

Module 7: Realism in the Family

Topic 4 Warm-Up: Famous Women in American History



Introduction

Famous Women in American History

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How many famous women in American history do you know? Take a moment to learn about some of the most famous female historical figures in history and explore the many milestones and achievements that women have accomplished.

Click on the image thumbnails or the **NEXT** button to learn more about influential women who have made their mark on American history.



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Pocahontas

Famous Women in American History

Pocahontas

Pocahontas was the daughter of Native American chief Powhatan and lived in Virginia in the early 17th century just as English settlers were colonizing the New World. By one account of Captain John Smith, Pocahontas saved him from execution and convinced her father to release him. Although the story cannot be confirmed, she is known for having traveled to England where she became something of a celebrity.



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Abigail Adams

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Abigail Adams was the wife of John Adams, the second president of the United States. Before the nation even declared its independence from Britain, Abigail Adams wrote her husband in March of 1776 that "In the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands." As it turns out, the Constitution does not refer to *men* but to *people*.



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Sacagawea

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Sacagawea was a Native American woman from the Shoshone tribe. Between 1804 and 1806, she guided Lewis and Clark on their expedition to explore the American West. Serving as a symbol of independence and strength for women, she was honored in 2000 when the United States minted a coin with the likeness of her image.



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Harriet Tubman

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Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in the American South in 1820. She not only escaped her bondage but also assisted hundreds of other slaves in fleeing to freedom using the Underground Railroad. Besides advocating for the abolition of slavery, she also championed the struggle to achieve women's suffrage.



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Susan B. Anthony

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Susan B. Anthony was a famous civil rights activist in the late 19th century. She was an influential figure in women's struggle to gain the right to vote. In addition to giving hundreds of speeches throughout the country, she also co-founded the first Women's Temperance Movement.



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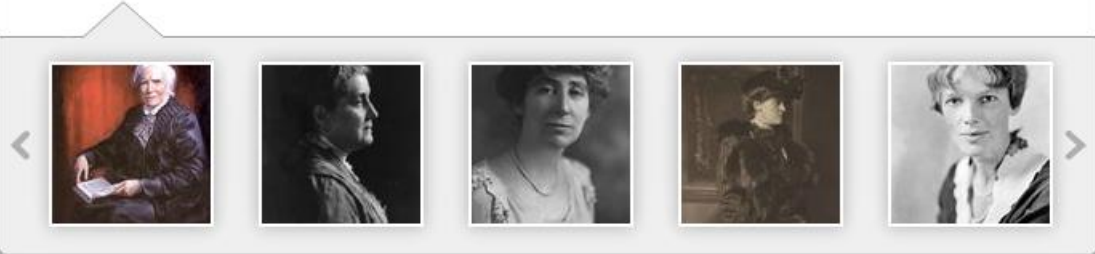

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Elizabeth Blackwell

Famous Women in American History

Elizabeth Blackwell

On January 23, 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Friends and colleagues had advised her to disguise herself as a man or study abroad if she wanted to learn medicine, but she persevered and was finally accepted by Geneva Medical College in New York when the all-male student body was asked to vote on her acceptance. Only one objection would have prevented her entrance, but thinking that the situation was a joke, no student objected.



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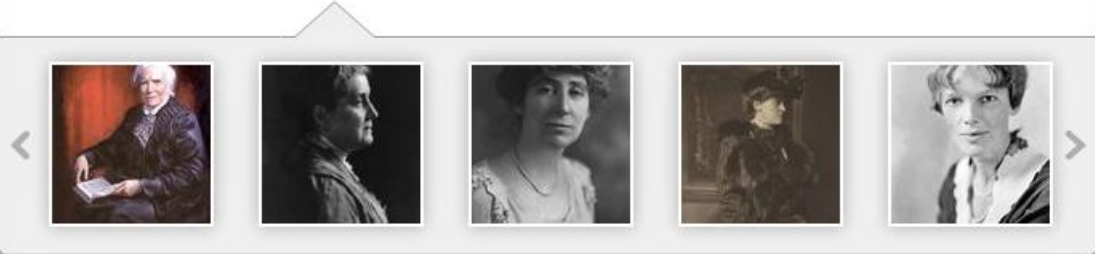

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Jane Addams

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Jane Addams

A leader of women's suffrage and advocate for world peace, Jane Addams was one of the most prominent social activists of the early 20th century. She is considered the founder of the field of social work, pushing for reform to improve the plight of women, children, and minorities. In 1931, her efforts were recognized internationally when she became the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.



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Jeannette Rankin

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Jeannette Rankin was the first American woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1916, after which she is quoted as saying "I may be the first woman member of Congress but I won't be the last." In addition, she was re-elected in 1940, and during that term she was the only member of Congress who voted against going to war with Japan after Pearl Harbor was attacked.



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Edith Wharton

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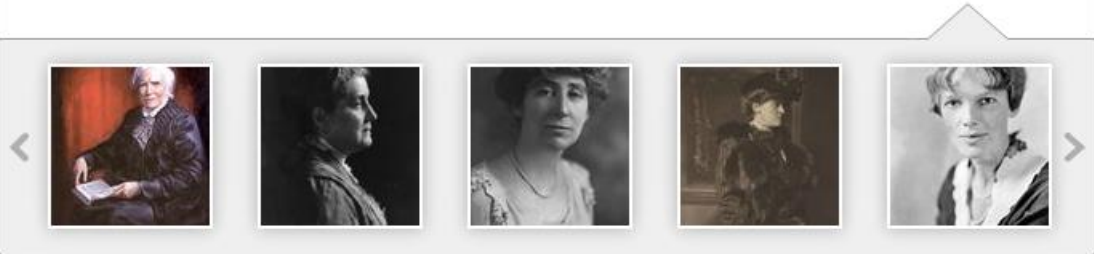

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Amelia Earhart

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Amelia Earhart is most famous for being the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. As an accomplished aviator, she also set numerous other records and wrote about endeavors in many articles and two books. Unfortunately, she is also remembered for her mysterious disappearance while attempting to make a circumnavigational flight.



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Billie Jean King

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Billie Jean King was a prominent female tennis player during the mid-20th century and held numerous titles in her sport. In 1973, she agreed to play a tennis match against former number-one-ranked Bobby Riggs, who had boasted that he could easily beat any female tennis player. Billie Jean King succeeded in beating him in what was dubbed The Battle of the Sexes, played live in front of a crowd numbering over thirty thousand and a television audience of over fifty million from over thirty countries.



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Sally Ride

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Sally Ride was an American physicist who became the first woman to go to space in 1978. Not only was she the first female astronaut, but at the age of thirty-two, she was also the youngest. After her death in 2012, President Obama announced the following year that she would be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.



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Sandra Day O'Connor

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In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. During her tenure, she was cited as being one of the most powerful women in the world. Before retiring in 2006, she tended to be the swing vote in many cases toward the latter end of her service. Among her many awards and accolades, in 2009, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



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Nancy Pelosi

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In 2007, Nancy Pelosi became the first woman to serve as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, making her the highest-ranking female politician in American history. In addition to leading a major political party in Congress, Pelosi was also a key player in the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and is an open supporter of civil liberties.



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Kathryn Bigelow

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