American Association of University Women

(AAUW)

Brevard Branch

Women's History Project

"JEOPARDY" STUDY GUIDE

Revised 2020

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Women in Leadership

Joan of Arc, Military Leader/Saint (1412 - 1431)



Even before Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, a young girl in France was equally courageous and heroic. Joan of Arc was born in a small town to a poor peasant farmer. She was the youngest of three children. She never learned to read or write but was skilled in sewing. She was a serious child who loved the poor. She often knelt to pray in church.

At the age of 13, she began to have visions that she felt came from the Archangel Michael and saints. She heard them tell her to help regain France from the English. The King accepted her leadership and sent her to help the town of Orleans. She put on men's armor, got a sword and a horse and successfully led French troops into battle against England. In nine days Orleans was freed.

She continued to help the French King, but was captured by the English when she was 18 years old. An English judge found her guilty of heresy *(having opinions different from the Catholic Church)* and of dressing like a man. When she was 19 years old, she was tied to a stake and burned alive, but she died courageously. Years later she was declared a saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I, Queen of England (1533 – 1603)



Elizabeth I was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Jealous relatives plotted to keep her from becoming queen. As a teenager, she was locked up in the Tower of London prison for a year.

Elizabeth became Queen of England when she was 25. She loved sports and spoke five languages fluently. She encouraged music, literature and the arts. We still read and enjoy the literature of Shakespeare and others who wrote during this time.

During her 45-year reign as queen, Elizabeth I took England from being a poor country torn apart by religious squabbles to one of the most powerful and prosperous countries in the world. While she was queen, the Spanish tried to overthrow her and capture England for Spain. After checking with her advisors, she decided to go to war with Spain. She won the war by defeating the King of Spain and his Navy, known as the Spanish Armada. Her representatives, Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake, explored the New World and claimed much of the new land for their Queen and country. After 400 years, Elizabeth I remains one of the best-loved monarchs and most admired rulers of all time.

Susan B Anthony, Suffragette (1820-1906)



During the 1800s and early 1900s women in America had few rights. They were not encouraged to get an education or have a career. Married women could not own property or have their own money. Women could not vote. They were expected to stay home and take care of the children and the house.

Many were upset because women had so few rights, especially not being able to vote. Susan B. Anthony was one of a group of pioneering women called “suffragettes” because they worked tirelessly for *suffrage* – the right to vote – for women. She was convinced that women would never gain equal rights until they could vote.

The 15th Amendment to the US Constitution, passed after the Civil War, granted the newly freed male slaves the vote, but women of all races continued to be denied that right. Anthony spoke out for women’s right to vote for over 50 years. It took 14 more years after her death before the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, granting the vote to women, was finally ratified in 1920.

The U.S. Mint honored her work in 1979, issuing the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, the first woman to have her picture on U.S. currency.

Eleanor Roosevelt, Humanitarian (1884 – 1962)



Born in 1884, Eleanor Roosevelt’s young life was sad. Both of her parents died before she was ten years old, so she lived with her grandmother. She was a shy, insecure child who felt unloved. She was teased about her looks and felt like an ugly duckling. At age 15 she was sent to a girls’ school in England. This school influenced her life greatly. It emphasized the importance of helping others, and this guided her throughout her life.

In 1905 she married Franklin D. Roosevelt, a politician. In 1921 he became seriously ill with polio which left him crippled. Since he could no longer walk, Eleanor became his spokesperson and made public appearances and speeches on his behalf. Her husband rose to become New York State governor in 1928 and then President of the United States from 1933 to 1945. No president and first lady have every served four terms in office before, or since. Unlike the First Ladies before her, she wanted to make a difference. During that time Eleanor traveled across the country and reported back to her husband about problems in this country. She had her own radio program, and donated her salary to charity. She also wrote a column in the newspaper to discuss politics..

Eleanor continued to work to help others after her husband died. She supported civil rights, especially for African-Americans. She focused on helping working people and encouraged women to learn trades and get jobs. In 1945 she was named the U.S. delegate to the United Nations. There she helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document defends equality and fairness for all people in the world. Until her death in 1962 she continued to work for human rights, female equality and civil rights.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI, Advocate for Girls' Education (1997 -)



Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in a small town in Pakistan. Her father ran a school there, and he strongly encouraged his daughter to seek an education. The Taliban, an army that controlled much of Pakistan, was against education for girls. Malala and her father were outspoken opponents of the Taliban because of this.

Malala created a blog for British radio and told people that the Taliban were closing schools. She continued writing about the Taliban plan, and both she and her father received death threats. Malala and her father would not stop discussing the right to an education for all in Pakistan. Because of their opinions, Malala and her father were hated by the Taliban. On October 9, 2012, a Taliban gunman entered Malala's school bus and asked for her by name. He shot her; bullets went through her neck, head, and shoulder. She was not expected to live, but was flown to England for treatment. There she healed, and she and her father continued to speak out that education was necessary for girls.

She started the Malala Fund "to enable girls to complete 12 years of safe, quality education so that they can achieve their potential and be positive change-makers in their families and communities." Malala was awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for her work advocating children's rights and education. At age 17, she was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Greta Thunberg, Activist (2003 -)



Can you imagine becoming world-famous when you are 15 years old? This teenager from Sweden has done just that. Greta was born in 2003 and when only 8 years old she became concerned about the environment. She heard how glaciers were melting, and many areas around the world have terrible floods. She read about severe droughts, extreme wildfires, and more dangerous storms and hurricanes.

Even though scientists were warning people about these problems, nothing was being done. Greta became very upset and stopped talking for a while. Doctors said she has Asperger's Syndrome, part of the autism spectrum. Those who have this may think and act differently than others, but Greta said she was happy to learn that. She calls it her superpower. She is blunt when she speaks, and doesn't worry about how others will react.

She made up her mind to demand that politicians and industries fight climate change. She wanted the world to change to renewable energy instead of using fossil fuel. Her first step was to stand in front of the Swedish parliament each Friday instead of going to school. She would hold up a sign that said "School Strike for Climate" to demand action by political leaders. She told them, "We deserve a safe future. And we **demand** a safe future. Is that really too much to ask? I don't want you to be hopeful, I want you to panic."

Television news and newspapers noticed her campaign and soon other school children became inspired by Greta. Students in many different countries skipped school on Fridays to protest and call attention to climate change. Those days were called "Fridays for Future" and all over the world hundreds of thousands of students took part in these protests. Greta Thunberg, now known worldwide as a political activist, was named Time Magazine Person of the Year in 2019

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Women in Science

RACHEL CARSON, Biologist (1907-1964)



Weeds and insects can be a big problem for farmers. Unless they are controlled, these pests can destroy a whole crop of wheat or corn. For many years farmers used chemicals to control such pests. However, the chemicals used to control these pests caused many other problems in our world.

In 1962, a scientist named Rachel Carson wrote a book called *Silent Spring*. In her book Carson warned people that a chemical called DDT could be harmful to birds, fish and other wildlife. She said that if chemicals were not used more carefully, many animals would be killed.

At first some people did not believe her and continued to use DDT and other harmful chemicals. But many people recognized the dangers Rachel Carson saw. Although fiercely protested by chemical companies, DDT was banned, along with other pesticides. Today most people agree that Rachel Carson's book prevented serious damage to our land and the animals that live on it. Thanks to her work, we pay more attention to the environment and how all things in nature are connected. Laws have been passed to stop people from using chemicals without thinking of the effect they could have on other living things.

CLARA BARTON, Teacher/Nurse/Humanitarian (1821 –1912)



Clara Barton had many talents and often worked without pay to get things done. She began teaching school when she was 16. She soon noticed that many children could not attend because all parents had to pay for school. So Barton offered to teach for free if the town provided a building. Within a year, there were several hundred students at this first free public school in New Jersey.

During the Civil War, Barton volunteered to care for injured soldiers. Never before had women been allowed in hospitals, army camps or on battlefields. She was called the "Angel of the Battlefield." When President Lincoln placed her in charge of searching for missing Union army soldiers, she traced the fate of 30,000 men. While overseas after the war, she learned of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which had been created to provide humane services to all victims of war.

She returned to the United States and began working to get the government to recognize the ICRC. She succeeded by arguing that an American Red Cross could respond to any great national disaster. When the American Red Cross was founded in 1881, 60-year-old Clara Barton was its first president, a post she held for 23 years.

JANE GOODALL, Primatologist (1934-)



When Jane Goodall was a young girl, she loved to watch the way birds and animals behaved. When she was 26, she went to East Africa to study chimpanzees. She studied "chimp" behavior by watching them and living with them in the forests.

For a few months each year, she would leave and attend classes in England, eventually earning her doctorate in primatology, the study of apes.

She is now considered the world's leading expert on chimpanzees. She has studied one group of wild chimpanzees for 55 years. She studied what their family life was like, noting that they hug, kiss and pat each other. She gave them names like "Fifi" and "David Greybeard" and got to know their personalities. She even saw them using simple tools to get termites out of a nest.

Goodall has studied chimps longer than any scientist to date. She wrote many papers on what she learned about and from the chimps. She felt that keeping animals in cages was cruel so she helped educate the public, other scientists and zoo keepers about how to treat animals better. In 1977, she established the Jane Goodall Institute to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It now does wildlife research, education and conservation for all great apes, including chimps, gorillas and orangutans. It is her goal to teach individuals to take informed and caring action to improve the environment of all living things.

MARIE CURIE, Physicist/Chemist (1867-1934)



Marie Curie is one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. Based on her work, she is credited with many "firsts." Not only was she the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, she was the first person to win two Nobel Prizes! She not only won two Nobel Prizes – she won them in two different fields of science. She won the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. She even discovered two new elements that scientists continue to use and study today.

She was born in Poland, but moved to France because it was hard for a woman to study science in her home country. She studied at the University of Paris where she later became a professor. She worked in a science laboratory with her husband and was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity. Her most famous discovery was a new element called radium, which was very rare and unusual. Radium is a special element because it gives off its own form of energy. It has also been used in medicine. Radium has been used to fight cancer in some cases.

She founded the Curie Institutes in Paris, France and in Warsaw, Poland. Both are major centers for medical research today. Her place in history is secure. According to the internet, Marie Curie is #26 on the list of 100 most influential scientists of all time. She is also #1 on the list of most famous female scientists in history.

GRACE HOPPER, Computer Scientist (1906 – 1992)



Grace Hopper was a computer pioneer. She started working with computers in 1943. Computers then were the size of a large room and weighed over 10,000 pounds. These early computers only did computations with numbers. Thus, these machines were called "computers."

Grace believed computers could do more than just math. She felt a better way was needed to tell a computer what to do. She helped develop a new computer language written in English so many people could learn it. This was COBOL, an English computer language that could be used on almost any computer.

For years Grace solved computer problems. One day there was trouble getting an early computer to work. She helped take the computer apart and found a live moth stuck inside. When it was removed, the computer worked fine. This led to the term "debug a computer," meaning to solve problems so a computer will work correctly.

For 43 years Grace Hopper created new ways to understand and use computers. Nicknamed "Amazing Grace", she received many honors throughout her lifetime. She was made an Admiral, the highest rank in the Navy. A Navy ship, the USS Hopper, was named after her, and she received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. Grace helped move us from early computers that only computed numbers toward the small computers that are an essential part of our world today. No wonder she was called "Amazing Grace"!

MARY LEAKEY, Archaeologist (1913-1996)



In 1925 when she was 12 years old, Mary Leakey went to see prehistoric ruins in France. She decided then to study prehistory, the study of history before written records. She was not a particularly good student, but she was determined. She attended lectures in archaeology and geology at the University of London.

She was an excellent artist. She began to make drawings for archaeology books. Louis Leakey, a famous archeologist, asked her to illustrate his book. They were later married.

From the 1930s to the 1970s Mary Leakey and her husband worked on "digs" (excavations) in Africa. They found a skull of a 20 million year old fossil ape. This is considered one of the important discoveries ever in archaeology. After her husband's death in 1972 Mary continued to work on digs. She discovered more human fossils (bones), some that were 3.75 million years old. She is famous for finding a 2 million year old human skull in 1959.

She retired in 1983 when she was 70 years old, but her son continued researching fossils. She is remembered as an excellent scientist who was both careful and thorough in her work. She made many important discoveries about prehistoric man and animals. She helped us all to better understand the history of humans.

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Women in Sports

Billie Jean King, Tennis Player (1943 -)



Billie Jean King was a great tennis champion. She played in her first professional tennis tournament when she was 15 years old. She won 39 Grand Slam championships across her career. She was ranked the #1 tennis player in the world. Billie Jean was made a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, the National Women's Hall of Fame, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. But she is as well known for helping women athletes get the respect they deserve.

While King was winning tennis championships all over the world, she disliked how unfairly female athletes were treated. When they won a tournament, male tennis players got five times more prize money than the female players. This was true in other sports as well. King worked to change this. She spoke out for equality and started a magazine about female athletes. She also worked with tournament organizers and organized the Women's Tennis Association.

The biggest publicity for the cause of female athletes' equality came in 1973 when Billie Jean King beat a male tennis champion. Bobby Riggs lost to Billie Jean in three straight sets in what was called "The Battle of the Sexes." Because of her efforts, women's prize money is now equal to men's in most of the big championship tournaments.

DIANA NYAD, Swimmer (1949 -)



Never, ever give up. That is what Diana Nyad tells people and she believes this motto. Diana was a very good swimmer, even in elementary school. In college she became a long-distance swimmer and soon set records for 10-mile swims. When she was 30 years old she swam 102 miles from North Bimini Island to Florida in a little over 27 hours.

But there was one swim she did not complete: the distance of 105 miles from Havana, Cuba to Key West, Florida. There were dangers on this swim: sharks and stinging man-of-war rays and jellyfish. There are also strong currents that push a swimmer off path. At age 29 she tried to make this swim in 1978 but failed after 76 miles.

In 2010 at age 60 Diana decided to try again. She said, "I want to prove it is never too late to start your dreams." She tried four times in 2010, 2011 and 2012 but failed each time for various reasons. In August 2013 she tried again. This time she had shark shields and a full bodysuit with mask, gloves and booties to protect her from jellyfish. To help her swim in a straight line she followed a white streamer during the day and a string of red LED lights at night. This time she made it, swimming from Havana to Key West in 53 hours. Diana Nyad, a strong and experienced swimmer, showed tough mental determination. At age 64 she finally reached her goal. Never, ever give up!

MICHELLE KWAN, Ice Skater (1980 -)



Michelle Kwan was born in California to Chinese immigrants. She began training seriously as a figure skater at 8 years old. She would wake up at 3 a.m. to skate before school and then go back after school to skate again. Paying for her lessons was a hardship on her family. Her parents worked extra jobs and even sold their house to pay the fees. By the time Kwan was 10, her talent was recognized as exceptional. In fact, a member of the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club offered to pay for her lessons.

Michelle started competing in skating championships when she was 12 years old. She won her first US national title when she was 16 years old. In all, Michelle won the World Figure Skating title five times, the US Figure Skating Championship nine times, and two Olympic medals -- but never the Gold Olympic Medal.

Michelle retired from figure skating in 2006. She is still remembered as one of the greatest figure skaters of all time. She was named an ambassador to represent the United States to young people worldwide by the Secretary of State. She still fills that role today. She has also written an inspirational book for young people titled, *The Winning Attitude: What it Takes to be a Champion*.

WILMA RUDOLPH, Runner (1940-1994)



Rudolph was born into a poor working family. She was the 20th of 22 children! As a child she was often sick, and had polio at the age of four. She had to wear a brace on her leg until she was 9 years old and then special shoes for her twisted leg. With the encouragement of her family, she learned to walk without crutches by the time she was 12 years old. By age 13, she was outracing the neighborhood kids. A track coach saw that she was a natural athlete. Wilma started training for track races and relays (4 runners racing as a team). She went to her first Olympics at 16 and won a bronze medal in a relay race.

At 20, Wilma went to the Olympics in Rome, Italy. There she became the first American woman to win 3 track and field gold medals in a single Olympics. She was then hailed throughout the world as the fastest woman in history. At age 22 in 1962 Wilma Rudolph retired from track competition. Her celebrity helped her break gender barriers in previously all-male track and field events. In addition, she fought for civil rights, even integrating her own hometown victory parade. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp to recognize her great accomplishments. She established a foundation to assist young athletes. There she taught them how to succeed even in the face of seemingly impossible odds.

ABBY WAMBACH, Soccer Player (1972 -)



GOAL!! You would hear that word often if you watched Abby Wambach play soccer. She is the highest all-time scorer for the USA national soccer team. Up until 2020 she had the world record for making the most international goals, female or male player – 184 goals in 255 games!

Abby grew up in Rochester New York, the youngest of seven children. She was only four years old when she began playing soccer with her brothers and sisters. She started to play on a youth soccer team when she was five. However, they had to move her from the girls' team to the boys' team because she had scored 27 goals in just three games. She got better and better every year. She scored 142 goals during her high school years.

She was a key player on the University of Florida soccer team and played for the Women's Olympic soccer team in 2004 and 2012. Both times the US team brought home the gold medal. Abby also competed internationally with the Women's World Cup team four times. This team finished second or third place at three World Cups. Abby led her team to the World Cup championship in 2015.

After 21 years of playing at the school, professional, national and international levels, Abby retired from soccer in fall, 2015. It is likely to be a long time before anyone beats Abby's goal-scoring records.

Simone Biles, Gymnast, (1997-)



Simone Biles was born in 1997 in Columbus, Ohio. She was adopted by her grandparents because her mother had drug problems and could not care for her properly. When she was 6 years old her daycare class took a field trip to a gymnastic center to watch older children tumbling and doing gymnastics. Simone immediately started imitating what the gymnasts were doing. One of the gymnastic instructors noticed her and was amazed at the talent she saw in little Simone. The gymnastics school invited Simone to join their classes and began to train her as a gymnast before she ever started regular school.

Simone continued to excel in gymnastics, and at age 9 she started entering gymnastic events and winning them. By the time she was 13 she was competing at the national level. That year Simone won the top prize on the very difficult event called "vault". These are the steps for this move: First you must sprint down a runway, jump on a springboard, flip upside down very high as your hands briefly push off the vaulting platform, and then land smoothly on two feet. If that sounds to you like a very hard thing to do, it is! At that same competition Simone also won the balance beam event.

Simone continued to win medals in national competitions and then she moved on to international gymnastic competitions. There she won many medals competing against the best gymnasts in the world. The most exciting competition was when she earned a place on the 2016 US Olympic team. There she led the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team to win the gold medal. She also won the Olympic gold medal for best all-around gymnast. As of 2020 she has earned a total of 30 Olympic and World Championship medals, and she is only 23 years old. Simone Biles has said "We can push ourselves further. We always have more to give." These are obviously words she lives by.

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Women in Business and Government

OPRAH WINFREY, Media Mogul (1954 -)



Oprah Winfrey was born into a very poor family, and spent many of her young years with her grandmother. Yet she had a gift for reciting bible verse in church by the age of three. By age 19 she had a job reading radio news in Tennessee and later becoming Nashville's first black female TV news reporter. After finishing college Oprah became co-anchor of the evening news in Baltimore

In 1983, Oprah moved to Chicago to host *AM Chicago*, a morning show that became the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. This was the top-rated talk show for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011. As part of her talk show, she started Oprah's Book Club to recognize good books and good authors. She introduced O magazine in 2000 with the theme "Live Your Best Life". In addition to promoting books her magazine contains ideas about health, style, motivation and more. When her talk show ended she launched her own TV network called OWN. Today, Winfrey is an accomplished actress who owns a film, video and other production companies. Her personal fortune is estimated to be almost three billion dollars! She is ranked as the richest African-American, and one of the greatest philanthropists of the century. Winfrey always encouraged her audiences to improve their lives and the world at large. In 2013 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for all of her accomplishments.

Sarah Breedlove/ MADAME C.J. WALKER, Beauty Products Manufacturer (1867-1919)



Sarah Breedlove was born to poor, former slaves in Louisiana. Her parents died when she was seven, so she moved in with her older sister. She did not get to go to school, and had to work doing people's laundry f. When she was old enough she moved to St. Louis and again got a job as a washer woman. Later she married and had a daughter. She then went to work for a black businesswoman who employed other blacks to sell her hair products door to door.

Sarah had learned about hair care from her three brothers who were barbers as well as from the hair products she sold. Experimenting with her own hair, she developed a formula for "Wonderful Hair Grower." She trained women to be "beauty culturists" to sell her product. She renamed herself "Madame C.J. Walker" and bought a Model A Ford car. The car was not just a symbol of success, but a way to travel without being subjected to "colored only" seating on public buses.

Her business grew to be a major success. Walker developed a mail order business and founded Lelia College in Pittsburgh in 1908 to train black women. She opened a factory to make her products in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1910. She was the first self-made female millionaire in America. At her death she gave most of her money and the future profits of her company to charity, including orphanages for children.

MARTHA COSTON, Inventor (1826 – 1902)



Martha Coston eloped at 16 to marry Benjamin Franklin Coston, an inventor. The couple was fascinated with the field of pyrotechnics (fireworks). Benjamin was already a promising inventor and had developed a signaling rocket for the U.S. Navy. He was working on color-coded night signals for ships. When her husband died suddenly, Martha turned to the diagrams and charts her husband left.

She decided that she wanted to invent a perfect night flare signal to help ships communicate in the dark. She wrote to experts for advice, using a man's name because no one would answer her letters if a woman signed them. With the advice she got and her husband's notes, she developed red and white flares as night signals. While watching fireworks in New York City she realized she needed a bright blue color to complete the set. She obtained the blue color and was awarded a patent for her ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore flares. She ended up with patents in the United States, England, France and several other countries. She sold her U.S. patent to the U.S. Government just before the Civil War for $20,000. This gave the Union side an advantage over the Confederates. By 1871, the Coston Supply Company had many patents.

Katherine Johnson, Mathematician (1918 – 2020)



Katherine Johnson was born in West Virginia in 1918. As a small child she loved counting things. She was so smart that when she started school at age 5 she went straight into 2nd grade. She continued to excel in school, especially in math, her favorite subject. Because of her very high grades she skipped 5th and entered 6th grade when she was 8. She started to attend high school at the age of 10 and graduated when she was 14. At age 18 when most students are entering college Katherine was already graduating. In college, her professors recognized Katherine's talent and ability and took a special interest in her.

She taught math and French in school for 2 years and got married in 1939. She and her husband had three daughters. When her children were older Katherine wanted to go back to work. In 1953, with her strong math background she was qualified for a job in the Flight Research Division, which later became part of the National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA).

Katherine was one of the top mathematics experts involved in the success of early space missions. First she helped plan the first American's trip into space for Alan Shepherd in 1961. Then in 1962 when John Glenn was preparing to be the first to orbit the Earth, he specifically wanted Katherine Johnson to check the calculations before he would take off. Astronaut John Glenn said of Johnson, "Call her, and if she says the computer's right, I'm ready to go." In 1969 Katherine also completed the calculations for the Apollo flight to the moon. Before she retired in 1986 she helped to develop plans for the space shuttle. She also coauthored the first text book on space.

She was extremely proud in 2015 when she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama. This is the highest honor that a U.S. citizen can receive. In 2016 a NASA research facility in Virginia was named after Katherine Johnson. She has written many papers about space travel and even co-authored a book for young people titled Reaching for the Moon. You might want to read it! She died in 2020 at the age of 101.

Jane Addams, Activist (1860 – 1935)



Jane Addams was born in 1860, the youngest of eight children. Her mother died when she was two years old so she was raised by her older sisters. She loved to read and especially enjoyed Charles Dickens' books. Many of these books were about poor children and families. In 1881 she graduated from the Rockford Female Seminary, later Rockford College for Women. She began the study of medicine but had to give that up due to poor health.

While on a trip to Europe she visited a settlement house in a poor area of London, England. That settlement house provided a range of services to improve the lives of nearby poor families. These included daycare, education and health care. This gave her the idea to do the same thing in America. In 1889 she opened a settlement house called Hull House in a poor section of Chicago, Illinois. She nursed the sick and listened to people's problems and tried to help them find a way to live a better life. Education was offered for children and adults as well as art, music and drama opportunities.

She also believed that people would lead better lives if countries could live in peace without war. She wrote and spoke about the effects of war for many years. She was appointed to a committee by President Hoover which gave food and supplies to women and children in war-torn nations. In December, 1931 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work trying to achieve peace. That same day she was admitted to the hospital for effects from a heart attack suffered a few years earlier. She died in 1935.

Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice (1954 -)



Sonia Sotomayor was born in 1954, in the Bronx, N.Y. Her parents were from Puerto Rico and she grew up in a rather poor neighborhood. Her mother was a nurse, and her father who worked in a factory died when she was only 9 years old. Sonia's mother was very determined, and she taught her two children the importance of education and working hard. Sonia had a tough childhood because she had juvenile diabetes and didn't want everyone to know. She actually learned to give herself insulin shots to control the disease.

Sonia always loved to read and her favorite books were Nancy Drew mysteries. Her favorite TV show was Perry Mason which was about a very smart lawyer. He only lost three cases over several years, and Sonia became interested in being a lawyer.

Sonia always worked hard in school. In 1972 she was the valedictorian of her high school class, because she had the highest grades of all the students. She was also top of her class at Princeton University in 1976. Sotomayor received her law degree in 1979 from Yale Law School and passed her bar exam in 1980.

It takes many years and lots of different jobs to give lawyers enough experience to be nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sonia continued to excel at every position she had in the legal system. Important people noticed how good she was in her career. She even taught law classes for a few years and received many honors for all she had accomplished. Finally in 2009 she was nominated and confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice. Over 225 years in our country's history there have been 115 Supreme Court Justices, but only four have been women. Sonia Sotomayor is one of those four women, and she is also the first Hispanic to serve in this honorable position.

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Women in Arts and Literature

MAYA ANGELOU, Poet / Author (1928 - 2014)



Maya Angelou had a rough childhood. She overcame great difficulties as an abused black child in the South. At different times she lived with her mother, her father or her grandmother. After one upsetting event when she was 8 years old she quit talking for five years. It was then that she developed strong listening skills and a great memory. These helped her later as a writer.

Maya Angelou held many jobs in her early adult life. Among them were fry cook, night club performer, actor and singer, civil rights leader, and newspaper reporter. These provided background for her writing. She became one of the most famous writers in America, writing 35 books. She also wrote plays and screenplays for television and films. She wrote 7 autobiographies about different times and struggles in her life. Her book about her early life, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,* has been a best seller for many years.

Because of her strong voice and commanding presence, she was invited to speak on many occasions. A well-known poet, her poetry spoke about the deep feelings most people are unable to express. She wrote and read a poem for President Clinton's first inauguration in 1993. A professor at Wake Forest University in nearby Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Maya Angelou received many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest citizen honor.

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE, Painter (1887 – 1986)



Georgia O'Keeffe is one of the most famous American women artists. She decided at age nine to become an artist. After high school she studied art in Chicago and New York. As a young adult, she doubted whether she had the talent needed to be an artist. For four years she quit painting. Instead she took a job as a commercial artist and taught high school art for two years. She then began studying at universities during her summer vacations. She also taught art at several colleges. Her own style in her art began to emerge.

In 1915 she destroyed her earlier work and began using watercolors and charcoal in a form of abstract painting. She later shifted to oil painting. By the mid-1920s she began making huge, detailed paintings of flowers as if seen through a magnifying glass.

She continued to do very large paintings of natural objects such as flowers, plants and sun-bleached animal bones. When her husband died in 1949, O'Keeffe moved to New Mexico, an area that influenced much of her work. There is a museum showing her work in Santa Fe.

She won many awards, including medals from two United States presidents and ten honorary doctorates. As a pioneer in her field, O'Keeffe has had one of her paintings reproduced on a postage stamp.

MISTY COPELAND, Principal Ballerina (1982 -)



Misty Copeland did not dream of becoming a ballerina when she was a young girl. An African-American child, her family was poor, and she was mistreated by her stepfather. To escape her bad home life she got involved with school and after-school activities. At age 13 she began to take ballet lessons at the Boys and Girls Club. In a very short time, Misty was seen as a prodigy, a young star who is able to perform exceptionally well. She danced in several special shows with movie and TV stars. She was also given a scholarship to the well-known San Francisco Ballet.

In 1999 she received a scholarship to the famous American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in New York City. The next year Misty was dancing regularly in their ballets. In a few years she was an ABT soloist, a role few ballerinas reach. She continued to amaze people with her dancing, and in 2015 Misty was the first African-American woman named an ABT principal dancer. This achievement was recognized around the world.

There were many obstacles to Misty's success: she was a poor, black child with a difficult home life. She didn't start ballet lessons until she was a teenager. Yet with her talent and hard work, she reached the top of the ballet world and is internationally recognized today.

AGATHA CHRISTIE, Author (1890-1976)



Guess who has sold more fiction books than any other author in the world? Her name is Agatha Christie. It is no surprise that this author loves words and books. She actually taught herself how to read at the age of 5!

Agatha Christie was born in England in 1890. She was home-schooled by her father and dreamed that someday she would be an author. During World War I she worked in a hospital where she learned a lot about different poisons. During World War II she worked in a pharmacy and learned more about poisons. This knowledge became part of her novels.

Agatha's dream came true, and she wrote 66 novels and 14 books of short stories. Most of her books are detective novels where her characters solved murder mysteries. But her murder mysteries seldom included violence in the story. The victims in her books usually died by poison. This must have seemed to the author as a less violent way to kill off a character.

Her most famous character is Miss Marple, an elderly lady who knits while she thinks about solving the crime. Her other famous character is Hercule Poirot, a retired policeman who became a private detective. However, although these detectives might be in dangerous situations, they almost never carried a gun.

To write so many books an author would have to be thinking constantly of new ideas, and Agatha certainly did that. She always carried a notebook with her to jot down ideas that came to her so that she wouldn't forget anything. When she had time to sit and write, these notebooks were valuable tools to develop a story. During her writing career she had more than 100 notebooks filled with ideas! Perhaps other authors have such notebooks. Who knows? Keeping track of such ideas might have led to many new inventions, books, movies and songs!

In addition to writing novels she also wrote poetry and plays. One of her plays "The Mousetrap" opened in London in 1952 and still runs today. That's almost 70 years! Television shows and movies have also been based on her mystery books. Although she died in 1976, her work is still very popular today.

MAYA LIN, Architect / Designer (1959 -)



Maya Lin was born in Ohio, the daughter of Chinese parents who were both college professors. As a child she did not have many friends and stayed home a lot. However, she loved school and loved to study. After graduating from high school, she went to Yale University. There she studied to be an architect.

When she was a 21-year-old college student she entered a contest to design a monument. It was to honor Vietnam War veterans. Her distinctive design was chosen the best out of more than 1,400 entries. It is a V- shaped wall of black granite engraved with the names of each of the 57,661 U.S. soldiers who died in the Vietnam War. Her idea was for the wall to look like a wound in the earth to symbolize the loss of all the soldiers who died in the war. Never has a wall done so much to unite! The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. draws four million visitors a year.

Lin completed her training as an architect and has worked on many design and art projects. Her sculptures have drawn crowds to many settings across this country. She has also produced a line of furniture and is a frequent lecturer. In 2009 she was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Obama.

J.K. ROWLING, Author (1965 -)



Have you ever heard of Harry Potter? These popular fantasy books which also became popular movies were created by J.K. Rowling. She admits to having been a bit of a daydreamer as a child and began writing stories at the age of six. After leaving Exeter University, she was a teacher but dreamed about becoming a writer.

One day, when she was traveling to London, the train was delayed for four hours. While sitting on the train she dreamed up a boy called "Harry Potter." For the next five years, she outlined the plots for all seven Harry Potter books. She then began writing Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, the first of these books.

It took her six years to complete this first "Harry Potter" novel. However, that book was rejected by 9 publishers before one signed her on. This publisher told her she would not make any money selling children's books. He suggested she use J.K. (her initials) rather than Joanne (her first name). He thought boys might not want to read a book written by a woman.

Of course, the author's name probably didn't make a difference. Over 450,000,000 copies of Harry Potter books were sold! It is the most popular book series ever written and it has been translated into 73 different languages.

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"JEOPARDY" STUDY GUIDE

Trailblazers

MAE C. JEMISON, Astronaut and Physician (1956-)



Mae Jemison was the first black astronaut in National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) history. Besides courage and a spirit of adventure, she had ability and experience.

After graduating with a university degree in chemical engineering, she went to medical school and became a doctor. She then joined the Peace Corps and went to Africa. When she returned in 1985 she opened a doctor's office. She also took engineering classes so she could apply to NASA. She had been inspired by Sally Ride, the first female astronaut who went into space in 1983.

After she became an astronaut in 1987, she worked to help other astronauts launch into space. Finally in 1992 she went on her only trip into space. It was a joint U.S.–Japan science mission.

In 1993 she left NASA and became a college professor. Today she heads her own company that does research about how to apply science and technology to daily life. A project of her company is *The Earth We Share.* It is an international science camp for students ages 12-16 to work on problems that can impact our world. She is a role model for all young women and especially encourages black women to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist, Activist (1820 to 1913)



Do you think a five-year-old would make a good babysitter? That was Harriet Tubman's first job, taking care of her slave-owners' baby. As a child she also made clothes, and worked in the fields along with her parents.

Since Harriet was often rebellious and hated being a slave, she was beaten many times. She decided to run away, and told her father of her plan. Since he couldn't stop her he taught her how to find the North Star and follow it. He also told her moss grows on the north-side of trees to help her find her way.

She knew she was risking her life but she had to try to be free. She was 29 when she finally escaped, and she found people along the way who helped slaves travel north. With that help she had the strength to walk 90 miles from her Maryland plantation to Pennsylvania. That network of people who helped the slaves was known as the Underground Railroad.

Even though she found freedom and a job as cook and dishwasher in Pennsylvania she wanted to help save other slaves. She returned to Maryland many times and led family members, her parents, and other slaves to the north. She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad and made 19 trips to bring others to the north. There was even a reward for her capture, and some people referred to her as Moses .She saved over 300 slaves and led them to freedom in the north.

During the Civil War she helped the Union Army and worked as a nurse, cook, scout, and spy. As an adult she received many awards for her bravery. She even made speeches about slavery and worked to improve women's rights. Although she was poor all her life, she was rich with thanks from all the slaves she helped escape .There were hundreds of people who owed their lives to her courage. Harriet lived a life of service to our helping others, and died at the age of 93.

ADA BYRON LOVELACE, Computer Programmer (1815-1852)



Ada Lovelace lived long before computers were even invented, way back in the 19 th century. Her life was very different from someone interested in computers today. She was the daughter of Lord Byron, the famous English poet. Ada's mother encouraged her interests in math and science to learn "how things worked." She was also an eager student, interested in music and physical activities such as horseback riding and dancing.

At 17 she met a woman who had just published a book on astronomy. This new adult friend helped her understand how to apply math and technology to everyday life. She later worked with Charles Babbage who is known as the "Father of Computers." Ada wrote a plan for his "analytic engine." Her directions for this engine are considered to be the first computer program. She is widely considered to be the first computer programmer. Her ideas were important in the history of computers. She had a vision that computers were capable of doing more than just math. While Baggage's analytic engine was never built, Ada's thinking and ideas have survived. In 1979, the U.S. Department of Defense even developed a computer language that was named "Ada" in her honor.

Rosa Parks, Activist (1913 – 2005)



Can you imagine that the actions of one person can change history? Rosa Parks did. She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4th, 1913 and spent much of her childhood on her grandparents' farm. Her grandparents had been slaves and taught Rosa a lot about the need for racial equality.

Rosa attended segregated schools for black students. These weren't as good as the schools for white children. African-American children had to walk to school, but white children had school buses. Rosa left high school after 11th grade. She had to take care of her mother and grandmother who were sick. She was 20 years old when she finally graduated from high school.

After she married she and her husband were members of an organization called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or NAACP. Their mission was to fight for equal rights for all people, no matter what color their skin was. Rosa believed that all people should be treated equally.

There was a very unfair law in Montgomery Alabama in 1955. If African Americans wanted to ride the bus they had to sit in back seats. If the front of the bus was crowded the black people had to give up their seat to a white person. One day Rosa Parks was on the bus and she refused to give up her seat. The police arrested her and then fined her. African Americans organized a protest against segregated seating on buses. Three out of four regular bus riders were African Americans and most of them stopped riding the bus. The city bus company lost a lot of money since the boycott lasted 381 days. That was when the Supreme Court ruled that segregated seating on buses would stop.

Rosa Parks' actions helped many African Americans stand up for their civil rights. She received many different awards during her life. She received the Medal of Freedom from President Clinton and also The Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. A library and museum was built in her honor in Montgomery, Alabama in December of 2000. She wrote four books and a movie was made about her life called The Rosa Parks Story. She died in 2005 at the age of 92.

Elizabeth Blackwell, Physician (1821- 1910)



Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman trained as a medical doctor in America. She was born near Bristol, England in 1821. The Blackwell family moved to America in 1832 and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Elizabeth became a teacher and while teaching lived with the families of two doctors. She thought about becoming a doctor after visiting a dying friend. The friend told her she would not have suffered as much if she had a female doctor. The doctors with whom she lived encouraged her and she decided to become a doctor herself.

There were very few medical schools in the country then, and none accepted women as students. She applied to many medical schools but was rejected. She was finally accepted at Geneva College in New York State. Although her acceptance was intended as a joke, she enrolled and took classes.

Professors forced her to sit separately at lectures and often excluded her from labs. Local townspeople shunned her as a "bad" woman for trying to do what was considered a man's job. She persisted and eventually earned the respect of professors and classmates. After graduating first in her class in 1849, she went to London and Paris to continue her medical training.

Shirley Chisolm, Politician, Educator (1924 – 2005)



Shirley Chisolm was one amazing lady! In the 1960's when African Americans had to work twice as hard as whites to reach their goals, she was star. As you read about her you will see that hard work and setting goals pays off.

Shirley was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1924 to immigrant parents from South America. She was an eager student and graduated from Brooklyn College with honors in 1946. Her first job was teaching in a nursery school and later she became the director of two daycare centers.

She completed her master's degree and then worked as a consultant in New York City, gaining experience about how cities govern. She became aware of unfairness toward women and blacks and wanted to help these groups. She joined The League of Women Voters and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Her interest in these groups inspired her to get into politics so she could pass laws that were fair to everyone.

Shirley had a strong personality and when she ran for office she said. "I have a way of talking that does something to people. You have to let them feel you." She would ride through the streets in poor neighborhoods in a sound truck and announce: "Ladies and Gentlemen… this is fighting Shirley Chisolm coming through."

In 1964 she won a seat in the New York State assembly, only the second African American women to serve there. In 1968 she was elected to the U.S. Congress. In Washington she worked to pass laws to help poor people living in inner cities. She worked for fair pay for all workers and increased funds for education and healthcare.

In 1972 she tried to run for President. She was the first African American and first black woman to run for a major party's presidential nomination. Unfortunately she was treated unfairly by the Democratic Party and did not win the nomination. Many were inspired by her work for equality. She retired from Congress in 1983. Her motto and her biography were titled Unbossed and Unbought. Chisholm said she wanted to be remembered "as a woman…who dared to be a catalyst for change"