

Lesson Plan on Famous Women in the Military

Introduction: In this activity, students will learn about women and their roles in military history.

Illinois Educational Standards Addressed:

16.A.3a Describe how historians use models for organizing historical interpretation (e.g., biographies, political events, issues and conflicts).

16.A.3b Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources.

16.A.3c Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation.

16.A.4a Analyze and report historical events to determine cause-and-effect relationships.

16.A.4b Compare competing historical interpretations of an event.

16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

16.B.4b (W) Identify political ideas from the early modern historical era to the present which have had worldwide impact (e.g., nationalism/Sun Yat-Sen, non-violence/Ghandi, independence/Kenyatta).

16.B.5a (US) Describe how modern political positions are affected by differences in ideologies and viewpoints that have developed over time (e.g., political parties' positions on government intervention in the economy).

16.B.5b (US) Analyze how United States political history has been influenced by the nation's economic, social and environmental history.

16.D.4b (US) Describe unintended social consequences of political events in United States history (e.g., Civil War/emancipation, National Defense Highway Act/decline of inner cities, Vietnam War/anti-government activity).

16.D.5 (US) Analyze the relationship between an issue in United States social history and the related aspects of political, economic and environmental history.

Objectives:

Learn about famous women and their roles in the history of the military.

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In the classroom:

Have students separately or in small groups each choose or be assigned a different famous military woman to research.

Suggestions are:

Sikelgaita (1040-1090), wife of Robert Guiscard

St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431), Hundred Years' War heroine

Denise Bloch (1915-1945), SOE agent

Edith Cavell (1865-1915), World War I heroine

Nadezhda Durova (1783 - 1866), first female officer in the Russian military.

Sara Emma Evelyn Edmundson (1841 - 1898), Civil War nurse and spy

Deborah Sampson Gannett (December 17, 1760-April 18, 1827) first known American woman to impersonate a man, to join the army and take part in combat.

Tomoe Gozen, (original, not fictitious), female samurai

Mata Hari (1876-1917), (spy)

Grace Murray Hopper (1906-1992), computer scientist and naval officer

Marina Raskova (1912-1943), Russian aviator in World War II

Odette Sansom (1912-1995), SOE agent

Hannah Szenes (1921-1944), SOE agent

Countess Krystyna Skarbek (1915-1952), SOE agent

Violette Szabo (1921-1945), SOE agent

Harriet Tubman, (1820-1913), rebel, spy, activist

Nancy Wake, (born 1912), most decorated Allied servicewoman of WW II

Cathy Williams, (1844-1926) Buffalo Soldier in the Civil War

At the library:

Have students research their woman and write a three page biography of her.

Resources at the Pritzker Military Library:

(also available through interlibrary loan at your local library after your visit)

Durova, N. A. (Nadezhda Andreevna). *Cavalry maiden: journals of a female Russian officer in the Napoleonic Wars*. London: Paladin Grafton, 1990.
Call Number: DK190.6.D8 A3 1990.

Oates, Stephen B. *A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War*. New York: Free Press, 1994. Call Number: E621 .O24 1994

Proctor, Tammy M. *Female intelligence: women and espionage in the First World War*. New York :New York University, 2003.
Call Number D639 .S7 P76 2003.

Richey, Stephen W. *Joan of Arc: the warrior saint*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2003. Call Number: DC103.R52 2003.

Schultz, Jane E. *Women at the Front: Hospital Workers in Civil War America*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Call Number: E621 .S35 2004

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Tucker, Phillip Thomas. *Cathy Williams: from slave to female Buffalo Soldier*.
Mechanicsburg, PA. :Stackpole Books, 2002.
Call Number: E185.97.W694 T83 2002.

Williams, Kathleen Broome. *Grace Hopper: admiral of the cyber sea*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval
Institute Press, c2004. Call Number: V63.H66 W55 2004

Young, Alfred Fabian. *Masquerade: the life and times of Deborah Sampson,
Continental soldier*. NY :Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.
Call Number E276.G36 Y68 2004.

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