

International Women's Day

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1. Read the text.

March 8th is International Women's Day. Women in the past had to fight for their basic rights; the right to vote, the right to drive and the right to work for example. Emmeline Pankhurst was one of the first women to take a stand on women's rights by demanding the vote for all women. Her political protests with the other suffragettes meant that in 1928 women were finally granted the same voting rights as men. At last women were in the public eye and this was just the beginning of a wave of changes. In the western world women now have these basic rights but there is still not total equality between men and women; men often get the most important jobs in a company and sometimes they earn more money than women for doing the same job. In some parts of the world women still have no rights and cannot live independently from men. International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate the success of women but also to remember that we must continue to fight for the rights of women all over the world. Domestic violence, violence that occurs inside the home or is perpetrated by a family member or partner, is still rampant; the latest figures show that 5 million women or 30% of the adult female population in England and Wales have experienced some form of domestic abuse. These statistics cover females from the age of 16 upwards. (figures from the Crime Survey for)

2. Answer these questions.

- a. When is International Women's Day?
- b. Who were the suffragettes?
- c. Why do we have a day for women?
- d. What rights do women in the western world have?
- e. Do women all over the world have the same rights?
- f. What is domestic abuse?
- g. Give some examples of modern inequality.

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3. Match each profile to the right name.

a. Marie Curie

b. Amelia Earhart

c. Rosa Parks

d. Valentina Tereshkova

1. This black lady refused to give her seat to a white man on a bus in 1953, in Montgomery, Alabama. By refusing, she was rebelling against the segregation of black and white people in America. She received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.
2. This Russian woman was the first female to go into space. Her spaceship, Vostok V1, was launched from a secret Soviet launch pad in central Asia in 1963.
3. This scientist was the first woman to win a Nobel prize. She won a Nobel prize for physics with her husband in 1903 . She won another Nobel prize, this time for chemistry, on her own in 1911.
4. This pilot was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic ocean in 1932. She was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for this achievement

4. Work in pairs. Choose one of the profiles. Introduce yourself to your partner.

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Teacher's Notes

1. **Before the reading, ask students what they know about women's rights. Make a list on the board of all the things that women can do now that they couldn't do at the beginning of the 20th century.**

For example:

Join the armed forces

Join the fire service

Vote

Have high-powered jobs in politics and banking etc.

2. **Sample answers.**

- a. March 8th/ It's on the 8th March

- b. A group of political activists who organised protests to gain equal rights for women.

- c. To celebrate women's achievements and fight for more equality

- d. The same rights as men.

- e. No, they don't

- f. Psychological or physical abuse by a partner or family member. Men can also be victims but attacks on men tend to be isolated incidents rather than sustained attacks.

- g. There are more men in powerful roles. Men are sometimes paid more than women to do the same job.

3. **Write on the board: Women who changed the world.**

Then, elicit some famous names and what they are famous for before asking the students to match the famous names and what they achieved in exercise 3.

Name: Achievement:

a 3 b4 c1 d2

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- 4. This is an opportunity for students to practise the past simple. They must choose one of the famous women and take on their identity. Stronger students can invent some additional details.**

Example:

Hello. My name is Amelia Earhart. I flew solo over the Atlantic. It was very exciting but I was a bit scared. I landed in Southampton in England. Everyone was very happy for me. It was the best day of my life.