

WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH THE DECADES

*Alice at a
Glance
Curriculum
Packet*



**ALICE PAUL
INSTITUTE**

Education. Empowerment. Equality.

Women's Rights through the Decades

Grades: 9-12

Duration: 5-6 class periods

OBJECTIVE:

Students will work in groups to analyze the effects of the twentieth century on women's rights. Students will evaluate and analyze research, synthesize information and historical artifacts, and create an exhibit based on their findings.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS:

State standards may include the following strands/topics:

Active Citizenship in the 21st Century; History, Culture, Perspectives; Civics, Government, and Human Rights; U.S. History: America in the World; Literacy in Humanities/Social Studies

MATERIALS:

- Computers
 - Project overview (included) as handout *and* e-document (for WebQuest)
 - Art supplies/poster board/TriFold boards for students creating physical exhibit (not PowerPoint)
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PROCEDURE:

After viewing *Alice at a Glance*, debrief with students and discuss the ways that women's lives have changed since the women's suffrage movement.

Explain that students will have an opportunity to look deeper into the changes in women's rights throughout the decade. Introduce the *Women's Rights through the Decades* project.

Depending on the student population and materials available, you may wish to have students create a multimedia exhibit using PowerPoint as their final product or a standard exhibit using poster board or TriFold boards.

Divide the class into ten small groups and assigned each group one decade of the twentieth century.

Students will have the class period to begin their research through the WebQuest. For added support as they work, students may use the research graphic organizers included in the lesson. Students should continue to complete their research for homework.

Over the following class periods, check in with students about their research process and plans for their exhibit. If possible, allot enough time for students to spend time in class working on their final product as a group.

When all students have finished their products, provide students with an opportunity to present their work to the class. If students have completed a multimedia presentation, students should give a 5-10 minute presentation sharing their exhibit. If students have created poster board or TriFold exhibits, consider having students present their work to the class and then setting up a "museum" in class where students and visitors can tour the various decades of the twentieth century.

After all students have presented, discuss with the class:

- What trends did they notice through the century?
- Did any success or challenges repeat themselves?
- How did major events in general U.S. history impact women's rights at the time?

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated informally through their use of the research process and through their final analysis of information presented in their museum exhibit.

ADAPTATIONS:

Consider publishing PowerPoint presentations to a school or class website. Encourage community members to explore the students' online exhibit, or provide students with a brief additional written assignment in which they compare their own decade studied with that of another group.

NOTES & ASSESSMENT:

Notes or modifications to remember when using this lesson again:

Women's Rights through the Decades

TASK:

Congratulations! You have been hired to design a new exhibit on *Women's Rights through the Decades* for the National Museum of American History. With your team, you must create an exhibit that showcases the historical importance of one decade for women's rights in the twentieth century.



PRODUCT:

According to the museum, your exhibit must include the following for your assigned decade:

- An overview of the decade in U.S. history and why it mattered to women's rights (in paragraph form)
- A timeline including at least 5 major events related to women's rights with a brief explanation of each and why it mattered
- Profiles of at least three significant women during this time, including their contributions related to women's rights
- A brief overview of successes and challenges faced by women during this decade (in paragraph form)
- Several photos, political cartoons, and other images that are relevant to this era



PROCESS:

Step One

Use the following resources below to get an idea of what was happening during the decade. You may choose to highlight some of the events shown on these sites in your own timeline.

[American Women through Time](#)

This site provides a timeline by of women's rights in the twentieth century, organized by decade.

[Encyclopedia Britannica Timeline: Through the Centuries](#)

This site provides an overview of women's history events organized by social/political era.

[Women in the United States](#)

This New York Times Magazine website presents an overview of notable events in women's history alongside notable event in greater U.S. history.

Step Two

Based on the notable events you extracted from the timelines provided in Step One, conduct deeper research on the events using your schools internet research databases. Take notes as you work so you can later use this information in your exhibit.

Step Three

Once you have an idea of the major events taking place during your decade, begin looking into the women who stood out during that time.

[Encyclopedia Britannica: Biographies](#)

Use the menu on the left-hand side of the page to navigate according to notable women's names, where they lived, and their accomplishments. Quotes and additional information are also available.

[Biography Center](#)

If you have an activist in mind, this website provides a brief biography of women in history, organized alphabetically by last name.

Step Four

Conduct additional research on notable women of the decade using your school's internet research database. As you work, take notes for later use.

Step Five

Now that you are familiar with some of the significant events and notable women of this time period, use your school's internet research databases to do further research on women's rights during this decade. As always, take notes so you can use this information for your final exhibit.

Step Six

The following websites may prove helpful in discovering photos, cartoons, sketches, and other images from your decade.

- [Library of Congress](#)
- [National Archives](#)
- [Time Photos: A Woman's Right to Vote](#)

Step Seven

Put it all together! Gather the information you have uncovered throughout the research process and work with your team to find a creative way to present it all in your exhibit. What will tourists experience when they see your decade in the museum? Be sure to double-check all of the museum's requirements.

Event	When it happened	Description	Why it mattered

Historical figure	What they did	Why it mattered