

Women's Firsts

Doing something challenging or notable for the first time is something to celebrate! There are many lists of the first person to do something, and many of those names belong to men. The reason for this is not the women aren't capable of the same accomplishments, but that society has been set up to allow men more freedom and opportunity to take risks and succeed. This is why we see lists of 'firsts' and then lists of 'women's firsts', with women often doing something for the first time years, if not decades, after men.



Sometimes the names of the women are not as well-known as the men. For example, Edmund Hillary* is famous for being the first to reach the top of Mount Everest in 1953. However, did you know that Japanese climber Jumko Tabei (photo left) was the first woman to summit Everest in 1975? Jackie Robinson is honored for being the first Black man to play modern professional baseball in 1947. However, did you know

that Marcenia Lyle (known as Toni) Stone was not only the first Black woman, but *the* first woman, to play professional baseball in 1953?

Sometimes the first woman to do something is equally renowned. For example, both Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart (photo right) are acclaimed for completing solo, nonstop flights across the Atlantic. Lindbergh made his flight just five years before Earhart in 1927. John Rockefeller was lauded as the world's first self-made billionaire in 1916, but Martha Stewart, who became the first female self-made billionaire in 1999, is also a recognizable name.



In our modern times, sometimes it's been so long since a man broke a record that we only know the name of the first prominent woman to break that record. For example, the names Lewis Milestone and Frank Borzage, the first men to win Best Director at the Oscars in 1929, are lost to history. Yet, Kathryn Bigelow is celebrated because she was the first female winner

of the award in 2010. Although not exactly household names, in 2018 Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland (photo left) made headlines as the first Native American women to be elected to Congress, almost 150 years after first man with Native American ancestry, Hiram Revels, was elected in 1870.

** Hillary's Nepalese Sherpa, Tenzing Norgay, is now starting to also get credit for summiting with him*

Source: www.lessonimpossible.com/blog/womens-history-month



1. Vocabulary Activity: This text discusses famous (or not as famous as they should be) men and women. There are a lot of words in the text that mean something similar to the adjective 'famous'. List all the *synonyms* that you can find:

Notable



Image: www.ankarrock.com/baseballprints/toni-stone-stickerkchy-daqz

2. Comprehension Activity: In the introductory paragraph it says that “we see lists of ‘firsts’ and then lists of ‘women’s firsts’, with women often doing something for the first time years, if not decades, after men”. List the examples discussed in order from smallest to biggest difference in time between accomplishments.

- 5 years: First transatlantic flight
-
-
-
-
- 148 years: First Native Americans in Congress

3. Structural Activity: This text is an expository text, meaning it is a piece of non-fiction writing that give facts and information about a topic. It follows a five-paragraph structure. When planning to write a text, it's important to have a plan. Can we figure out what the planning might have looked like when the author was writing her outline?

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Main argument:

Paragraph 2:

Main Idea:

Supporting detail #1:

Supporting detail #2:

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Paragraph 3:

Main Idea:

Supporting detail #1:

Supporting detail #2:

Paragraph 4:

Main Idea:

Supporting detail #1:

Supporting detail #2:

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

You'll notice that the author did not include a concluding paragraph. A concluding paragraph summarizes the main ideas of given in the previous paragraphs. Write what you think should have been the concluding paragraph:



4. *Discussion Activity:* [Ellen Ochoa](#) was the first Hispanic female astronaut to go into outer space in 1993. She is quoted as saying: "Now with this milestone we can focus on the fact that what is important to succeed in life, it does not matter whether you are a man or a woman." Do you think that continuing to focus on women's firsts is positive or negative? Share your thinking with a partner.

5. *Extending Knowledge Activity:* Research a woman who was the first do something that you think is important. Create a fake Instagram post to showcase their achievement. In the description be sure to explain:

- **What** happened, giving details
- **Who** was involved
- **Where** and **when** it happened
- **Why** it is an important first

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Instagram

Instagram Template by [Social Classroom](#)

Source: www.lessonimpossible.com/blog/womens-history-month

The image is a template for an Instagram post. At the top, there is a header bar containing a camera icon on the left, the word "Instagram" in a cursive font in the center, a timer icon on the right, and a share icon on the far right. Below the header is a profile bar with a circular profile picture placeholder on the left and three dots on the right. The main body of the post is a large, empty rectangular area. At the bottom of this area are four icons: a heart, a speech bubble, a share icon, and a bookmark icon. Below the main post area are ten horizontal lines for writing a caption.

Instagram Template by [Social Classroom](#)

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