

## International Women's Day lesson plan

### Grades 9–12

Subjects: Social Studies 9, 10, and 11, Law 12, Civics 11, Social Justice 12, locally designed courses such as Women's Studies 12, Humanities and various English courses in project-based learning.

### Learning objectives

Students will:

- celebrate March 8th by recognizing some of the achievements of the Women's Movement.
- examine progress in history through the lens of women's struggles for equality.
- develop an appreciation of the gains made for women's emancipation over the last 100 years.

### Time required

2–3 one-hour classes (or more time as desired)

### Teacher resources

- *Constitute! Continuing the Journey; International Women's Rights Project (A teachers' companion to the DVD, Constitute! Distributed by the BCTF to secondary schools*
- *Constitute! DVD* (use excerpts)
- Celebrating 100 Years of International Women's Day poster
- 2-Minute debate topics at Breaking News English website:  
[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0504/050309-women.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0504/050309-women.html)

### Procedure

- Discuss origin and significance of marking March 8th.
- Have students work in pairs to research one person or event depicted on the timeline poster for Celebrating 100 Years of International Women's Day.
- Use the internet to gather research in order for students to teach the class about the changes brought about by the topic chosen.

### Product

- a poster
- role play
- speech
- skit
- storyboard
- PowerPoint presentation
- personal or persuasive essay
- short story or R.A.F.T.

## Assessment

- effective communication
- effort to be creative and hold audience attention
- apply relevant curricular assessment criteria
- use of time.

## Extension/optional activities

- Design activity to tie into topic/unit being studied during the week of March 8th (i.e., The Industrial Revolution in Grade 9 SS: investigate the exploitation of women in factories and mines, etc.)
- Develop a March 8th magazine/newspaper using a wide variety of articles and inclusions such as banner headlines, breaking news, local women's initiatives, crosswords, editorials, etc.
- Create a jigsaw activity with groups of 4-5 whereby specialist group themes (women in politics, sports, broadcasting, etc.) will be researched in terms of gains women have made in various fields. Then specialists come back together to home group and teach findings to the rest of the group members. Large posters can then be designed to illustrate findings.
- Walk a mile in my shoes activity: important figures from the past are researched and students will then provide an oral testimony to class about their life experiences. Student gender distinctions need not be adhered to for presentations. (Boys may assume identity of women figures.)
- Horseshoe or 4-corner *2-Minute Gender Debates* activity 8. Lively topics can be found at <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0503/050309-women.html>