



# Women's History Month

## Mary Gawthorpe



Mary Gawthorpe was born in 1881. Her family was extremely poor so from the age of ten had to work in the local textile mill. She had wanted to be a teacher and was determined to make sure her daughter finished her education. At the age of thirteen Mary became a pupil teacher in the local school. Mary worked during the day and studied in the evening and at weekends. She qualified as a schoolteacher just before her twenty-first birthday. Mary became a socialist. Mary also became a leading figure in the Leeds branch of the National Union of Teachers. Mary Gawthorpe was a strong supporter of women's rights. In February 1906, Mary met Christabel Pankhurst after she spoke at a meeting in Leeds. Christabel told Mary that: "The further one goes the plainer one sees that men (even Labour men) think more of their own interests than of ours." In 1906 Mary gave up her job as a teacher and became the full-time organizer of the WSPU in Leeds. Mary became a major activist for women's suffrage. In 1909 Mary heckled a speech given by Winston Churchill. She was badly beaten by stewards at the meeting and suffered severe internal injuries. Mary was also imprisoned several times while demonstrating for suffrage. Beaten, arrested, chained, imprisoned, assaulted and force fed, Mary Gawthorpe was a part of fight for the right to vote.



"The fastest way to change society is to mobilize the women of the world."





# Women's History Month

## Whitney Houston



Whitney Houston was one of the world's best-selling music artists, having sold over 170 million albums, singles and videos worldwide. She released seven studio albums and three movie soundtrack albums, all of which have diamond, multi-platinum, platinum or gold certification.

In 1985, her self-titled debut album became the best-selling album by a female act at the time of its release. Her second studio album Whitney (1987) became the first album by a female artist to debut at number one on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

Houston starred in the 1992 film The Bodyguard. The film's lead single "I Will Always Love You", became the best-selling single by a female artist in music history. The soundtrack album is number 4 in the top 10 list of the best-selling albums of all time.



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# Women's History Month

## Fadumo Dayib



Fadumo Dayib was born in 1972 in Kenya to Somali parents. Dayib did not learn to read and write until she was fourteen years old. She studied in Finland to become a critical care nurse, earning two master's degrees. Dayib is a social change activist, a public health expert and development practitioner. She worked for the United Nations in Somalia setting up maternal health clinics. She then set up HIV prevention offices and trained health care providers for the UN in Fiji and Liberia. Dayib announced her intention to run for President of Somalia in 2014 in the first democratic elections to be held since 1967. Her platform included anti-corruption policies, taking on female genital mutilation. No Somali woman had ever run for president before because it was extremely dangerous. She said "my mother always told me you hold all life's possibilities in the palm of your hands"

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# Women's History Month

## Helen Sharman



In 1991 Helen Sharman from Sheffield became the first British person to go into space. She won her place aboard the Soviet Soyuz TM-12 space capsule in 1989 after answering a radio advert which stated 'Astronaut wanted – no experience necessary.'



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# Women's History Month

## Indira Ghandi



Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Jawaharal Nehru, India's first prime minister after independence from Britain. In 1966 she was elected prime minister herself. She went on to steer India for much of the next two decades through recession, famine, the detonation of the nation's first atomic bomb, a corruption scandal and a civil war in neighbouring Pakistan. Under her guidance, the new state of Bangladesh was created. By the time she was assassinated in 1984, Gandhi was the world's longest-serving female Prime Minister, a distinction she holds to this day.



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# Women's History Month

## Jane Austen

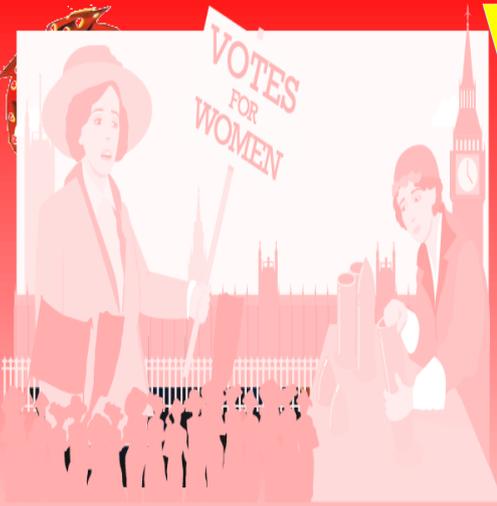


Jane Austen was born in 1783 and was one of seven children. She went on to become one of the greatest English novelists of all times. Her books, set among the English middle and upper classes, are notable for their wit, social observation and insights into the lives of early 19th century women. Her books include *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Sadly, Austen became ill in 1816. She died on July 18, 1817, and although she most likely died of Addison's disease, her cause of death is truly unknown.



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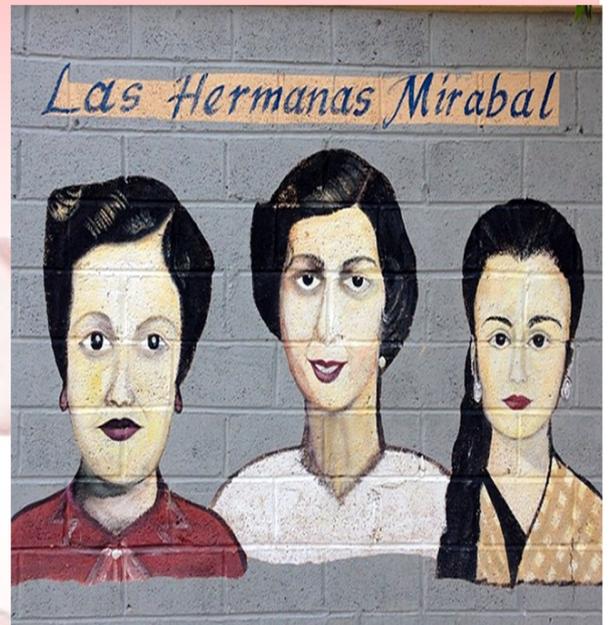




# Women's History Month

## The Mirabel Sisters

Raised in Salcedo, a town based in the northern region of the island known as the “Cibao” in the Dominican Republic, the Mirabal sisters come from a large family of middle class farmers. As bright, young women they made it a point to keep education above all in a time where education wasn't common for women. Matria Mirabal, Minerva Mirabal and María Teresa Mirabal were truly feminist before their time. Living through the ruling of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in the 1950s, Las Mariposas fought tirelessly to put an end to his hateful, racist political ways. Knowing the possible outcome of their disloyalty, The Butterflies fearlessly led a movement that called for the liberation of their home country and its women, until their last breath.



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# Women's History Month

## Manal al- Sharif



Manal al-Sharif is a Saudi Arabian women's rights activist who helped start a women's right to drive campaign in 2011. In Saudi Arabia religious rules forbid women from driving. One day she borrowed her brother's car and posted a video on YouTube showing her at the wheel so as many people as possible could see what she was doing and would find the courage to do the same. Al-Sharif was detained and released and rearrested the following day. On 30 May, al-Sharif was released on bail on the conditions of returning for questioning if requested, not driving and not talking to the media. Her video, in the meantime, had been watched by thousands of people. A few weeks later hundreds of brave Saudi women took to the streets with their cars, defying religious authorities. Following her driving campaign, al-Sharif remained an active critic of the Saudi government, tweeting on issues including imprisoned female foreign workers and the lack of elections for the Shura Council.



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# Women's History Month

## Brenda Hale



Brenda Hale graduated from Cambridge in 1966. She then went on to teach law at Manchester University from 1966 to 1984, also qualifying as a barrister and practising for a while at the Manchester Bar. She specialised in Family and Social Welfare law. In 1984 she was the first woman to be appointed to the Law Commission. Important legislation resulting from her work includes the Children's Act 1989, the Family Law Act 1996, and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. In 1994 she became a High Court judge, the first to have made her career as an academic and public servant rather than a practising barrister. In 1999 she was the second woman to be promoted to the Court of Appeal, before becoming the first woman Law Lord.



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# Women's History Month

## Emmeline Pankhurst

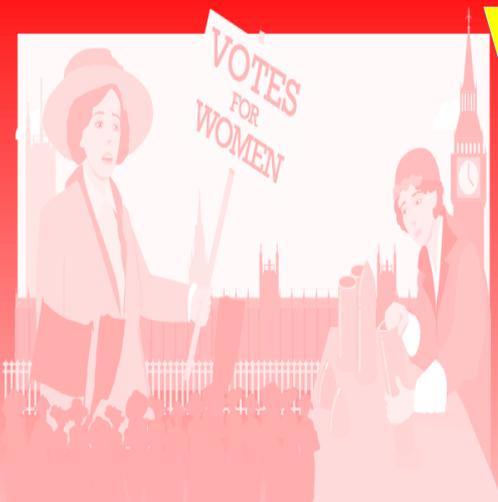


Emmeline Pankhurst was, in her time, one of the most influential women in Britain. In 1889, Emmeline founded the Women's Franchise League, which fought to allow married women to vote in local elections. In 1903 she formed the Women's Social and Political Union, whose members were later dubbed "suffragettes". British politicians, press and public were astonished by the demonstrations, window smashing, arson and hunger strikes of the suffragettes. In 1913, WSPU member Emily Davison was killed when she threw herself under the king's horse at the Derby as a protest at the government's continued failure to grant women the right to vote. Emmeline died in 1928. Fittingly, it was the year women achieved the same voting rights as men.



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# Women's History Month

## Amy Johnson



Amy Johnson was born in Hull the daughter of a fish merchant. After studying at Sheffield University Amy moved to London. In 1928 she began learning to fly with the London Aeroplane Club at Stag Lane, not far from the Royal Air Force Museum. Her desire to fly grew stronger and she gave up her job to work in the club's hangars. In 1929 Amy became the first woman to hold a ground engineer's licence and the following year she started planning her flight to Australia. After becoming the first woman to fly solo from Britain to Australia in 1930, she went on to set a series of long-distance flying records. She died after going off-course in bad weather while transporting RAF aircraft around the country for the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War.



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# Women's History Month

## Jacqueline Du Pre

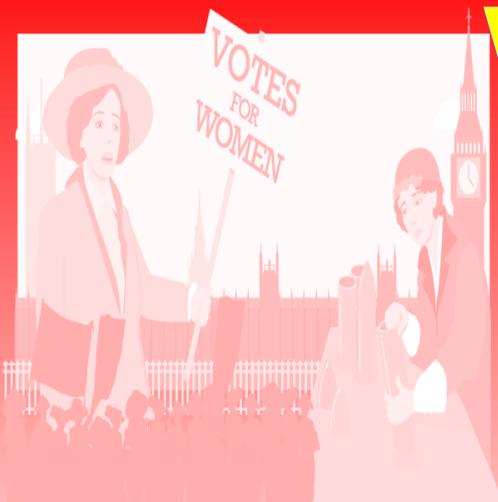


Jacqueline du Pre was born in Oxford into a middle-class family in which music was important: her mother was a fine pianist and a gifted teacher. She went on to become one of the world's great cellists. She had a tragically brief career and short life, and died after contracting multiple sclerosis. Her rendition of Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E Minor* is immortal and she is acknowledged as one of the greatest players of the instrument. The disease forced her retirement at the age of 28, 16 years after she made her debut.



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# Women's History Month

## Vivienne Westwood



Vivienne Westwood was born in Glossop, near Manchester. She started her career as a teacher but in 1971 began designing clothes, opening her first shop, Let It Rock, at 430 King's Road. In 1974 it was renamed Sex With her business partner, Malcolm McLaren, she dressed the Sex Pistols.

Westwood is one of Britain's greatest designers. She was three times awarded British Designer of the Year and her designs were at the heart of the punk movement. She is also known for her political activism with CND and environmental campaigns and was made a Dame in 2006.



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# Women's History Month

## Simone de Beauvoir



Simone de Beauvoir was a feminist writer, existentialist philosopher and public intellectual. At a young age seeing the misery of her mother's life, she vowed never to be a housewife.

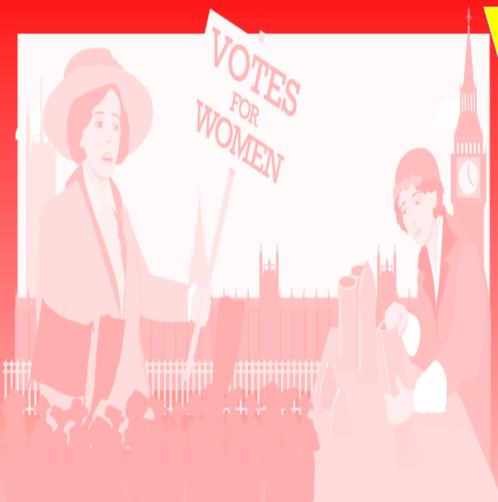
She is closely associated with her life-long polyamorous relationship with fellow philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. She did not marry him, nor would she live with him. With him she co-defined the concept of existentialism.

Simone de Beauvoir wrote both fiction and nonfiction. In 1949, *The Second Sex*, her fifth book, became a battle cry for all feminists. It is a classic and seminal work of feminist literature that details women's oppression. female in a male-dominated world.



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# Women's History Month

## Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks was an ordinary woman who took a stand against segregation in America and through her action became known as the “Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement”. On December 1, 1955, Parks became famous for refusing to obey bus driver James Blake’s order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger.

This action of civil disobedience started the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which is one of the largest movements against racial segregation. In addition, this launched Martin Luther King, Jr., who was involved with the boycott, to prominence in the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks lived in Detroit until she died at the age of ninety-two on October 24, 2005.



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# Women's History Month

## Marie Curie



Marie Curie was not only the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, Marie Curie is also one of only two people to win two Nobel Prizes in different disciplines.

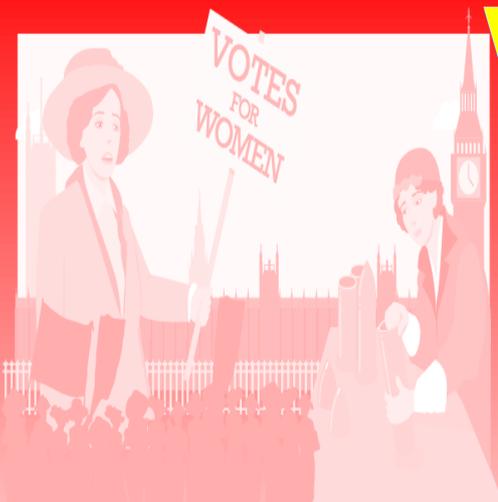
Marie Curie's first Nobel Prize (Physics, 1903) was for her work on radiation. She shared the prize with her husband, Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel. Marie Curie proved that the radiation came from the atom itself, rather than an interaction of molecules. Her discovery forced physicists to reconsider the basic principles of their science.

Marie Curie won the Chemistry prize in 1911 in recognition of her work in isolating the elements, Polonium and Radium. The implications of her work were far reaching. for cancer patients.



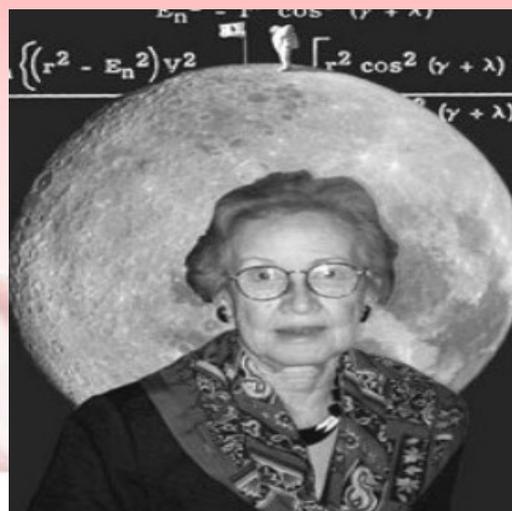
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# Women's History Month

## Katherine Johnson



Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 and went on to become a pioneer in space research in America. She gained a degree in Mathematics from West Virginia State College and graduated summa cum laude (which is Latin for 'With Highest Praise!'). She developed the first emergency navigation systems for astronauts and is now one of America's leading physicists combining her expertise in astronomy and mathematics to become the first female to work at NASA.

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# Women's History Month

## Constance Markiewicz



Constance Markiewicz was the first woman to be elected into the British House of Commons. She was elected in 1918 to represent the Dublin St. Patrick's constituency. However, Markiewicz was a campaigner for Irish independence and as an Irish nationalist, she did not take her seat.

Markiewicz served as Minister for Labour in the unilaterally declared parliament of the Irish Republic from April 1919 to January 1922, becoming one of the first women cabinet ministers in the world. The Irish Free State was established in 1922 and Ireland became an entirely sovereign state in 1937.



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# Women's History Month

## Dolly Parton

Dolly Parton is one of the most successful female singer songwriters of all time. She was born in Tennessee and was one of 12 children. She began performing at the age of 12 and went on to sell over 100 million albums.

Dolly is best known for her work in country music with songs such as "I will always love you" and "Jolene". She has also starred in the movies 9 to 5, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Steel Magnolias and Straight Talk.



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# Women's History Month

## Elizabeth I

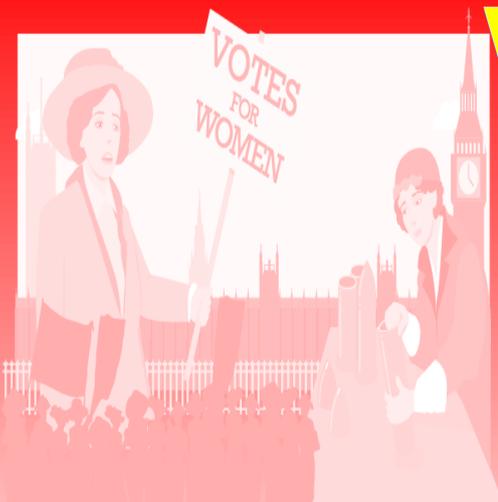


Born in 1533, Elizabeth was the second daughter of Henry VIII, but her future did not appear promising. Her mother was executed when Elizabeth was only two years old. Declared to be illegitimate, Elizabeth was then removed from the royal line and exiled from the court. At the age of 21, she was imprisoned in the Tower of London for treason. After the death of her brother and her sister she went on to become queen of England. As a ruler she transformed England into one of the most powerful states in Europe. She was known as Good Queen Bess, the Virgin Queen, Gloriana and the faerie Queen. Despite a number of setbacks and downfalls, she managed to, literally, reign supreme. She was a great influence on all aspects of Elizabethan England life. Arts, drama, fashion, politics, international affairs, all bore her indelible mark on them.



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# Women's History Month

## Martha Graham



Martha Graham was an American modern dancer and choreographer whose influence on dance has been compared with the influence of Picasso had on modern arts. She danced and choreographed for over 70 years. In this time she created more than 180 works, from solos to large-scale works, and she herself danced in most of them.

Graham was the first dancer ever to perform at the White House, travel abroad as a cultural ambassador and receive the Presidential Freedom medal. She said, "I have spent all my life with dance and being a dancer. It's permitting life to use you in a very intense way. Sometimes it is not pleasant. Sometimes it is fearful. But nevertheless it is inevitable."



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# Women's History Month

## Judi Dench

Judi Dench made her professional acting debut in 1957 with the Old Vic company. She has since gone on to become one of Britain's greatest actresses. Her accolades include 10 BAFTAs, seven Laurence Olivier awards and one Oscar. Her first love is theatre but her film work has burgeoned more recently since being cast as M in the James Bond films since 1995. She was made a dame in 1988.



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# Women's History Month

## Alison Hargreaves



Alison Hargreaves grew up in Belper, Derbyshire. At 33 she became the first woman to conquer Everest without oxygen or the help of sherpas. She was at the time only the second person ever to reach the peak of the world's highest mountain unaided.

Sadly, Hargreaves was killed attempting to climb K2, one of the world's most inhospitable mountains. By facing down criticism from those who said a mother should not put herself in danger, she made it easier for the next generation of women explorers.



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# Women's History Month

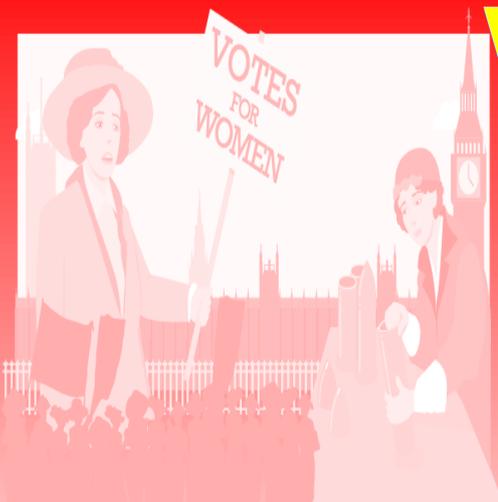
## Violet Szabo

Code named "Louise", Violet Szabo was a secret agent in the Second World War, leading a French resistance network to sabotage bridges and communication lines ahead of the D-Day landings. She was caught, sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp, and executed. Posthumously awarded the George Cross.



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# Women's History Month

## Mary Peters



Mary Peters was born in Lancashire but moved to Northern Ireland at the age of 11. She went on to become one of the greatest pentathlon athletes of all time. She competed in every single Commonwealth games from 1958 to 1974, winning two gold medals. In 1972 she won an Olympic gold in Munich. She also achieved the world record in this field too. Her contribution to the community life in Northern Ireland has been incalculable.



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# Women's History Month

## Boudicca



**Boudicca was queen of the Iceni people of Eastern England and led a major uprising against occupying Roman forces.**

**In 60 or 61 AD, while the Roman governor Gaius Suetonius Paullinus was leading a campaign in North Wales, the Iceni rebelled. Members of other tribes joined them.**

**Boudicca's warriors successfully defeated the Roman Ninth Legion and destroyed the capital of Roman Britain, then at Colchester. They went on to destroy London and Verulamium (St Albans). Thousands were killed. Finally, Boudicca was defeated by a Roman army led by Paulinus. Many Britons were killed and Boudicca is thought to have poisoned herself to avoid capture. The site of the battle, and of Boudicca's death, are unknown.**



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# Women's History Month

## Mary Seacole



Mary Seacole was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Her father was a Scottish army officer and her mother a free black woman. Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother who had kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers.

During the Crimean War, Mary applied to the War Office to offer her services as a nurse, however she was turned down; she believed the reason to be colour prejudice.

Mary started up a business called the British Hotel, a few miles from the battlefield. Here she sold food and drink to the British soldiers. With the money she earned from her business Mary was able to finance the medical treatment she gave to the soldiers.



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# Women's History Month

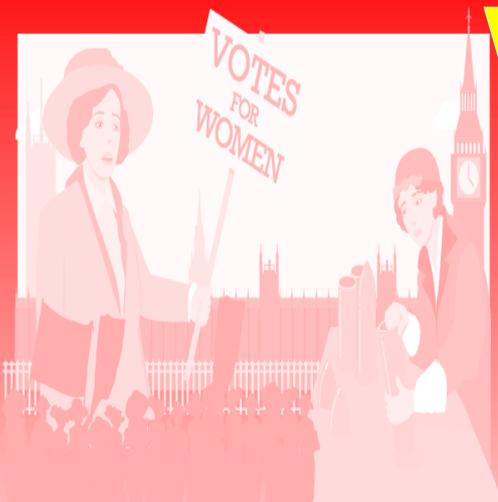
## Xian Zhang



Xian Zhang was born in 1973. As a child she learned to [lay music on a piano that was built be her father. At the time pianos were forbidden in China. Zhang loved playing so much that she became a piano teacher and went onto study at the Conservatory for Music in Beijing. She went onto become a hugely successful and acclaimed conductor. She has a long relationship with the New York Philharmonic, regularly works with Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the London Symphony Orchestra, has recently been leading La Bohème at English National Opera.

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# Women's History Month

## Billie Holiday



Billie Holiday 1915-1959 was one of the most influential jazz singer-songwriters in musical history. She cut her first record at 18 and overcame a painful childhood to change the jazz scene. Her singing expressed an incredible depth of emotion that spoke of hard times and injustice as well as triumph. Though her career was relatively short and often erratic, she left behind a body of work as great as any vocalist before or since.



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# Women's History Month

## Joan of Arc



Joan of Arc, also known as the Maid of Orleans, a patron saint of France and a national heroine, led the resistance to the English invasion of France in the Hundred Years War.

When Joan was about 12 years old, she began hearing "voices" of saints, believing them to have been sent by God. These voices told her that it was her divine mission to free her country from the English. They told her to cut her hair, dress in man's uniform and to pick up the arms. At the battle of Orleans in May 1429, Joan led the troops to a victory over the English. She continued fighting the enemy in other locations. At the coronation of Charles VII Joan was given a place of honour next to the king. In 1430 she was captured and sold to the English. She was tried for witchcraft and heresy. Joan was convicted after a fourteen-month interrogation and on May 30, 1431 she was burned at the stake. She was nineteen years old.



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# Women's History Month

## Caroline Herschel



Caroline Herschel was fortunate in that her brother William Herschel was the Royal Astronomer at the court in Windsor. William trained Caroline as his general assistant to help with writing down his observations and helping him to produce reflective telescopes. She thus became the first woman to receive a salary for scientific work. Between 1786 and 1797, she discovered eight comets and 14 nebulae as well as writing a catalogue of star clusters and nebulae and contributing to Flamsteed's 'Atlas of Stars'. She was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1828 and became an honorary member of this organisation in 1835.



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# Women's History Month

## Mother Teresa



**Mother Teresa, was a Roman Catholic nun. Born in Albania she went to India and was moved by the plight of the poor and decided to do something to help them by setting up the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.**

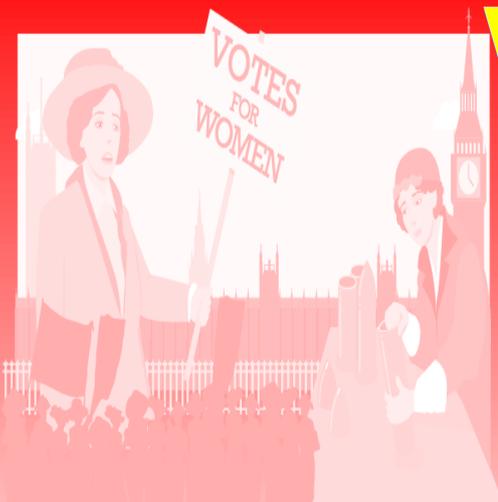
**For over 45 years, she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, while guiding the Missionaries of Charity's expansion, first throughout India and then in other countries.**

**Following her death, she was given the title 'blessed Teresa of Calcutta' by Pope Paul II.**



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# Women's History Month

## Emily Davison



Davison was a militant suffragette who died after throwing herself in front of the king's horse at the Epsom Derby. In 1906, she joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), founded by Emmeline Pankhurst. Three years later she gave up her job as a teacher and went to work full-time for the suffragette movement. She was frequently arrested for acts ranging from causing a public disturbance to burning post boxes and spent a number of short periods in jail.

By 1911, Davison was becoming increasingly militant. On 4 June 1913, she ran out in front of the king's horse as it was taking part in the Epsom Derby. Her purpose was unclear, but she was trampled on and died on 8 June from her injuries.



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# Women's History Month

## Ada Lovelace



Ada Lovelace wrote the world's first computer programme for the Analytical Engine (an early computer), invented by Charles Babbage.

She had been taught mathematics by her mother, Annabella Byron, and met Babbage in 1833. When translating a memoir by Luigi Menabrea on Babbage's engine, she included a method for using the machine to calculate Bernoulli numbers- the world's first computer programme.

In her honour, Ada Lovelace Day celebrates the achievements of women, past and present, in science and technology.



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# Women's History Month

## Sylvia Plath



Sylvia Plath was an American poet, novelist and short story writer. Born in Massachusetts, she studied at Smith College and Newnham College, Cambridge before receiving acclaim as a professional poet and writer. She married fellow poet Ted Hughes in 1956. Following a long struggle with depression and a marital separation, Plath committed suicide in 1963.

Plath is credited with advancing the genre of confessional poetry and is best known for her two published collections: *The Colossus and Other Poems* and *Ariel*. In 1982, she became the first poet to win a Pulitzer Prize posthumously, for *The Collected Poems*. She also wrote *The Bell Jar*, a semi-autobiographical novel published shortly before her death.



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# Women's History Month

## Margaret Thatcher



Margaret Hilda Thatcher (nee Roberts) was born on 13 October 1925 in Lincolnshire, the daughter of a grocer. She went to Oxford University and then became a research chemist, retraining to become a barrister in 1954.

Thatcher became a Conservative member of parliament for Finchley in north London in 1959, serving as its MP until 1992. Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first female prime minister and served three consecutive terms in office. She is one of the dominant political figures of 20th century Britain, and Thatcherism continues to have a huge influence.



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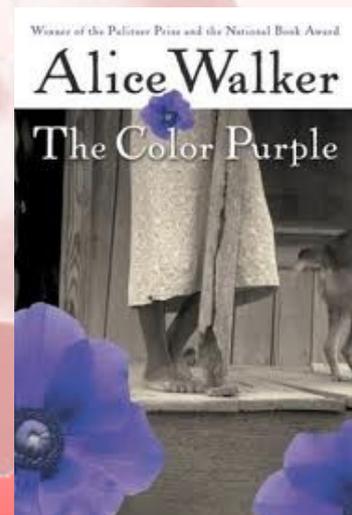
# Women's History Month

## Alice Walker



Alice Walker was born February 9, 1944. She is an American author, poet, and activist. She has written both fiction and essays about race and gender.

Alice is best known for the critically acclaimed novel *The Color Purple* for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1982.



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# Women's History Month

## Emily Davies

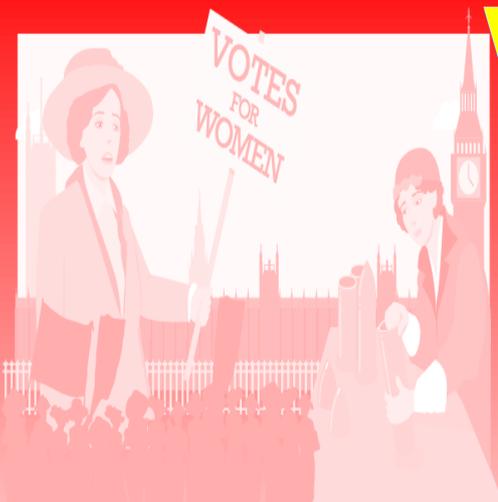


**Emily Davies** was born in 1830. She was an English pioneer in the movement to secure university education for women. She was responsible for University College, London, admitting women to classes in 1870 for the first time. Educated at home, Davies joined the campaign for the emancipation of women. She wanted higher education for women to widen the range of occupations open to them, fit them for public life, raise the standard of teaching in girls' schools, advance the cause of women's suffrage and match the experience of France, Germany and Italy where women were accepted into universities. She gave evidence before the school's inquiry commission (1864–68) with the aim of getting women admitted to university examinations. She insisted that women should be admitted on the same terms as men. In 1869 Davies and her friends opened a women's college at Hitchin, which moved to Cambridge in 1873 as Girton College. Among her books were *The Higher Education of Women* (1866) and *Thoughts on Some Questions Relating to Women, 1860–1908* (1910).



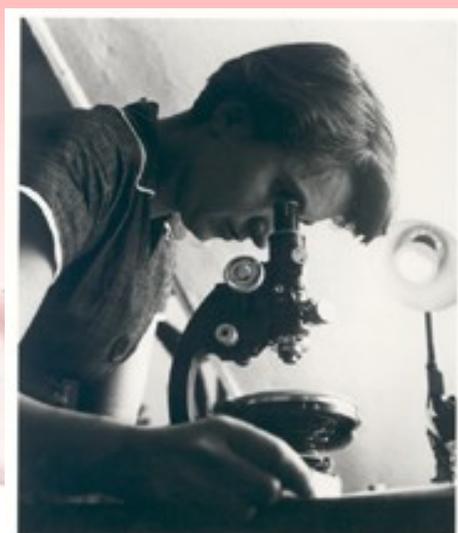
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# Women's History Month

## Rosalind Franklin



Rosalind Franklin's X-ray studies of molecules played a crucial role in the 1953 discovery of the structure of DNA. Franklin was born and raised in London, and received both a B.A. (1941) and a PhD (1945) from Cambridge University. Her specialty was X-ray crystallography -- the analysis of crystals formed by certain molecules. It was Franklin's X-ray images of the double helix that provided the data that Francis Crick and James Watson used to make their hypothesis on its structure. She died of ovarian cancer at 37, just four years before the Nobel prize was claimed by her contemporaries.



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# Women's History Month

## Oprah Winfrey

“The biggest adventure  
you can ever take is  
to live the life of  
your dreams.”



Oprah Gail Winfrey (born January 29, 1954) was born into poverty experiencing dreadful hardship as a child. She has since gone on to become an American television host, actress, producer, and philanthropist, best known for her self-titled, multi-award winning talk show, which has become the highest-rated program of its kind in history. She has been ranked the richest African American of the 20th century the greatest black philanthropist in American history, and was once the world's only black billionaire. She is also, according to some assessments, the most influential woman in the world.

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