

Classroom Ideas For WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (March)

In March we celebrate Women's History Month. The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. This month, you are encouraged to examine the changing cultural perceptions of women in society and honor their contributions to all aspects of life via a special lesson or activity. International Women's Day will be celebrated on March 8th.

Here are a few general links to wonderful resources focused on noted female leaders, scientists, politicians etc.

- http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/teaching-topics/celebrate-womens-history-month/?_r=0
- <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/teachers.html>
- <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>
- <http://www.biography.com/search/women's%20history%20month>

MATHEMATICS

- Assign students a woman who made a notable contribution to the field of mathematics.
<http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/alpha.htm>
<http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

They can then:

- present in the form of a 5 minute oral/visual presentation for their peers. This can be for a grade or an extra credit assignment.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- Read in class or assign as homework some of the poetry or prose of prominent female writers. Follow up with a short response or essay question. You can also ask students to research themselves and find a poem that speaks the most vividly to them. In their writing, students should explain clearly why they chose the particular writing as the best one. <http://www.abebooks.com/blog/index.php/2014/01/17/the-75-greatest-living-female-authors/>
- Here are the female Nobel Prize winners for literature. Assign students one of the prize winners to do a short oral presentation for their peers: <http://school.familyeducation.com/slideshow/award-winners/61489.html>

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Students can be assigned an important woman figure in any field of interest (or from a provided list) and have them obtain a picture and create a short bio written in the language of study. The length of the bio could be tailored appropriately to level of study.
- Have students create a visual aid/poster of an inspirational woman in history and a famous quote of hers translated in the language of study. <http://www.ibtimes.com/womens-history-month-2015-quotes-21-inspirational-sayings-influential-women-1831522>

SCIENCE

- Assign students a female scientist or inventor and have them:
 - conduct research in the form of a 5 minute oral/visual presentation for their peers. This can be for a grade or an extra credit assignment. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/whmbios2.html>
<http://fun.familyeducation.com/slideshow/award-winners/61495.html>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/130519-women-scientists-overlooked-dna-history-science/>
 - Create a Fakebook or poster on someone also for oral/visual presentation. <http://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page>

HISTORY

- Assign students a seminal female abolitionist figure to conduct research and report back in the form of a 5 minute oral/visual presentation.
- Assign students a U.S. First Lady or a congresswoman to conduct research and report back in the form of a 5 minute oral/visual presentation. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/firstladies1.html>
<http://www.infoplease.com/us/government/113-congress-women.html>
- Here is a website that links primary source documents related to women in history: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/sources.php> & a few case studies are found <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/casestudies.php>

THEOLOGY

- Students can either listen to or read speeches from seminal female religious figures: Follow up with discussion questions or a written assessment. This is a great link http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/08/women-religious-leaders_n_4922118.html that can be used to create many follow-ups. This is another link listing women in American religion: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0906882.html>

LIBRARY, RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

- Have students create a poster of an inspirational woman and a famous quote using a software program of their choice. <http://www.ibtimes.com/womens-history-month-2015-quotes-21-inspirational-sayings-influential-women-1831522>
- Have students choose one woman (from a provided list) to do a mini research on the person. Have students use a software program of choice to create a certificate to honor the person. Give them a guide as to what belongs on the certificate. For example, it should have a border, a seal, readable font, signature line, graphic, etc. Each student/team gets a chance to present their award to the class.
- Have students use FakeTweet make a Fakebook page for a person (from a provided list). Each student/team gets a chance to present their award to the class. <http://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page> <http://www.classtools.net/twister/>

DANCE

- Assign students a reading that is a biography or a Youtube interview/performance of one of many pioneering female dancers. Follow up with an assessment if desired. http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_list_dance.htm

DRAMA & MUSIC

- Assign students a reading that is a biography or a Youtube interview/performance of one of many pioneering female dancers. Follow up with an assessment if desired. <http://www.factmonster.com/jpka/A0771154.html>