



WESTON
MUSEUM

WOMEN THAT SHAPED HISTORY

Long have women been pioneers in their industries and over the last half a century, their accomplishments are finally starting to get the recognition they deserve.

In this activity book, you will be researching 8 different women, who helped shape history and changed the world as we know it.



THINGS WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Throughout your research, we are looking for certain facts about each woman:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Death

Once you have found out these 3 things, write about their lasting legacy, and how they have made an impact on the world today.



1. FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Also known as "The Lady With The Lamp".

Born: 12 May 1820

Died: 13 August 1910 (aged 90)

Florence Nightingale came to distinction while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised the care of wounded soldiers.



She gave nursing a positive reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture, especially when making rounds of the wounded soldiers at night, where she was given the persona of “The Lady With The Lamp”.

In 1860, Florence Nightingale established her nursing school at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London. This laid the foundation of professional nursing.



It was the first secular nursing school in the world, and is now a part of King's College London.

In celebration of her pioneering work in the nursing field, the Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses, and the Florence Nightingale Medal - the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve - were named in her honour.

The annual International Nurses Day is celebrated on her birthday.



2. EMMELINE PANKHURST

Born Emiline Goulden

Born: 15 July 1858

Died: 14 June 1928 (aged 69)

Emmeline Pankhurst is best remembered for the UK suffragette movement, and helping women win the right to vote. She has been widely criticised for her tactics - which were described as militant.



Historians disagree about their effectiveness, but her work has been recognised as crucial in achieving women's suffrage in the United Kingdom.

She died only weeks before the Conservative Government's Representation of the People Act (1928), which extended the right to vote to all women over 21 years of age on 2 July 1928.

She was commemorated 2 years later with a statue in Victoria Tower Garden, next to the Houses of Parliament.



3. MARIE CURIE

Also known as Marie Skłodowska Curie, born Maria Salmoea Skłodowska

Born: 7 November 1867

Died: 4 July 1934 (aged 66)

Marie Curie conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win the Nobel Prize in 2 different scientific fields.



Her achievements include the development of the theory of radioactivity, techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and the discovery of 2 elements - polonium and radium.

She founded the Curie Institutes in Paris and in Warsaw, and both remain major centres of medical research today.

During World War 1, she developed mobile radiography units, which provided X-ray services to field hospitals.



Marie Curie died in 1934, aged 66, in a sanatorium in France, of Aplastic Anaemia*. This is due to radiation exposure throughout her scientific research and in the course of the radiological work at field hospitals during World War 1.



* Aplastic Anaemia is an autoimmune disease in which the body fails to produce blood cells in sufficient numbers. Blood cells are produced in the bone marrow by stem cells that reside there. Aplastic Anaemia causes a deficiency of all blood cell types: red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.



4. MOTHER TERESA

Also known as Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu, born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu

Born: 26 August 1910

Died: 5 September 1997 (aged 87)

Mother Teresa was honoured in the Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta. She was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary.



In 1950, Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation that had over 4,500 nuns and was active in 133 countries in 2012.

The congregation manages homes for people who are living with AIDS/HIV, Leprosy and Tuberculosis. It also runs Soup Kitchens, Dispensaries, Mobile Clinics, Children's and Family Counselling Programmes, as well as Orphanages and Schools.



Mother Teresa has received a number of honours, including the 1962 Roman Magsaysay Peace Prize and the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

She has been both praised and criticised on various counts, such as her views on contraception and abortion, and was criticised on the poor conditions in her houses for the dying.



5. ANNE FRANK

Born Annelies Marie "Anne" Frank

Born: 12 June 1929

Died: between February and March 1945 (aged 15)

Anne Frank is one of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust.



She gained her recognition with the publication of her diary, in which she documents her life in hiding from 1942 to 1944, during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War 2.

The publication was originally titled *Het Achterhuis* in Dutch, and *The Secret Annex* in English, before being renamed *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

Following the Frank family's arrest in 1944, they were split up and transported to concentration camps.



In October or November 1944, Anne and her sister, Margot, were transferred from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, where they died a few months later.

The exact dates of their deaths were not recorded, but it is believed that their deaths occurred only a few weeks before the camp was liberated in April 1945.



Otto Frank (Anne's father) - who was the only survivor in the Frank family - returned to Amsterdam after the war to find that her diary had been saved by his secretary, Miep Gies.

His efforts led to its publication in 1946. It was first translated from Dutch and first published in English in 1952, and has since been translated into over 70 languages.



In 1999, Time named Anne Frank as one of The Most Important People of the Century, stating: "With a diary kept in a secret attic, she braved the Nazis and lent a searing voice to the fight for human dignity".

The Anne Frank House opened on 3 May 1960, and is one of Amsterdam's main tourist attractions. It consists of the Opekta warehouse, offices and the Achterhuis, all unfurnished so that visitors can walk freely through the rooms.



It also contains personal relics of former occupants, such as posters that Anne had placed on the walls, and a section of wallpaper on which Otto Frank marked the height of his growing daughters. All personal relics have been placed behind glass for protection.



6. MALALA YOUSAFZIA

Also known as Malala

Born: 12 July 1997 (currently aged 22)

Malala is the youngest ever Nobel Prize Laureate, as is known for her advocacy for human rights, in particular the education of women and children in her native Swat Valley, where the local Taliban had banned girls from attending school.



In early 2009, she wrote a blog under a pseudonym for the BBC Urdu, detailing her life during the Taliban occupation of Swat. She rose in prominence due to a New York Times documentary about her life, and she was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize by activist Desmond Tutu.

On 9 October 2012, Yousafzai and 2 other girls were shot by a Taliban gunman in an assassination attempt, made in retaliation for her activism.



Yousafzai was hit in the head with a bullet and remained unconscious and in critical condition at the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, but her condition later improved enough for her to be transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, UK.

Following her recovery, Yousafzai became a prominent activist for the right to education. She co-founded the Malala Fund - a non-profit organisation - and in 2013, she co-authored *I Am Malala*, which has been an international best seller.



In 2014, she was the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, aged just 17. In 2017, she was awarded honorary Canadian citizenship, and became the youngest person to address the House of Commons of Canada.



7. ROSA PARKS

Born Rosa Louise McCauley Parks

Born: 4 February 1913

Died: 24 October 2005 (aged 92)

Rosa Parks was an American activist in the civil rights movement, and she is best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



The United States Congress has called her “The First Lady of Civil Rights” and the “Mother of the Freedom Movement”.

On 1 December 1955, Rosa Parks rejected bus driver James F. Blake’s order to give up her seat in the “coloured section” to a white passenger – after the whites-only section was filled.



She was not the first to resist bus segregation, but the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) believed that she was the best candidate to see through a court challenge, after her arrest for civil disobedience in violating Alabama segregation laws.

She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation.



Upon her death in 2005, she was the first woman to lie in honour in the Capitol Rotunda, becoming the first of only four Americans to ever receive this honour.



8. MARGARET HEAFIELD

Born Margaret Heafield Hamilton

Born: 17 August 1936 (currently aged 83)

Margaret Heafield is an American computer scientist, systems engineer and business owner. She was the director of the Software Engineering Division of the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, which developed the on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo program.



Heafield has published more than 130 papers, proceedings and reports, covering 60 projects and 6 major programs. She is one of the people credited with coining the term “software engineering”.

In 2016, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama for her work leading to the development of on-board flight software for NASA’s Apollo Moon missions.



In 2019, to celebrate 50 years since the Apollo landing, Google made a tribute to Heafield. The mirrors at the Ivanpah Plant were configured to create a picture of Heafield and the Apollo 11 by moonlight.



MORE WOMEN

Now that we have explored 8 of the Women That Shaped History, why not research more?

- Jane Austen
- Coco Chanel
- Katharine Hepburn
- Harriet Tubman
- Mary Edwards Walker
- Helen Keller
- Amelia Earhart
- Margaret Sanger
- Annie Oakley

