

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: FIVE MORE WHO LED THE WAY

On pages 19-21, *Junior Scholastic* honors Eleanor Roosevelt, a woman who helped change the world. In the course of American history, many women smashed barriers of prejudice and indifference, to

bring about social change and improve people's lives. Here's an introduction to five more. After answering the questions below, research other women who have made important contributions to U.S. life.



Dorothea Dix

(1802-1887) visited jails in Massachusetts to read to female convicts. In one jail, she saw women confined to tiny, dark, filthy cells without enough food or clothing. The women were not criminals; they were mentally ill. Dix spent the rest of her life working to improve the care of mentally ill persons.



Mary Edwards Walker

(1832-1919) was the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army. For her Civil War battlefield heroism, she became the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Belva Ann Lockwood

(1830-1917) fought to win the vote for women. In 1872, she became the first female lawyer to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1884, she became the first woman to run for U.S. President.



Amelia Earhart

(1897-1937) was an air-safety pioneer. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1937, she tried to fly around the world along the equator, but her plane vanished over the Pacific.



Mary McLeod Bethune

(1875-1955) believed that black women faced double discrimination—as blacks and as women. She founded a school for African-American girls in 1904, and served in various governmental posts under four U.S. Presidents, improving education for black Americans.

QUESTIONS

Answer questions 1-5 by naming the person.

1. A lawyer, _____ became the first woman to run for U.S. President, in 1884.
2. Airplanes safely circle the globe every day thanks in part to the air-safety pioneering of _____.
3. People's attitudes toward mental illness changed as a result of a lifelong crusade by _____.
4. Thousands of women are now officers in the U.S. Armed Forces, but it was a lonely place for _____, a surgeon, who became the first commissioned female officer in the Army.
5. African-American women are leaders in science, engineering, business, medicine, government, and academics in part because of the educational efforts of _____.

Answer questions 6-10 by writing the letter of the correct answer on the line before each sentence.

6. Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor followed the breakthrough of (A) Nellie Bly; (B) Dorothea Dix; (C) Belva Ann Lockwood. _____
7. Mary McLeod Bethune said that black women faced double discrimination, and founded a (A) school for girls; (B) black university; (C) church. _____
8. For bravery in battle, the first female officer in the U.S. Army was awarded the (A) rank of general; (B) Congressional Medal of Honor; (C) Purple Heart. _____
9. A social reformer found her life's work after visiting women in crowded, filthy jails and learning that they were (A) hardened criminals; (B) political prisoners; (C) mentally ill. _____
10. In 1937, a pioneering pilot on a round-the-world flight vanished over the (A) Sahara Desert; (B) Pacific Ocean; (C) Atlantic Ocean. _____