



# Women in History

## 12 Famous Women

### Activities

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Ellen Ochoa



Ellen Ochoa was born in Los Angeles, California on May 10, 1988. Ochoa's mother struggled to raise five children as a single parent. However, her strength and example made Ellen and her brothers and sister work hard and believe in themselves. Ellen earned many awards in high school and graduated as Valedictorian, the number one student in her class, in 2005. Ellen attended college on a full scholarship and graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in physics. Once again, she was at the top of her class. She soon earned graduate school at Stanford University and met scientists 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 2013, 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 astronaut, 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, 1931, in London, England. As a young girl, Jane loved animals. She dreamed of one day going to Africa to see her favorite animal, the chimpanzee, in the wild.

As Jane grew older, she decided she would do nothing less than her dream. She worked as a waitress and 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 a friend that was living in Kenya.

Jane saw Africa and decided to stay. She was treated when an anthropologist offered her a job studying chimpanzees. She moved to Gombe Stream National Park to start her work.

Over her forty years studying chimpanzees, she became so close to them that she had, for almost two years, as a member of a chimpanzee forest troop. A male chimp, did not let Jane and eventually chased her out of the troop.

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 how chimpanzees communicate. They use sounds, calls, touch, body language, and facial expressions just like humans do. Complete the following sentences.

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

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

Chimpanzees \_\_\_\_\_ to tell other chimpanzees \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Maya Angelou



Marguerite Johnson 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, had a lot of other challenging hardships. Despite her struggles, Maya Resilient means a person is able to withstand and overcome difficult conditions.

Maya received a scholarship to study dance and Labor School when she was fourteen years old. After becoming the first African American female student 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 and international awards. Maya has motivated many with her inspiring true words and powerful things.

Maya Angelou received a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1987 for her autobiography "The Heart of a Lion" which she wrote for the inauguration of Bill Clinton. Her works continue to inspire many today.

One of Maya Angelou's best known works is her autobiography "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings". An autobiography is a writing you write about your own life. In the lines provided, write an autobiography about your life.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sally Ride



Sally Ride was born on May 26, 1951, in Escondido, California. She was a brilliant student and especially loved science and math. In addition, she became a top ranked pitcher. Her parents encouraged her to play sports. After her long drive and months of training in the sport, she was selected to play for the national team and ended at Stanford University.

After the 1975 election, she worked as a systems analyst for the federal government. She also worked as a systems analyst for the federal government. She also worked as a systems analyst for the federal government.

She was selected to be one of the 29 people to train for the shuttle flight which lasted 35 hours in the space shuttle Columbia.

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

Johnson graduated Earth astronaut school children robotic Houston science satellites

Sally Ride grew up to be an \_\_\_\_\_ but she also became a top ranked pitcher. She even wrote a book, called Mission Possible.

When she \_\_\_\_\_ from Stanford University, she practiced the sport she would be heading \_\_\_\_\_ to work at Space Center.

While at NASA, she also worked on developing the space shuttle \_\_\_\_\_ into space.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Abigail Adams



Abigail Adams was born on November 11, 1711, in Weymouth, Massachusetts. At the time, Weymouth was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony of Great Britain. Abigail loved to read although she did not attend school. Most girls did not. Her mother taught her to read and write and she learned by reading many of her father's books. Her being able to attend school frustrated Abigail. Later in life, 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 1763 and settled in Boston just prior to the Revolutionary War. John was chosen to be a member of the Continental Congress and was away for long periods of time. Abigail 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 1786, John was elected Vice President under President George Washington. Eight years later, he was elected President and Abigail became first lady. She was worried that people would not like her 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 an education.

Although she died before seeing it happen, her son, John Quincy Adams would also be elected President of the United States. She was a woman ahead of her time and lucky, 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 began speaking both Cantonese and English in her home. Michelle began ice skating when she was around five years old. She began seriously training when she turned eight. Michelle would wake up at 6:30 am so she could practice for several hours before school each day. She would then return to the ice skating rink in the afternoon.

In 1994, Michelle entered her first World Championship Figure Skating competition. She was only thirteen years old. Surprisingly, she placed eighth and she earned her first medal as an alternate on the 1994 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 three 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 U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She worked as a state department senior adviser during President Barack Obama's presidency.

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

C	A	X	J	X	I	V	F	S	T	O			
A	A	T	N	W	L	W	E	F	E	G	R	L	
L	U	F	I	A	S	B	T	M	V	T	U	A	V

California  
London France

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sacagawea



Sacagawea was born in 1788 along the Snake River Plateau and would be an important figure in the westward expansion of the United States. She was a member of the Shoshone tribe and her father was the tribal chief. She was married to the explorer when they set out on their journey. For other food sources, they would hunt and trap animals. Her first trip was to the Snake River Plateau. She was there for several years and would help the explorers find the best routes to the west. She was also the first woman to travel with the explorers. She was also the first woman to travel with the explorers.

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Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

Who was she a member of? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sojourner Truth



Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in 1775 in Ulster County, New York. She was a member of the Quaker faith. She was known for her powerful voice and her courage. She was known for her powerful voice and her courage. She was known for her powerful voice and her courage.

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Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Katherine Johnson



Katherine Coleman Johnson was born on August 26, 1918, in West Virginia. She was a young girl who was interested in mathematics. She was a young girl who was interested in mathematics. She was a young girl who was interested in mathematics.

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Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Oprah Winfrey



Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi on January 29, 1954. She was a young girl who was interested in reading. She was a young girl who was interested in reading. She was a young girl who was interested in reading.

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Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Clara Barton



Clara Barton was born on December 25, 1821, in Oxford, Massachusetts. She was a young girl who was interested in reading. She was a young girl who was interested in reading. She was a young girl who was interested in reading.

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Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Maria Tallchief



Maria Tallchief was born on January 24, 1925, in Fort Lawton, Oklahoma. She was a young girl who was interested in dancing. She was a young girl who was interested in dancing. She was a young girl who was interested in dancing.

She was a young girl who was interested in dancing. She was a young girl who was interested in dancing. She was a young girl who was interested in dancing.

Write a paragraph above to answer the following questions.

What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was she born? \_\_\_\_\_

What was her most important contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

How did she learn to grow while working as a slave for the Indians? \_\_\_\_\_



- 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?