

Learn About

Women in History

**Marie Curie, Rosa Parks,
Amelia Earhart, Frida Kahlo,
Ada Lovelace**



Marie Curie

(1867 - 1934)



KNOWN FOR:

Discovering radioactive elements

Discovered the radioactive elements polonium and radium.

First woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win in two scientific fields (Physics and Chemistry).

Pioneered research in radioactivity, leading to advancements in cancer treatments.



MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE:

We use Marie Curie's discoveries in cancer treatment. Her research on radioactivity led to the development of radiation therapy, which is now used to treat various types of cancer.

Doctors use targeted radiation to shrink tumors and help destroy cancer cells, making her discoveries a vital part of modern medicine.

FAMOUS QUOTE:

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

MODERN TRANSLATION:

"We don't need to be afraid of things—we just need to learn about them. The more we understand, the less scary they become."

Explanation: Marie Curie believed fear comes from not understanding. Like hearing a strange noise at night—once you know it's just the wind, it's not scary. Science is the same! The more we learn, the less we fear.

FUN FACTS

- Two-time Nobel Prize Winner: The only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields—Physics and Chemistry.
- Pioneer of Mobile X-Rays: Developed mobile X-ray units to help treat soldiers during World War I.
- First Female Professor at the University of Paris: Broke barriers for women in academia.
- Her daughter Irène followed in her footsteps, winning a Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Fear to Understanding Experiment

Marie Curie believed that learning helps us overcome fear. Think of something that seems scary or mysterious to you—like lightning, black holes, or germs.

Research the science behind it and create a mini-presentation, poster, or comic strip explaining what you learned. The more we understand, the less we fear!

What is the topic you researched:

How did learning more about your topic change the way you feel about it?

Can you think of other things people might fear that could be better understood through science?



Rosa Parks

(1913 - 2005)

FUN FACTS

- Rosa Parks wasn't the first to refuse to give up her seat, but her actions sparked the Civil Rights Movement.
- She worked as a secretary for the NAACP and helped organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Parks received the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- She's often called "the mother of the civil rights movement."

KNOWN FOR: Her role in the American Civil Rights Movement

Rosa Parks is best known for her pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement.

In 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott and becoming an enduring symbol of resistance against racial injustice.

FAMOUS QUOTE:

"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

MODERN TRANSLATION:

"I was exhausted from letting things slide and decided to stand up for what's right."

Explanation: Rosa Parks was saying that she was tired of always accepting unfair treatment and decided it was time to take a stand. She was fed up with the way things were and felt it was important to speak up and make a change, even if it was hard.

Your Own Stand-Up Moment

What is something you feel strongly about and want to stand up for?

Think about an issue or cause that matters to you. It could be anything from helping the environment to supporting fairness and equality. Write about why it's important to you and how you can stand up for it in your daily life.



MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE:

Rosa Parks' defiance inspired modern activists fighting for racial justice, like the Black Lives Matter movement.

Her courage remains a symbol for those challenging racial inequality and discrimination in areas such as the justice system, education, and employment.

Amelia Earhart

(1897-1937)



FUN FACTS

- She bought her first plane and named it "The Canary" because it was bright yellow.
- She was the first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Before becoming a pilot, she worked as a nurse's aide during World War I.
- She designed her own fashion line inspired by aviation!

KNOWN FOR:

The first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, breaking barriers in aviation. She set multiple flying records throughout her career, inspiring future pilots. In 1937, during an attempt to fly around the world, she mysteriously disappeared, and her fate remains one of history's greatest unsolved mysteries.

FAMOUS QUOTE:

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity."

MODERN TRANSLATION:

"The hardest part is deciding to start—after that, it's all about sticking with it."

Explanation: It means that making the decision to do something is the toughest step. Once you start, the key to success is to keep going and not give up.

Amelia's Takeoff Challenge

Think like a pilot and make quick decisions, just like Amelia Earhart!

Fast Thinking Challenge: Read the following situations and decide what you would do as a pilot.

Your plane is running low on fuel. Do you land early or push forward?

A storm is ahead. Do you change your route or fly through it?

You're flying over the ocean and see an island. Do you stop and explore or keep going?

MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE:

Amelia Earhart's story is still relevant today because she inspires people to take risks, break barriers, and follow their dreams, especially in fields where they might be underrepresented. Her determination and courage continue to encourage women in aviation, STEM, and leadership roles. Her disappearance also fuels ongoing research, showing how history and technology work together to solve mysteries.





Frida Kahlo

(1907 - 1954)

FUN FACTS

KNOWN FOR: Her surrealist self-portraits

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist known for her surrealist self-portraits, which often incorporated vivid colors, symbolism, and elements of Mexican folk culture.

Her work explores themes of identity, pain, and self-expression.



MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE:

Frida Kahlo's art is still important today because it helps people express their feelings and embrace who they are. She used her work to show the pain she went through and to celebrate her Mexican culture.

Frida also broke beauty and gender rules, inspiring others to be proud of their unique selves. As a woman artist in a male-dominated world, she showed that everyone can speak up and fight for change.

FAMOUS QUOTE:

"Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?"

MODERN TRANSLATION:

"Why do I need my feet when I have wings that let me fly?"

Explanation: Frida Kahlo said this because she struggled to walk due to health problems.

But she believed that her imagination and art gave her freedom, like having wings to fly.

It's a reminder that creativity and dreams can help us overcome challenges!

- Frida's self-portraits showed her pain, both physical and emotional, from her health and life struggles.
- She was married to the famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera.
- Frida had polio as a child, which made her walk with a limp.
- She was known for her bold style, wearing colorful, traditional Mexican clothing and accessories.
- Frida's home, the "Blue House" (La Casa Azul), is now a museum in Mexico City about her life and art.

Express Yourself: Frida-Inspired Self-Portrait

Draw a self-portrait that shows who you are. Include symbols, colors, or objects that represent your personality, experiences, or things that define you, just like Frida Kahlo did in her art.

Think about what makes you unique and how you can express that in your drawing. Afterward, write a short caption or quote to explain the meaning behind the symbols and objects in your artwork, inspired by Frida's style of expressing herself.



Ada Lovelace

(1815 - 1852)

KNOWN FOR: The first computer programmer

Ada Lovelace is considered the first computer programmer.

She worked with Charles Babbage on his Analytical Engine and conceptualized the idea of algorithms being processed by machines, making her a visionary in the field of computing.



MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE:

Ada Lovelace's work is still important today because she created the first computer program, which is the foundation for all modern computer software. She also imagined that computers could do much more than just math—things like creating music or solving problems.

Her ideas helped shape everything we use today, from apps to video games, and continue to inspire people, especially women, to pursue careers in technology and science.

FAMOUS QUOTE:

"That brain of mine is something more than merely mortal; as time will show."

MODERN TRANSLATION:

"My brain is capable of more than just normal human thinking; you'll see what I mean as time goes on."

Explanation: Ada Lovelace believed that her mind was capable of coming up with ideas that were way ahead of her time.

She thought that in the future, people would realize just how powerful and important her ideas about computers and technology really were.

FUN FACTS

- Ada was the daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron.
- She was tutored in mathematics and science, subjects not considered suitable for women at the time.
- She envisioned the potential for computers to go beyond calculations to perform tasks like composing music.
- Ada's notes on the Analytical Engine contained the first algorithm intended for a machine to carry out.

Create Your Own Algorithm

Ada Lovelace believed that machines could do complex tasks if they were given the right instructions. In this activity, you will write your own algorithm to solve a simple task, like making a sandwich or brushing your teeth.

Break down the task into clear steps, just like Ada did with her idea for the Analytical Engine.

Example: Making a Sandwich

1. Take two slices of bread.
2. Spread peanut butter on one slice.
3. Spread jelly on the other slice.
4. Put the two slices together to form a sandwich.

Now, pick a task and write your own algorithm!