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Inside this Issue



TEACHING WOMEN'S HISTORY

The theme for 2020 is "Valiant Women of the Vote."

Honor the women who fought to win the right to vote, and for those who still fight to win the right for others. p.04.

CALENDAR

Take a look at important dates, events and/or holidays that are coming up in March! p.03

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Carefully curated text selections to celebrate Women's History Month from K to 12. p. 05

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RECOMMENDED READS

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Teaching Tolerance's new version of *Let's Talk* helps K-12 educators lay the groundwork for conversations (on their own and with students), and it outlines classroom-ready strategies educators can use with students before, during and after critical conversations. p.02.

Continue to page 2 for more!



LEARN MORE

How Should I Talk about Race in My Mostly White Classroom?



Race and racism are important topics to bring into your classroom. Because race is part of our public conversation and integrated into so many aspects of our world, young people want to and should be part of that conversation, no matter their race. White students in predominantly white classrooms should be discussing race for those reasons and because they are members of a multicultural society and world. Sometimes teachers feel reluctant to raise the topic of race especially if they are teaching in an all or predominantly white community. Teachers may be concerned that students bring their own assumptions and stereotypes, will hold back for fear of saying the "wrong" thing or bias will emerge and will be hard to facilitate and contain. Also, teachers may fear pushback from administrators and parents who feel they shouldn't talk about it at all.

Below are tips and strategies to consider when teaching predominantly white students about race and racism.

1. Set up group guidelines

Students, and in particular white students, sometimes don't participate in discussions about race because they feel inadequate, worry they'll be mocked, are embarrassed by their lack of knowledge or concerned that strong feelings will arise. Many may think the topic isn't relevant to them. When



OPENING THE CONVERSATION

from teachingtolerance.org



1. Be Positive.
2. Establish Norms.
3. Establish Goals.
4. Offer a shared starting point.

TEACHING STRATEGY: PERSONAL RESPONSE PROMPTS

Personal prompts, which open a discussion with questions, are particularly effective ways to build student interest in a critical topic. You might have students respond anonymously and then review their answers prior to the discussion. Or you could ask them to write as a way to start thinking through a topic before they'll be asked to share. One thing to keep in mind is that students with dominant cultural identities may struggle to articulate the ways that their identities have shaped their experience-this may be one of the few times they've ever been asked to do so. Consider including questions about multiple identities, providing model responses or simply reordering the questions below to ensure that all students are engaging with the critical discussion from the beginning.

Elementary Response Prompts:

- How are the students in our school diverse?
- Do you have a friend who is a different race than you?
- When you look at your cafeteria, do students group themselves in a certain way? Why do you think that happens?
- Think about the characters in your favorite movie, TV show or book. How are the characters like you? Different from you? Would you say the characters are diverse?

Secondary Response Prompts:

- What are your earliest memories of race?
- What messages did you hear about your own race as you were growing up?
- What messages did you hear about other races? Where did these messages come from?
- How often have you thought about your race in the last 24 hours? In the last week?
- How does your race factor into the way you make everyday decisions? What about important life decisions? ...
- If you could change one thing about our school that's related to race, what would you recommend? How would you implement it?
- How would you compare the attitudes about race you see on our campus to those you see in our town? In our state? In our nation?





CALENDAR

MARCH

Click on the events to learn more!



[Women's History Month](#), and National Women's History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women's history week to promote the teaching of women's history. The week of March 8th was selected to include 'International Women's Day.' This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to work, women's strikes for bread, women's strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution making the week a national celebration, and in 1987 expanded it to the full month of March.

2: [Clean Monday \(Christian\)](#): The beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.

6: [World Day of Prayer \(UN\)](#): Is held on the first Friday of March, the World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who came together in 1927 to observe a common day of prayer each year. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions bringing together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

8: [International Women's Day \(UN\)](#), According to one source, a women's march in New York in 1857 provided the inspiration for the day. Others claim that it began as a commemoration of a strike by women needle trades workers in New York City in 1908. International Women's Day was revived in the 1960s and in 1975 the U.N. began sponsoring this day.

9: [Holi \(Sikh, Hindu\)](#), This festival of color celebrates Spring, where people play with liquid and powdered colours, light bonfires and blow horns to celebrate the destruction of Holika.

9: [Butter Lamp Festival \(Tibet, Buddhist\)](#): To celebrate Shakyamuni's victory over non-Buddhist opponents in 1409, Lord Neu Dzong, a noted patron of Tsongkapa, illuminated numerous butter lamps. The tradition has since then flourished.

10: [Purim \(Jewish\)](#): known as the Feast of Lots, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews in Persia from the machinations of Haman. Jews dress in costume and give gifts of food to each other.

12: [Girl Scout's Day](#): Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

17: [St. Patrick's Day](#): The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.

20: [Now Ruz \(New Year\)](#), means "New Day" and is the traditional celebration of the ancient Persian New Year. Iranians celebrate it on March 20th. It is also a holy day for Zoroastrian, Sufi, Ismaili and the Baha'i faiths.

21: [Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(UN\)](#): observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination

22: [Emancipation Day \(Puerto Rico\)](#): commemorates the abolition of slavery from its island in 1873.

25: [Annunciation \(Christian\)](#): commemorates the day Jesus' mother, Mary was visited by an angel to inform her that she was blessed and chosen to be the mother of Christ.

25: [Ugadi \(India\)](#): marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves.

28: [Earth Hour](#): Around the globe individuals, communities, businesses, and governments are invited to switch off lights for 1 hour at 8:30 p.m. local time to send the message that the earth's citizens care enough about climate change to take action. From its inception in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, the event has grown to include 135 countries and territories.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



TEACHING RESOURCES



DOWNLOAD NOW

Women's History Month: 6 Lesson Plan Resources for Teachers

Matt Davis highlights free and easy-to-implement classroom resources to celebrate Women's History



Free Posters Celebrating Women Role Models in Science, Technology, and Math

Eight downloadable posters celebrating women of STEM perfect for displaying in kids' rooms and classrooms!



10 talks by women that everyone should watch Playlist (10 talks)



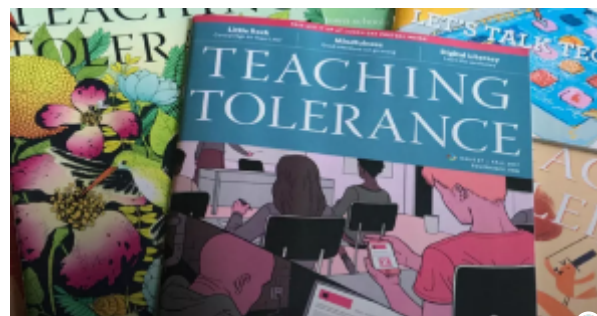
Women's History Month, Grades K-5

nea.org



Women's History Month Resources

Women's History Month is a time to celebrate ordinary and extraordinary women, explore women's achievements and struggles throughout history.



The Importance of Female Voices

This lesson examines the gender discrepancy among Wikipedia contributors. Students create their own class wiki in order to discover why, despite...

Teaching Tolerance

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

MORNING KEYNOTE



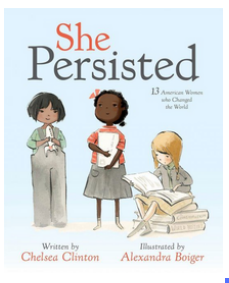
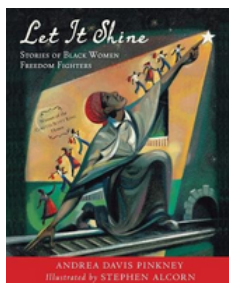
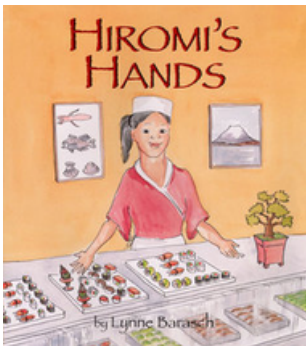
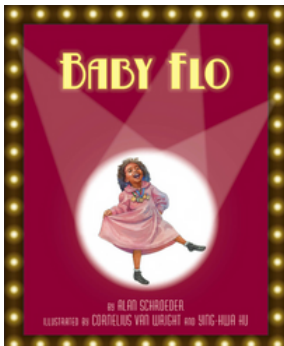
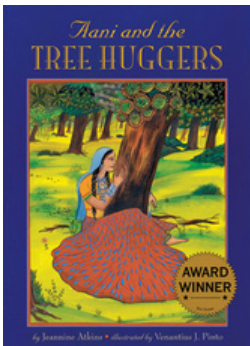
AFTERNOON KEYNOTE



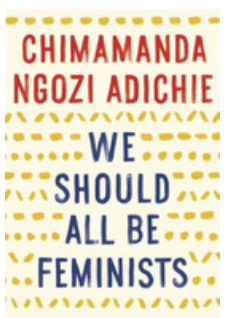
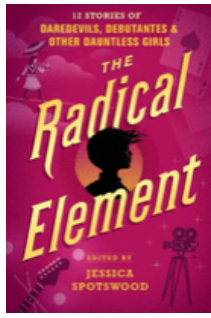
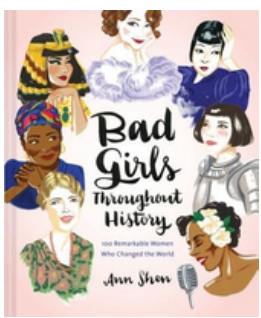
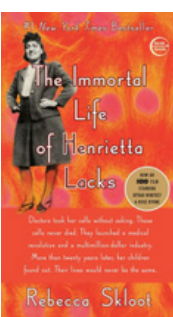
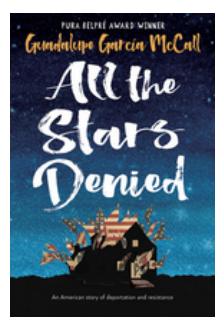
Click on the images of the books for a teacher's guide or direct link to Amazon!



ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL



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 RECOMMENDED READS

Questions/Comments?

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