

# Girl Connection

For those who serve adolescent females

June 2011

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Iowa Task Force for Young Women



Happy Independence Day! Here's a little something from the National Women's History Project for you to share with young women as we celebrate our country this 4th of July. *Do you know these women?*

1. Which mother led a 125 mile march of child workers all the way from the mills of Pennsylvania to President Theodore Roosevelt's vacation home on Long Island?
2. One of the most important Union spies/scouts during the Civil War - a Black woman who'd escaped slavery.
3. Before the 1960s, farm workers in the U.S. were not paid even the minimum wage, and had no influential representatives to fight for their rights. What part did Dolores Huerta play in changing this situation?
4. The line of beauty products she created for African-American people made her the first Black woman millionaire in the United States.
5. She came to the U.S. when she was a teenager to study science and stayed to become "the world's foremost female experimental physicist." Her most famous experiment disproved what had been thought to be a fundamental scientific law.
6. She took her job as "First Lady" seriously, traveling the country and world to gather information about the concerns of workers, children, minorities, and the poor.
7. When the Mexican Revolution of 1910 reached the Texas border, she and her friends organized La Cruz Blanca to take care of the wounded. They nursed people from both sides of the fighting. She was also known as a journalist and community activist.
8. Who was the last reigning monarch of the Hawaiian Islands, deposed when American business and military interests wanted to annex Hawaii to the U.S.?
9. She opened "Hull House" in a run-down Chicago neighborhood, a community center to improve conditions for poor immigrants. The program of English-language classes, childcare, health education and recreational opportunities soon inspired hundreds of other settlement houses throughout the country.
10. Daughter and granddaughter of Paiute Indian chiefs from Nevada, she lobbied Congress, wrote extensively, and traveled across country during the late 1800s lecturing on the hardships brought upon Native Americans by the U.S. Government.
11. Her 1939 Easter Sunday concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial drew a crowd of 75,000.
12. Who printed the first copy of the Declaration of Independence that included the signers' names?
13. Clara Barton (1821-1912) is best known for founding the American Red Cross, but she also played a vital role during the Civil War. What did she do?
14. She is regarded as the greatest ballerina born in America. Her father was Chief of the Osage Indians.
15. Why is Rachel Carson (1907-1964) considered the mother of the environmental movement?

## Answers

1. The labor organizer, Mary Harris Jones (1830-1930), did just that in 1903. Called "Mother" Jones by everyone, her goal for the march was to bring the evils of child labor to the attention of the president and the national press.
2. Harriet Tubman (1820-1913), who also led over 300 people in their escape from slavery via the system of safehouses known as the Underground Railroad.
3. Dolores Huerta (b.1930), a long-time Chicana labor activist, co-founded the United Farm Workers union in 1962. She served for over two decades as the union's vice-president and chief lobbyist, savvy labor contract negotiator, and nationwide speaker.
4. In 1905, Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919) began developing a hair lotion, then a special comb to straighten curly hair. She eventually employed 3,000 people, mostly Black women, to work in her factories and sell her products.
5. Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997) received the National Science Medal and the internationally respected Wolf prize for her research. Her most famous experiment showed that conservation of parity could be violated in nature.
6. Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was America's First Lady for 12 years. Later, she served as U.S. delegate to the United Nations where she was instrumental in securing passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
7. Jovita Idar (1885-1946) lived in Laredo, Texas. As a journalist, she wrote articles for Spanish-language newspapers, like *El Progreso* and *El Heraldo Cristiano*, which argued for Mexican Americans' equal rights.

8. Queen Liliuokalani (1838-1917). Revolution, encouraged by U.S. interests and backed by a U.S. Navy gunboat, established a provisional government in 1893. She also composed over 200 songs, including "Aloha Oe."
9. Jane Addams (1860-1935). One of the first generation of female college graduates at a time when the world was not yet ready to give educated women positions of responsibility, found her own way to lead a useful life. She won the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize for her lifetime dedication to the cause of international peace.
10. Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891), later named a chief in her own right. Her autobiography, *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, was one of the first books by a Native American.
11. Marian Anderson (b.1902), who had earlier been barred from the singing in the Washington's Constitution Hall because she was Black. Her open air concert was a triumph over bigotry for this international star.
12. Mary Katherine Goddard (1738-1816), newspaper publisher, had such a strong reputation in the colonies that when Congress fled to Baltimore in 1776 they trusted her with the revolutionary task of printing their treasonous document. Goddard risked arrest by the British when she included her own name as printer.
13. No provisions had been made for taking care of Union soldiers. Clara Barton (1821-1912) solicited donated supplies and took them directly onto battlegrounds, to get food, bandages, and medical supplies to the wounded. She also helped document the 22,000 men killed or missing in action so their families could be notified.
14. Maria Tallchief (b.1925), gained international stardom as prima ballerina of the New York City Ballet in a career that spanned 23 years. In 1980, she and her sister, Marjorie, founded the Chicago City Ballet.
15. Rachel Carson (1907-1964), a writer and biologist, touched off an international controversy about the effects of pesticides with her 1962 book, *The Silent Spring* - a bestseller and the foundation of modern ecological awareness.

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