

Unforgettable Women

Before visiting the Museum

What have women done in history?

The *Unforgettable Women* exhibit represents a small portion of the amazing women that can be found at The Women's Museum. Women of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures are represented at the Museum to show the breadth, depth, and variety of experiences that American women face. Prepare to discover a remarkable number of "unforgettable" women!

Vocabulary

Suffrage: A conference held in 1848 to discuss women's rights- the first of its kind.

Seneca Falls Convention: Constitutional amendment passed in 1920 that granted all people the right to vote, regardless of gender.

Title IX: Ground-breaking legislation passed in 1972 that made it illegal for schools to discriminate against women in sports.

19th Amendment: The right to vote

Feminism: Philosophy and theory concerning the experiences of women.

Who Do You Think is Unforgettable?

Your teacher will time you for 5 minutes. Create a list of women who you think are unforgettable. When the time is up, take another couple of minutes and select one woman from your list. Why is she important? What characteristics make her outstanding? Prepare a short presentation or skit to introduce your unforgettable woman to the class. Try to convince them that your group's choice belongs in The Women's Museum.

Share your presentation with the rest of the class. After each group has shared the nominee, have a vote to determine who your class thinks should be represented in The Women's Museum.

Now, go with your classmates on a tour of the museum and see if the woman your class picked is there. While you are walking around also look to see how many of the other women that were listed are named among the exhibits.

Women Changing History

??? Did You Know???

Jeanette Rankin was elected to Congress 3 years before women were allowed to vote nationally.

Hollywood actress Hedy Lamarr patented the "Spread Spectrum" technology that is used today in wireless communications like faxes and cell phones.

WNBA star Lisa Leslie once scored 101 points in the first HALF of a high school basketball game!

Singer Etta James was recognized as a gospel prodigy by the age of 5.

Wilma Rudolph overcame polio as a young child to become a legendary track-and-field star.

At the Museum

Questions for Discussion:

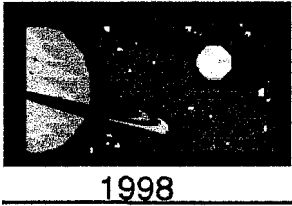
Now that you have visited The Women's Museum, do you think having a museum dedicated to women's history is important? Why or why not?

Do you believe that "strong" women are viewed and praised in the same ways that "strong" men are? How are they similar? How are they different?

Are there any careers that you feel are still closed to women? Why do you think this is the case? Do you believe this might change by the time you enter the work force? Why or why not?

Milestones in Women's History: During Your Visit. ..

As you study the Milestones in Women's History timeline, be sure to open the drawers in the wall and consider the stories the artifacts tell. After careful consideration, select three events represented in the Milestones exhibit that have had a direct impact on your life. Write the date and draw a symbol to represent each event in the column on the left. In the center box, write a statement about the event. In the box on the right, tell how you are directly connected to this event now or plan to be in the future.

Notes	Date and Symbol	My Connection to the Event
<p>In 1998, 16% of engineers were women.</p>		<p>'I want to see this percent increase because I plan to be a space engineer and live in a satellite city orbiting the earth.</p>

Making my own Unforgettable Women exhibit

Have each student select a woman he or she admires. Try to encourage choosing women from a variety of areas: science and technology, business, sports, entertainment, politics, etc. Women can be from the past or present.

Ask students to conduct research, and write a short essay about her life and accomplishments. Have the students create pictures or "artifacts" to enhance their essays. Display the essays and artifacts in your classroom.

Having trouble coming up with women to write about? Maybe you can use the following suggestions:

Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor

Mary Cassatt, Impressionist artist

Martha Graham, dancer and choreographer

Barbara Jordan, famed Texas politician and speaker

Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation

Maria Mitchell, a self-taught astronomer

Sally Ride, the first female astronaut

Wilma Rudolph, track-and-field star who overcame childhood polio

Babe Zaharias, golf pro who also won Olympic medals in track-and-field

Write us a letter...

You learned about several "Unforgettable Women" during your visit to the museum. Can you think of any unforgettable women from your own life and experiences? (For example, do you have a relative, a family friend, or a teacher who has affected your life in some way?) Is there a woman whom you admire that you did not see at *The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future*?

Choose one woman who you think is unforgettable, but is not featured in the *Unforgettable Women* exhibit at The Women's Museum. (She can be a woman you know personally, or another woman you admire.) Write a letter to *The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future* describing why you think this woman

should be included at The Women's Museum. Begin by introducing the woman and explaining the purpose of the letter. Then support your choice with at least 3 good reasons, explaining your reasons in detail.

After the Museum