

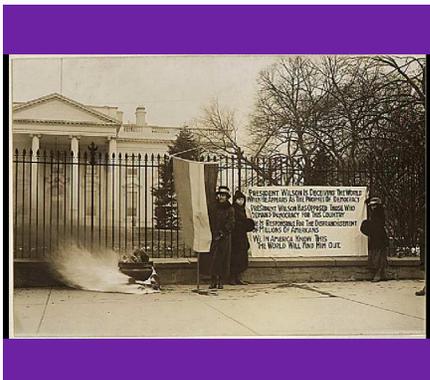


CIVICS IN REAL LIFE

Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how "We the People" interact with the government and each other. Let's help each other expand our civic literacy.

Women's History Month

Every year, in the month of March, people across the United States celebrate [Women's History Month](#). This special month offers an opportunity to recognize and learn about the important women, movements, and milestones that have shaped history. Although it began in the United States, Women's History Month has grown into a global celebration of the achievements, history, and contributions of women.



The origins of this observance date back to 1908, when women in New York City [marched](#) for better working conditions, voting rights, and equal pay. Over time, efforts to honor women's contributions expanded. In 1978, a school district in Sonoma, California, organized the first Women's History Week to coincide with [International Women's Day](#) on March 8th. The celebration quickly spread as communities, schools, and organizations held events to highlight women's achievements and bring attention to ongoing struggles for equality.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the [first presidential proclamation](#), declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. He urged Americans to recognize the "often overlooked and undervalued" contributions of women throughout

history. Support continued to grow, and in 1987, Congress passed [Public Law 100-9](#), officially designating the entire month of March as Women's History Month. Since then, every U.S. president has issued annual proclamations to honor the celebration. These proclamations help raise awareness, encourage participation, and allow leaders to highlight themes or women's initiatives that are especially relevant each year. For example, a governor might spotlight local women leaders or programs that support girls and women in the community. These annual proclamations help keep the celebration meaningful, dynamic, and connected to present-day achievements.

[Women's History Month](#) is more than just a celebration—it is a reminder of the ongoing fight for equality and the powerful impact women have made in every area of society. It is a time to acknowledge women's achievements in science, the arts, politics, education, civil rights, sports, and more. Even though the name and focus of the celebration have evolved over the years, today we honor the stories and accomplishments of women of all backgrounds. From ancient innovators to modern-day leaders and creators, women's history is diverse, rich, and essential to understanding the broader story of the United States. Women's History Month encourages us to reflect on the progress that has been made and to recognize the voices and stories that continue to shape our nation.

You can celebrate by:

- Learning about famous and lesser-known [women in civics and government](#)
- Exploring cultural music, food, films, and art created by women
- Reading books by women authors
- Attending local events or school programs



To Think and To Do:

Choose one aspect of Women's History Month that interests you—such as a historical figure, a social movement, a cultural tradition, or a form of art or music—and research it further.

LEARN MORE

- [National Women's History Museum](#)
- [Florida Department of State: Women's History Month](#)



Lou Frey Institute