

Twenty Questions About Women's History

1. The Distinguished Flying Cross is only awarded to America's most outstanding aviators. Who was the first woman to receive this honor?
2. Which Congresswoman now serving in the U.S. House of Representatives was also the first Japanese-American woman lawyer in her state?
3. In the 1830s, the sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké were widely scolded for their outrageous behavior. What was their "crime," and what made the sisters so controversial?
4. You know her poem, "the Great Colossus." It's inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Can you name the poet?
5. Which mother once led a 125-mile march of child workers all the way from the mills of Pennsylvania to President Roosevelt's vacation home on Long Island?
6. In 1960, Wilma Rudolph became the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals, for track and field. What about her made this triumph even more unusual?
7. When this operatic soprano sang at the Metropolitan Opera in 1962, the audience gave her the longest ovation in the Met's history. Who was she, and how long was the ovation?
8. At a time when most photographers were men, Margaret Bourke-White created the cover photos for the first issues of two major new magazines. What were the two magazines?
9. At the turn of this century, one barefoot dancer rejected the corsets and rigid movements of traditional ballet, and turned the dance world around. Can you name her?
10. She was blind, deaf, and mute from infancy, but went on to become an international speaker, writer, and film actor. Do you remember her? Extra points for naming her teacher, too.
11. Who was arrested and jailed for establishing the first birth control clinic in New York City, but went on to found the International Planned Parenthood Federation?

12. Besides being the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, how else did Jeannette Rankin make history?
13. Who declared, "Old age is not a disease!" and founded the Gray Panthers in 1970 to fight discrimination against old people?
14. A prolific Native American singer and songwriter, her popular folk songs of the 1960s and '70s brought public attention to the plight of her people. Her name?
15. In 1932 she took home Olympic gold medals for the javelin throw and 80-meter hurdles, and then went on to become a golf champion in the 1940s. Can you name her?
16. Which anthropologist was one of the first to live among the people she studied? Her popular writing made "culture" and "anthropology" household words.
17. By law the White and Black audiences were segregated, so this famous woman put her chair right in the middle of the room during the meeting. Who was this audacious woman?
18. Who was a widely recognized Black female vocalist and an acclaimed screen actress who refused to play stereotyped roles of maids and mammies in the 1940s and 1950s?
19. Who won the Nobel Prize in medicine (1977) for her development of RIA, or Radio Immunoassay, a test used for hundreds of different medical problems in thousands of laboratories around the world?
20. Who wrote *The Boston Cooking-School Book* in 1896? Today the book's title includes the author's name and it has sold over three million copies.

Answers to Twenty Questions About Women's History

1. Amelia Earhart – who was also the first person to chance flying solo from Hawaii to the mainland U.S., the first to fly across the Atlantic Ocean more than once, and the first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
2. During the 1950s, Patsy Mink became Hawaii's first Japanese-American woman lawyer, but no legal firm in the state would hire her – or any other women. She became the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress, in 1964.
3. The Grimké's' popular lectures, arguing for the abolition of slavery, attracted both women and men. The very idea of women speaking before mixed audiences was considered immoral at the time!
4. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breath free..." was written by Emma Lazarus as a fundraiser for the Statue which had been presented to the U.S. by France.
5. The feisty labor organizer, Mary Harris Jones, in 1903. Called "Mother" Jones by everyone, her goal for the march was to bring to Roosevelt's attention the evils of child labor.
6. Rudolph had had a crippling childhood illness, and could hardly even walk until the age of six!
7. Leontyne Price – it was the first performance of her career at the Met, and the applause lasted 42 minutes.
8. *Life* and *Fortune*, where Bourke-White was an early staffer.
9. Isadora Duncan, the founder of modern dance, performed with bare feet, wore flowing tunics, and developed a style based on natural movement.
10. Helen Keller, whose work with her devoted teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, led to legal and social improvements for physically disabled people worldwide.
11. Margaret Sanger, who also prompted the research and development of the first birth control pill.

12. The Montana Representative was the only member of Congress to vote against U.S. entry into both World War I and World War II, arguing, "We've got to get it into our heads, once and for all, that we can't settle disputes by eliminating human beings."
13. Maggie Kuhn was just 65 when she founded the Gray Panthers, an organization that has led the drive for elderly health care, housing, and economic well-being.
14. Buffy Sainte-Marie is a Cree Indian whose song, "Now That the Buffalo's Gone," criticized the U.S. government's treatment of Native Americans. Sainte-Marie has written over 300 songs, recorded by her and more than 100 other artists!
15. "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias, who once won seventeen golf tournaments in a row! Zaharias is considered the greatest woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century.
16. Margaret Mead spent nearly half a century observing and writing about human societies worldwide. Her work raised new questions about child-rearing, adolescence, and women's roles in the U.S.
17. Eleanor Roosevelt, America's First Lady for 12 years, was an ardent civil rights advocate.
18. Lena Horne. She was the first Black Hollywood actress who refused to play the roles of maid and mammy and her films broke many stereotypes, by portraying Blacks in a more realistic light.
19. Rosalyn Sussman Yalow (b.1921).
20. Fannie Farmer.