



## Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. Having its roots in the first International Women's Day on March 8, 1911, the month is a time to celebrate the rich influence that women have had in the world.

International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women, took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. Many countries around the world celebrate the holiday with demonstrations, educational initiatives, and customs such as presenting women with gifts and flowers. The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975. When adopting its resolution on the observance of International Women's Day, the United Nations General Assembly cited the following reasons: "To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security."

## History

Women's History Month in the United States grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. To celebrate International Women's Day, presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest, and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa. In 1979, more communities across America joined in with city-wide celebrations, prompting President Jimmy Carter to declare the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> to be National Women's History Week, in 1980. Later in 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California to broadcast women's historical achievements. In 1986 and 1987, the NWHP led a coalition that lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women's History Month. By 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 to legally make March a month to recognize the contributions of "American women of every race, class, and ethnic background." Since 1995, American Presidents have each made official proclamations of the importance of women in America to kick off the celebration.

## Resources for Middle and High School

1. Newseum: <https://newseumed.org/news/womens-history-month-resources>

2. PBS Newshour Extra: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/tag/womens-history-month/>
3. <https://ksps.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/womens-history-month/>
4. National Women's History Museum: <https://www.nwhm.org/students-and-educators/resources>
5. National Constitution Center: <https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/civic-calendar/womens-history-month>
6. Center for Civic Education: <http://www.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/womens-history-month>
7. Smithsonian Education:  
[http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource\\_library/women\\_resources.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/women_resources.html)
8. Read, Write, Think: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/march-national-women-history-20452.html>
9. History Extra, 100 Women Who Changed the World: <https://www.historyextra.com/100-women/100-women-results/>
10. WeTeachNYC: <https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/march-womens-history-month/>
11. Constitutional Rights Foundation: <https://www.crf-usa.org/women-s-history-month/women-s-history-month>
12. Library of Congress: <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/for-teachers/>
13. Edsitement: <https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/womens-history-united-states>
14. HMH: <https://www.hmhco.com/blog/womens-history-month-activities-lesson-plans-for-students>
15. Education World:  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_special/women\\_history\\_lesson\\_plan.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/women_history_lesson_plan.shtml)
16. Zinn Education Project: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/seneca-falls/>
17. The New York Times:  
[https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/issues\\_in\\_depth/WomensHistory.html](https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/issues_in_depth/WomensHistory.html)
18. Scholastic: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/women/index.htm>
19. Library of Congress: <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>
20. NEA: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/womens-history-month-classroom>
21. Smithsonian History Explorer: <https://historyexplorer.si.edu/major-themes/theme/womens-history-month>
22. We Are Teachers: <https://www.weareteachers.com/womens-history-month-activities/>
23. Distinguished Women of Past and Present: <http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/>
24. Anti-Defamation League: <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/womens-history-month-resources>
25. National Park Service sites of importance in Women's History:  
<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/03-09-2017-womens-history-month.htm>
26. National First Ladies Library: <http://www.firstladies.org/curriculum/choose.aspx>
27. Infoplease, Women's History Month Resources: <https://www.infoplease.com/us/womens-history-month-resources>
28. Teachervision: <https://www.teachervision.com/womens-history-month/top-15-womens-history-month-activities>