



# Women in History

## 12 Famous Women Activities

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Ellen Ochoa



Ellen Ochoa was born in Los Angeles, California on May 10, 1958. Ochoa's mother struggled to raise five children as a single parent. However, her strength and example made Ellen and her brothers and sisters work hard and believe in themselves. Ellen earned many awards in high school and graduated from Redondo Union High School in her class, class of 1975. She attended college at Fullerton College and graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Physics. Once again, she was at the top of her class. She soon entered graduate school at Stanford University and met students that were interested in NASA's astronaut training program. She realized that she might qualify.

The first time Ellen applied to NASA she was rejected. However, she did not give up. Five years later she applied again and was accepted.

In 1991, Ellen became the first Hispanic woman to travel in space. Her first flight was on the space shuttle Discovery.

Today, she often visits schools encouraging young girls to pursue their dreams even if others believe they are impossible. As a mother, inventor, and an astrophysicist, she proves that big dreams lead to amazing accomplishments and adventures.

In the box below, draw a picture of what you think the view would be if you were on a space mission and looking out of the window of a space shuttle.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Jane Goodall



Jane Goodall was born on April 3, 1934 in London, England. As a young girl, Jane dreamt that one day she would go to Africa to see her favorite animal, the chimpanzee.

As Jane grew older, she decided she would attempt to keep her dream. She worked as a waitress, a secretary and saved all that she could for her trip to Africa. Finally, when she was twenty-three years old, she had enough money to visit Africa.

Jane loved Africa so much that she was thrilled when an unanticipated offer led her to stay. She was thrilled when an unanticipated offer led her to stay. She was thrilled when an unanticipated offer led her to stay.

Jane spent over forty years studying chimpanzees. She became so close to them that she lived for almost two years as a member of a chimpanzee troupe. Proofs, a male chimpanzee, became her best friend.

Jane has won many awards for her work with chimpanzees. She has spent much of her other years working to preserve the natural habitats of animals throughout the world.

Jane has taught the world much about chimpanzees, communications, the sounds calls, touch body language, and facial expressions just like humans do.

Complete the following sentence:

A chimpanzee might use a sound to \_\_\_\_\_.

A call is usually an important warning. Chimps might call to tell other chimpanzees \_\_\_\_\_.

For more information, visit [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org). If available, interview someone who has read Jane Goodall's books.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Maya Angelou



Maya Angelou was born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. She is best known as "Maya", which is a nickname given to her by her older brother. Maya means "my sister".

Maya had a difficult childhood. After her parents divorced, her grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. She was poor, food scarce, and often challenging hardships. Despite her struggles, her grandmother means a person is able to withstand and overcome.

Maya received a scholarship to study dance and Labor School when she was fourteen years old. At age sixteen, she became the first African American female street dancer during this time that Maya began to write.

Maya published many books, poems, and essays. Her works are loved by many and have received national awards and recognition. Maya's works continue to inspire many today.

One of Maya Angelou's best known works is her collection, "The Caged Bird Sings". An autobiography is a writing that is written by that person on their life. The lines provided will help you to write an autobiography about your life.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Sally Ride



Sally Ride was born on May 26, 1951 in Encino, California. She was a student and especially loved science and math. In addition, Sally Ride was a great athlete. She became a top ranked amateur tennis player and professional in the sport. After long days and months of tennis tournaments, Sally had the idea to become an astronaut. For astronauts, Sally was one of the 25 people chosen for the first training program. Sally graduated from college with a degree in English and then became a teacher. She became an English teacher at the University of California, San Diego. She became the first American woman to go into space.

Sally Ride received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for "Morning Miracles" which she wrote for the inauguration of President Obama. Her works continue to inspire many today.

For more information, visit [www.sallyride.com](http://www.sallyride.com).

Arrange the following words in alphabetical order. Write them below to learn even more about Sally Ride.

John Glenn

graduated

Earth

astronaut

school

children

robots

Houston

science

satellites

Sally Ride grew up to be an \_\_\_\_\_ but she also accomplished many things in her lifetime. She even wrote a book for \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_.

When she \_\_\_\_\_ from Stanford University, she probably dreamed she would be heading to \_\_\_\_\_ to work at \_\_\_\_\_ Space Center.

While at NASA, she also worked on developing the space suit which is used to send \_\_\_\_\_ into space.

Perhaps her life will inspire others to love \_\_\_\_\_ just as she does.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Abigail Adams



Abigail Adams was born on November 11, 1744 in Weymouth, Massachusetts. At the time, Weymouth was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Abigail was the fourth of ten children. She did not attend school. Many girls did not. Her mother taught her to read and write and she learned by reading many of her Father's books. Not being able to attend school frustrated Abigail. Letter in this experience would lead her to fight for women's rights.

As a young lady, Abigail met John Adams, a country lawyer. They married in October of 1764 and settled in Boston just prior to the Revolutionary War. John was chosen to be a member of the Continental Congress and was away from home more than Abigail. He had to take care of the home and her family while the war was being fought nearby. Over the years, John and Abigail wrote over 1000 letters to each other. It is because of these letters that we know so much about what it was like to be on the home front during the war.

In 1776, John was elected Vice President under President George Washington. Eight years later, he was elected President and Abigail became First Lady. She was the first to be called First Lady because she was a woman with strong opinions and shared them. She believed in equal rights for all people, including African Americans and women. She worked every person to have equal access to education.

Although she died before it happened, her son, John Quincy Adams would also be elected President of the United States. She was a woman ahead of her time and luckily she left behind thousands of letters that we continue to learn from today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Michelle Kwan



Michelle Kwan was born in Torrance, California on July 7, 1980. Her parents emigrated to America from Hong Kong and Michelle grew up speaking both Chinese and English in her home. Michelle began ice skating when she was around five years old. She began seriously skating when she turned eight. Michelle would wake up at 4:30 am so she could get to the ice rink for her first school each day. She would then return to the ice skating rink in the afternoon.

In 1991, Michelle entered her first World Championships Figure Skating competition. She was only thirteen years old. Surprisingly, she placed eighth and this earned her a spot as an alternate on the 1992 Olympic team. Michelle would continue to skate competitively for ten more years. During this time she would win two Olympic medals and be named World Champion five times. She remains the most decorated United States Women's Skating champion of all time.

After she left competitive skating, Michelle decided to focus on her education. She attended Tufts University to pursue a law and diplomacy masters program. Upon graduation, Michelle accepted a job with the US State Department's Bureau of Economic and Cultural Affairs. She worked as a state department senior advisor during President Barack Obama's presidency.

Find the following words about Michelle Kwan in the word search below.

C	A	X	Z	X	I	W	V	S	T	P	O
C	A	T	N	W	L	V	F	E	G	R	L
C	U	M	I	N	D	B	T	M	I	K	A
C	U	M	I	N	D	B	T	M	I	K	A

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Sacagawea



Sacagawea was born in 1788 along the Snake Mountain which would be our present day Idaho. She was a member of the Shoshone Tribe and her Father was the tribe's chief. She had a happy and peaceful childhood until the year following the birth of her first son. Her Father was captured by the Hidatsa tribe and taken west. She and her mother were captured and made slaves. They moved around like the Shoshone Tribe and eventually Sacagawea's husband died. She and her son moved to the Shoshone Tribe and eventually Sacagawea was sold to a fur trapper. She and her son became his wife. She was then sold to another fur trapper and became his wife. She and her son moved to the Snake River and then to the Missouri River. They eventually became free.

She then moved to the Rocky Mountains. When the fur trade declined, Sacagawea and her son joined the Lewis and Clark expedition. Sacagawea was a valuable member of the expedition. When the group came across the Shoshone Tribe, Sacagawea spoke their language and helped the group to buy horses. They made it to the Pacific Ocean and then headed back to the Shoshone Tribe where she gave birth to a second son. Lewis and Clark named him Charbonneau. He died young.

She then moved to Oregon with her husband and son. They made it to Oregon and then to California. There they settled down.

She died in Oregon in 1812. Her grave is located in Oregon. Her grave is located in Oregon. Her grave is located in Oregon.

Answer the questions above to answer the following questions.

When was Sacagawea born? She was a member of what tribe?

What did Sacagawea do for the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

How did Sacagawea die? When did she die?

Where is Sacagawea buried?

How did Sacagawea help the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

What did Sacagawea do for the Shoshone Tribe?

What did Sacagawea do for the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

What did Sacagawea do for the Shoshone Tribe?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Katherine Johnson



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Katherine Johnson

Katherine Coleman Johnson was born on August 26, 1912 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. When she was a young girl, educational opportunities were limited for African American girls. However, Katherine took advantage of any opportunity to learn. She was especially gifted in math and graduated eighth grade by the time she was ten years old. She then taught her younger siblings how to read and write. Her mother moved the family to a town 20 miles away so Katherine could attend high school.

After graduating high school, Katherine attended college to teach. Her education was interrupted when her mother became ill. Katherine taught her mother to read and write. Her mother recovered and returned to teaching. Katherine graduated from West Virginia State College with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics.

In 1953, President Barack Obama presented Katherine Johnson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is the highest honor a civilian can earn and is given to individuals who have contributed in the highest sense to the nation's interests of the United States.

Solve the math problem below when finished. Then, write the number in the box next to the question. You can also draw a picture of Katherine Johnson or a computer that you think she used to calculate the numbers in the box.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Oprah Winfrey



Oprah Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954 when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed. Her mother moved to Indianapolis to work as a maid with no running water and many farm jobs, but young Oprah was resilient and by the time she was three years old, she was reading books on her own.

At six years old, Oprah joined her mother in Wisconsin and then Tennessee where her Father lived. Oprah was an excellent student. She read to hear stories and loved to read. In 1981, Oprah graduated from East High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She worked as a slot checker and used her free time to read.

While in college, Oprah received a call from a CBS news station in Nashville asking her to become one of their news anchors. She was only nineteen years old and could not believe she was offered such a great opportunity. She accepted the job and became the first female African American news anchor in television history.

Oprah was nominated to play in a morning talk show called AM, Chicago. When the show became successful, she got a new job on the show. She got her own show in 1986 and now hosts her own show, The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's show brings in over 15 million people weekly.

In addition to her talk show, Oprah is known for many other accomplishments. As an actress, she has won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in The Color Purple. In addition, Oprah founded her own charity, The Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

Oprah is also known for her charitable work. She founded her own school, The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, in South Africa. This school provides education to girls in Africa. Oprah's leadership is well known and she continues to help others through her foundation.

Oprah Winfrey was born on December 29, 1929 in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Her parents emigrated to America during the American Revolution one of the last remnants of his war experiences for young Clara. These stories would often inspire her to help others.

As a teenager, Clara learned to read and was very smart, however, she was too poor to attend school. She found a teacher to tutor her, and she learned to read on her own.

Clara soon left for New Jersey to begin teaching. However, Ramirez in the town she lived in were required to pay for their teacher by their families. Most families could not afford to pay for a teacher. Clara taught for free for ten years and then moved to New Jersey. She started the first Preschool in New Jersey and enrollment grew from six to six hundred children.

When the Civil War began, Clara was working in Washington, DC. She began collecting food and supplies for the Union Army. She traveled with the army and helped to care for the soldiers. Clara's efforts were rewarded with the title of "Angel of the Battlefield".

Clara continued to finance and learn about a group called the International Red Cross. Clara traveled to France and became a nurse there. When she returned to the United States, she began to work for the American Red Cross. This organization continues to help people recover from disasters such as floods, fires, and earthquakes.

Clara Barton is known as a humanitarian. A humanitarian is someone that wants to save lives or alleviate suffering, or get rid of suffering. On the lines provided, write three sentences why you think Clara Barton was a humanitarian.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Maria Tallchief



Elizabeth Marie Tallchief was born on January 24, 1925 in Fair Fox, Oklahoma. Her Native American heritage and Ojibwe traditions made certain she danced as soon as she could walk. She started formal lessons at age three and when she was eight years old, her family relocated to New York City to further her training and career.

Maria headed to New York City when she was seventeen years old. Her dream was to earn a spot at a prestigious ballet company. The head of the ballet company urged her to change her name to Maria Tallchief, which she did. She then found a teacher and met legendary ballet instructor, George Balanchine. When Balanchine founded the New York City Ballet Company in 1946, he made Maria the star.

Together, Balanchine and Tallchief changed ballet. Her talent and her difficult choreography delighted audiences. She became famous playing the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Nutcracker and the lead role in Firebird. Maria was the first Native American prima ballerina. A prima ballerina is the lead dancer in a ballet company.

No matter how far she traveled, Maria never forgot her Native American roots. She was very proud of her Osage heritage. In addition to dancing awards, Maria is admired for her desire to honor and educate others about Native American people.

Use the paragraphs above to answer the questions below.

1. Why did Maria's family relocate to Los Angeles when she was eight years old?

2. What was Maria's dream when she headed to New York City at seventeen years old?

3. What roles did Maria become famous for playing?

4. Maria Tallchief became the first Native American \_\_\_\_\_.

5. What is a prima ballerina?

6. Maria became famous for her dancing. What else is she remembered and admired for today?