing and he asked four black passengers to give up their seats to the white passengers.
- Rosa was one of the black passengers who was asked to give up her seat. She refused, telling the driver that she didn’t think she should have to stand up. The driver called the police, and Rosa was arrested.
- A group of people, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came together and called for a boycott of Montgomery’s public buses. They asked for all black people not to ride the buses on the day of Rosa’s trial, which was set for December 5, 1955.
- The boycott was a success, and most of Montgomery’s buses were almost empty. The boycott lasted for months.
- There were still many people who believed that keeping blacks and whites separate was the right thing to do. There were many protests and much violence.
- Finally, in November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation was unconstitutional. This meant that not only Montgomery, but also the rest of the United States, had to do away with segregation in public transportation.
- Because of her role in the boycott, Rosa lost her job and she and her husband were forced to leave Montgomery. They settled in Detroit, Michigan.
- Rosa Parks is considered to be one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement and is a hero to many.
- Rosa died on October 24, 2005.

## Ada Lovelace (1815 - 1852)



She was born Augusta Ada Byron in 1815. Her parents were Annabella Milbanke and the famous poet, Lord Byron. When Ada was growing up, her mother encouraged Ada's interest in math and science. At that time, it was unusual for a woman to study either of those subjects.

Ada married William King when she was 19 and became Lady Ada King, Countess of Lovelace. She had three children.

In 1833, Lovelace met Charles Babbage, a mathematician and an inventor. Babbage was working on a machine called the Analytical Engine. It is considered to be the first mechanical computer and was designed to perform complex calculations. Ada published an article that included an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers.

This is why Ada is known as the world's first computer programmer. She also recognized that the Analytical Engine had the potential to do more than just calculations, which is why she is referred to as "the prophet of the computer age."

the first written computer algorithm

Can you think of any other famous women from history?



Here are some other famous women from history.  
**How many of them do you recognize?**



Marie Curie  
(1867-1934)



Helen Keller  
(1880-1968)



Amelia Earhart  
(1897- disappeared 1937)



Rosa Parks  
(1913-2005)



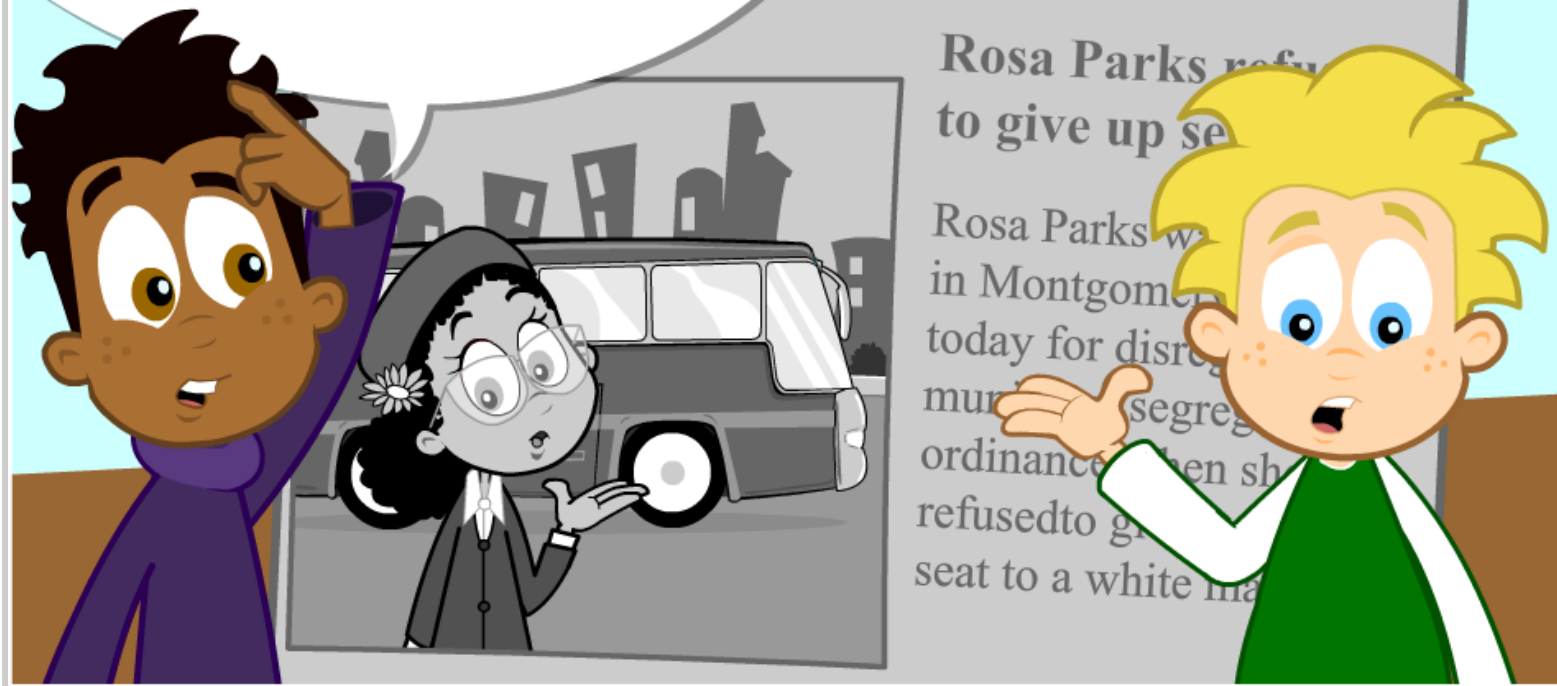
Sally Ride  
(1951-2012)

**Do you know why any of these women are famous?**

# Critical Thinking Question

A key event in the civil rights movement was when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

Talk to your partner about why you think she did this.



Rosa Parks wanted people to know that she was tired of being treated unfairly and discriminated against simply because of the color of her skin.

In her autobiography, Rosa Parks said, **"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."**



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