

2025



WOMEN'S HISTORY

TOOL
kit

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!
WOMEN EDUCATING & INSPIRING GENERATIONS

WWW.NATIONALWOMENSHISTORYALLIANCE.ORG

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to provide practical guidance and resources for educators, community activists, parents, and volunteers to engage students in exploring and celebrating women's history.

Here's how you can effectively use the toolkit:

Step-by-Step Guide

- Familiarize Yourself with the Theme and Objectives:
 - Understand the 2025 theme "**Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations.**"
 - Review the goals and key messages to align your activities with the overall objectives.
- **Select Relevant Sections:**
 - Identify the sections most relevant to your needs, whether you're an educator planning classroom activities, a parent looking to support your child's learning, or a community organizer planning events.
- **Planning and Implementation:**
 - For Educators:
 - Integrate suggested projects, assignments, and classroom activities into your lesson plans.
 - Use the practical steps to involve students in learning about women's history through various subjects.
 - For Parents and Volunteers:
 - Offer to assist teachers by providing additional materials or organizing activities.
 - Use the guide to plan at-home projects or community events celebrating women's history.
 - For Community Organizers:
 - Collaborate with local organizations to plan events and workshops.
 - Use the toolkit's suggestions to create engaging and educational experiences for the community.



Gerda Lerner was a pioneering historian and author, widely regarded as one of the founders of the field of women's history.

“Women's history is indispensable and essential to the emancipation of women. Girls need to understand that they are part of a long tradition of strength, creativity, and achievement.

—Gerda Lerner”

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

continued

- **Utilize Resources and Partnerships:**
 - Leverage suggested resources such as websites, documentaries, and local organizations.
 - Partner with community groups to enhance the reach and impact of your activities.
- **Engage and Inspire:**
 - Use the toolkit to inspire and motivate students and community members to learn about and appreciate women's contributions to history.
 - Encourage creative expression and critical thinking through projects, performances, and discussions.
- **Evaluate and Reflect:**
 - After implementing activities, take time to evaluate their effectiveness.
 - Reflect on the feedback from students and participants to improve future activities and events.

Why Women's History?

In the past year, the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion have been increasingly challenged. Misinformation and disinformation make it more critical than ever to include all generations in the effort to promote these principles. Advocating for equity and inclusion requires courage, especially when faced with those who seek to misinterpret, exploit, or discredit these values.

This guide provides practical advice for educators, community activists, and parents to engage all people in exploring women's history both locally and nationally.

By integrating women's history into our classrooms, communities, and civic groups, we can ensure that the contributions and achievements of women are recognized and celebrated, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

“Women's history is an essential and indispensable part of the national narrative. By understanding the achievements, struggles, and contributions of women throughout history, we gain a fuller, more accurate, and more inclusive understanding of our collective past.

*-Molly Murphy MacGregor
Co-Founder & former Executive Director, NWAHA*



Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations

In 2025, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) proudly presents the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength, equality, and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership, shaping the minds and futures of all generations.

Importance and Relevance

Education has always been a powerful catalyst for change, and women have been at the forefront, driving this transformation. From classrooms to boardrooms, and from grassroots movements to global initiatives, women educators and leaders have played a pivotal role in nurturing minds and inspiring action. This theme underscores the importance of acknowledging and celebrating these contributions, especially at a time when inclusive and equitable education is more critical than ever.



Goals and Objectives

Honor: Recognize the achievements and contributions of women educators, mentors, and leaders.

Inspire: Motivate all generations to pursue education and leadership roles, and to work for equality and diversity.

Educate: Raise awareness about the importance of women's roles in influence and leadership.

Unite: Bring together communities to celebrate and support women's history and achievements, building awareness of the common issues and strengths that all women share.

Promote: Enhance the visibility of diverse women, their contributions, and their achievements.

Key Messages

Women have been instrumental in shaping societies, breaking barriers, and building bridges.

Education and mentorship by women have a lasting impact, fostering leaders and change-makers.

Celebrating women is essential for promoting gender equality and inspiring future generations.

SHARING WOMEN'S HISTORY IN CLASSROOMS

Women's history is a vital component of our shared human narrative, yet it is often overlooked or marginalized in traditional educational settings. Teachers face the constant challenge of covering an incredible amount of material in multiple subjects, often running out of time. This creates opportunities for parent volunteers or volunteer organizations to provide additional information about influential women in history. Here's how to make it effective:

Understanding the Current Curriculum

Assess Textbooks: Many textbooks are outdated but too expensive to replace. Understand what the children are reading in class to tailor supplementary information effectively.

Educators Might Consider:

- **Biography Projects:** Assign students to research and present the life of a notable woman in history, highlighting achievements, challenges faced, and societal impact.
- **Research Projects:** Allow students to delve into specific aspects of women's history, building research skills and becoming topic experts.
- **Artistic Expressions:** Encourage students to express their understanding of women's history through writing, poetry, art, and music. Host exhibitions or performances to showcase their work.
- **Historical Timelines:** Suggest groups work together to create a timeline of women's history.
- **Inclusive Lessons:** Ensure women's perspectives are included across all subjects, not just history. Discuss literature by women, explore scientific contributions, and highlight achievements in mathematics.
- **Student-Led Assemblies:** Provide opportunities for students to organize and lead assemblies or events celebrating women's history, empowering them to take ownership of their learning.

Consider the Outside World

- **Current Events:** Connect historical events with current issues to emphasize the ongoing relevance of women's history. Discuss news articles or documentaries related to gender equality.
- **Media Analysis Projects:** Have students analyze advertisements they see on television, online, or in magazines over a set period to understand gender representation.

By incorporating these strategies, educators, parents, and volunteers can ensure that women's history is not just an add-on but a fully integrated and valued part of the educational experience.

Parents and/or Other Organizations Might Offer Assistance

If teachers are open to receiving additional information from parents or outside organizations, consider the following:

- **Reading Materials:** Suggest books and articles highlighting the achievements of women from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and time periods.
- **Guest Speakers:** Invite guest speakers and role models to talk about their work. This provides real-life examples of women breaking barriers and excelling in various fields.
- **Virtual Visits:** Utilize virtual visits to broaden the range of women who can speak to the students.

Planning a Women's History Month Outside the Classroom

Volunteers or educators can sponsor a Women's History Month event in March, culminating in a History Evening or History Saturday to share the experience with families and the community. Depending on the students' ages, consider these ideas:

- **Poster Display:** Have students create posters or dress up as historical figures, setting up "stations" where parents and other audience members can interact with them.
- **Debates:** Organize debates on women's rights, such as discussing why women did not get the vote until 1920.
- **Plays:** Stage a play about women's history, with students choosing the time period and creating the script. Utilize local re-enactor groups for additional support.

Did you know?

Babe Didrikson Zaharias was a remarkable American athlete who excelled in track and field, basketball, and golf. Born on June 26, 1911, in Port Arthur, Texas, she gained fame in the 1932 Olympics, winning two gold medals and one silver. She later turned to golf, becoming a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and winning 10 major championships. Known for her fierce competitiveness and exceptional talent, Zaharias was a trailblazer for women in sports, inspiring athletes worldwide.



"Babe Didrikson Zaharias." UPI/Bettmann Archive.

Parents and/or Other Organizations Might Offer Assistance

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Organize a Book Club

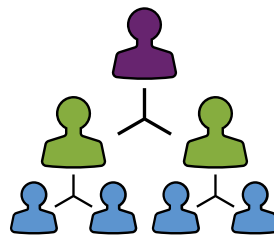
Create a women's history book club where students read age-appropriate books or articles about influential women. Discussions can center on the challenges these women faced and how they overcame them.

Community Partnerships and Resources

- **Local Collaborations:** Partner with local women's organizations and community groups to create events or workshops centered around women's history, fostering community engagement.
- **Field Trips:** Organize visits to local museums, historical sites, and landmarks that highlight women's contributions.
- **Public Libraries:** Utilize oral histories, diaries, letters, and photographs available at public libraries and historical societies.
- **Career Panels:** Organize career panels with women from diverse professions to expose students to a wide range of career possibilities and reinforce that they can succeed in any field.

Involving Families and the Community

- **Interviews:** Encourage students to interview women in their community, such as family members, teachers, neighbors, or local professionals, to learn about their experiences.
- **Family Histories:** Collect family recipes and artifacts, noting their historical significance. This can be an enlightening project for students.
- **Exploration:** Have students explore family basements for old items like kitchen tools, irons, radios, or TVs. Students can photograph these items and report back on their findings.



Other Resources

- **Websites:** Recommend exploring websites dedicated to women's history such as the National Women's History Alliance (www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org), Monumental Women (www.monumentalwomen.org), and the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites (www.ncwhs.org).
- **Documentaries and Films:** Host screenings of documentaries or films followed by discussions to deepen students' understanding and critical thinking skills.
- **Podcasts and Webinars:** Explore podcasts and webinars focused on women's history. Create listening or viewing guides to facilitate discussions and reflections, encouraging students to analyze and share their thoughts.

Thank you for visiting our toolkit and for your dedication to promoting women's history. By recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women throughout history, you play a crucial role in creating a more inclusive and equitable future. Together, we can ensure that the stories and achievements of women continue to inspire and empower future generations.

NWHA Mission Statement

The National Women's History Alliance (NWHA) is dedicated to writing women back into history. We promote the recognition and celebration of women's achievements, and we advocate for the integration of women's history into educational curricula and public consciousness to inspire future generations.



Stay Connected

Follow us on social media to stay updated on the latest news, resources, and events related to women's history.



Contact Us

We are here to support you in your efforts to educate and inspire future generations about women's history. If you have any questions, need additional resources, or would like to share your experiences and ideas, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!

Women Educating & Inspiring Generations

For 2025, the National Women's History Alliance (NWAHA) proudly presents the theme "**Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations.**"

This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations — both past and present.

IMPORTANCE & RELEVANCE

Throughout history, the process of information sharing has been a powerful catalyst for change. An honest, open examination of new insights and knowledge can create a framework for collaboration. This, in turn, promotes the well-being of groups, businesses, communities, and society as a whole.

From classrooms to boardrooms, and from grassroots movements to global initiatives, women educators and leaders have played a pivotal role in nurturing minds and inspiring transformative action.

Our 2025 theme spotlights the contributions women have made to the American educational system, the free marketplace of ideas, and the very fabric of our democracy.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- **Honor:** Recognize the achievements and contributions of women educators, mentors, and leaders.
- **Inspire:** Motivate all generations to pursue education and leadership roles.
- **Educate:** Raise awareness about the unheralded legacies of women from every walk of life, highlighting their unique contributions and diverse backgrounds, including socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, abilities, and personal experiences.
- **Unite:** Bring together communities to explore, share, and celebrate women's history and achievements.
- **Envision:** Create a blueprint for the future that honors our foremothers and builds bridges for the next generation of women.

