



Get to know Benjamin Franklin

- I had 16 brothers and sisters and was the youngest boy in my family.
- I loved to read but had to leave school when I was 10 to help my father in his soap and candle shop because we were poor.
- I always had many ideas. When I was 12 years old, I created swimming paddles for my hands to help me swim faster.
- At age 12, I started to work in my brother's print shop.
- I wrote news articles and signed them Mistress Silence Dogood so no one would know I wrote them!
- When I grew up, I started my own print shop and became famous for my wise sayings. ("Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise," "Haste makes waste.")
- I lived in Philadelphia as an adult and helped start their first police and fire department and America's first lending library and hospital.
- I was the first postmaster of all the 13 original American colonies.
- I also was an inventor and created the first bifocals, a stove for heating named after me (the Franklin stove), the lightning rod and a long arm to help reach books on high shelves.
- I'm most famous for my kite experiments, which proved that lightning is electricity.
- I helped America in so many ways that people knew me as a printer, writer, scientist, inventor, statesman and great American.

Teacher facts

- Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 17, 1706.
- He published Poor Richard's Almanac, 1732-1758.
- He experimented with kites and discovered electricity in 1752.
- Inventions include: bifocals, lightning rod, Franklin stove, odometer, swim fins, long arm with grasping claws to reach high books, and Daylight Saving Time.
- Franklin died April 17, 1790.







Get to know Thomas Alva Edison

- I was born in Ohio, and everyone called me Al.
- My father always told me that I asked lots of questions and was very curious. Once I sat on some eggs in a nest I made to see if I could hatch chickens.
- When I was 7 we had a farm, and an observation tower with a telescope at the top. I loved playing up there.
- I got sick with scarlet fever and became partly deaf, but this didn't stop me from doing experiments in my free time.
- My mother kept me at home and taught me everything I knew. I loved to read books. She always encouraged my love of experimenting. I once got in trouble for making my friend swallow an experimental mixture that I thought would make him fly. It made him sick instead, and I promised never to experiment on people again.
- When I was 12 years old I sold newspapers on trains.
- I worked as a telegraph operator at night and did experiments during the day.
- I started a business to improve both telegraphs and telephones so people could talk to friends who lived far away.
- I created over 1,000 inventions during my life, including the phonograph, the electric light bulb and the moving picture camera.
- As I grew older my hearing got worse, and many of my inventions were created to help people with hearing problems.

Teacher facts

- Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, on February 11, 1847.
- At age 7, he contracted scarlet fever, which left him partially deaf.
- In 1862, he was taught to use the telegraph and worked as a telegraph operator.
- In 1870 at age 23, Edison sold his first patent for \$40,000.
- On October 21, 1879, his team tested the first light bulb.
- In 1882, he set up the first power station in New York.
- Edison died October 18, 1931.







Get to know George Washington

- I was born in Virginia. When I was 11 years old, I went to live with my brother on his farm, Mt. Vernon, because my father died.
- At Mt. Vernon, I hunted and fished. I learned all about farming, and I loved riding horses.
- I wrote down 110 rules to help myself be a better person, such as keeping my nails clean and short, and being careful with my promises.
- During the American Revolution, I was a brave leader in charge of the American army. We fought for America's freedom with few supplies and little money. I convinced my men we could win!
- I was the first U.S. President. I didn't get to live in the White House because it wasn't built at the time, so I lived in New York and Philadelphia during my presidency.
- I liked ice cream so much that I had ice cream coolers installed in my house; this was very unusual in the olden days of no electricity.
- I was the first President to be featured on a postage stamp.
- My silhouette is on the U.S. quarter.
- I helped write laws for this country in the Constitution.
- I lived to be 67 years old and had 36 dogs. Some of their names were "Mopsey," "Sweetlips," and "Truelove."

Teacher facts

- Washington was born in Virginia on February 22, 1732.
- At age 7, he started school in a one-room schoolhouse.
- On July 3, 1775, Washington took command of his untrained troops.
- In 1783, America won the war against England with the leadership of General Washington.
- On April 30, 1789, on Wall Street in New York, he took the Presidential Oath of Office.
- Washington died December 14, 1799.







Get to know Abraham Lincoln

- I was very poor growing up in a log cabin in Indiana, and I had to read books by the light of the fire.
- If you added up all the time I was able to go to school, it would only add up to a year and a half!
- I taught myself to read and write and loved books so much that while I was plowing fields, I would read while my work horse rested.
- I worked as a clerk in a store and once walked six miles to return 6 cents to a lady who had paid me too much.
- I was postmaster for three years in Illinois and delivered mail by tucking important papers in my top hat.
- I was the 16th President of the U.S. and my silhouette is on the copper penny.
- While I was President I made Thanksgiving a national holiday and created paper money called "greenbacks."
- I always believed that slavery was wrong so I worked hard to abolish it. (Emancipation Proclamation)

Teacher facts

- Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809. He lived there until he was 7 years old, then he moved to Indiana.
- He married Mary Todd November 4, 1842.
- He was inaugurated as 16th President March 4, 1861.
- He signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.
- He gave the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. ("Four-score and seven years ago" - a score is 20 years.)
- Lincoln died on April 15, 1865.







Get to know John Muir

- I had seven brothers and sisters. We lived in Scotland until I was 11.
- We moved to America and lived on a farm in Wisconsin where I loved hunting for birds' nests.
- I loved writing about how to protect our environment.
- I helped create America's National Parks, National Monuments, and forest reserves.
- Yosemite National Park was one of my favorite places to explore. I helped get it designated as a park so that it would be preserved.
- I designed a mill powered by water, which helped me cut trees and build myself a wilderness cabin along Yosemite Creek.
- I was chosen to appear on the quarter for the state of California, which was released in 2005.
- My great-grandson, Michael, carried on my work when he created Access Adventure, to help people with disabilities explore nature in their wheelchairs.

Teacher facts

- Muir was born in Dunbar, Scotland, on April 21, 1838.
- In 1849, he left Scotland and moved to the United States.
- In 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger inducted Muir into the California Hall of Fame at the California Museum for History, Women & the Arts.
- He founded The Sierra Club, which became famous for preserving and conserving nature.
- Muir died December 24, 1914.







Get to know Martin Luther King, Jr.

- I was a boy with black skin and that fact helped me change history.
- My name was Martin Luther King, Jr. because I was named after my father.
- I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and loved playing baseball, singing hymns, reciting prayers at the dinner table, and sliding down the banister.
- When I was 6 years old my neighbor wouldn't let me play with his son because I was black and he was white. My mother explained that blacks had once been slaves and were now free and some people didn't like that.
- I decided that all people should be treated equally and that the color of their skin shouldn't matter.
- I attended Morehouse College, the same college as my father, and became a church leader.
- I received a special prize called the Nobel Peace Prize for helping people come up with peaceful ways to solve their problems.
- One of the things that helped make me famous was my "I Have a Dream" speech. My dream was that people everywhere would learn to live together without being mean to each other.
- People in our nation celebrate my dream every year on the 3rd Monday of January, and this is called Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Teacher facts

- Dr. King was born January 15, 1929.
- In 1955, he helped lead the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott.
- In 1963, Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
- In 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- An angry person shot and killed Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968.







Get to know Rosa Parks

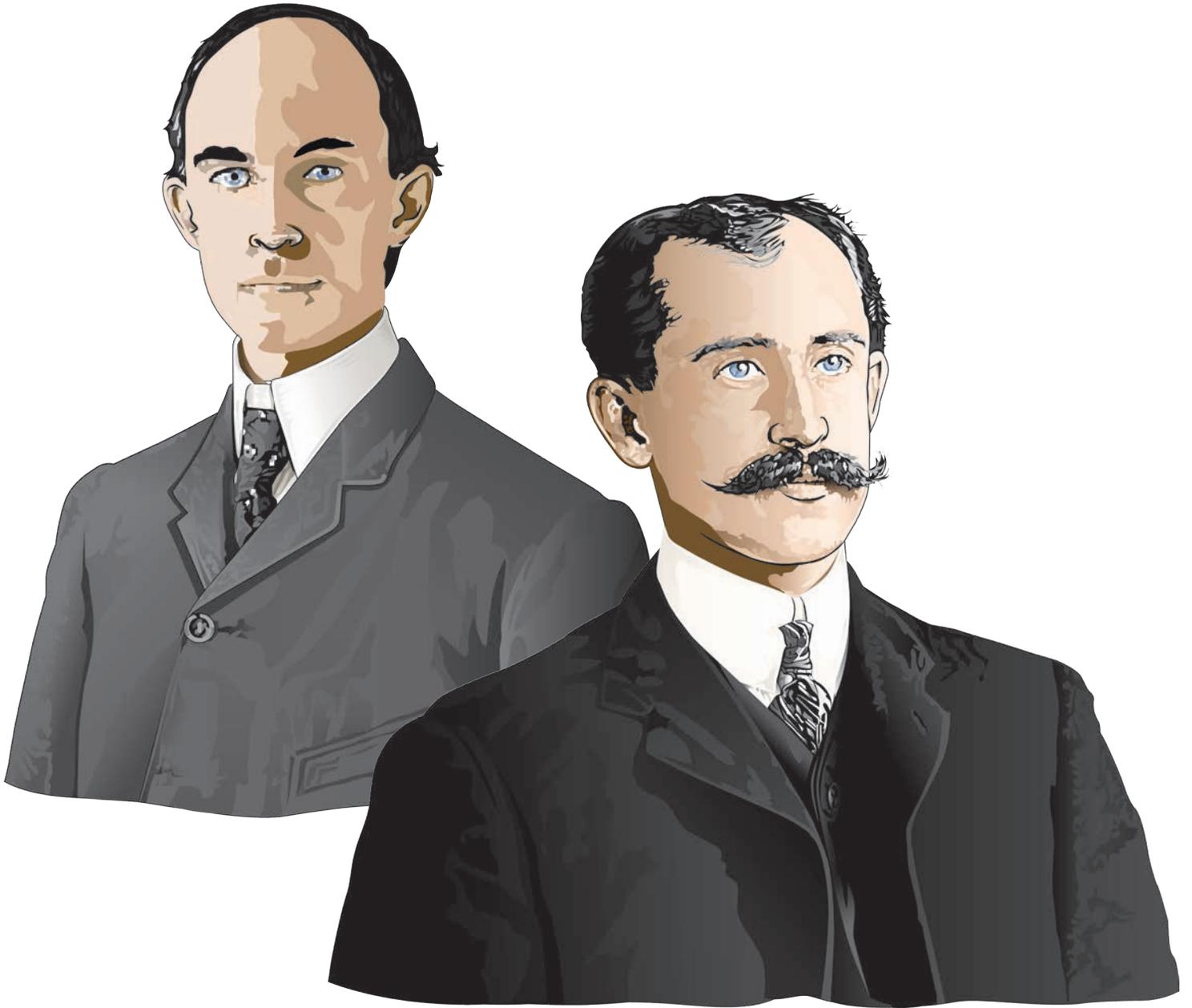
- I'm an African-American woman whose black skin helped change America, because I always believed that the same rules should be for everyone.
- I grew up on a farm in Pine Level, Alabama. We grew vegetables and raised chickens.
- My mother was a teacher who taught me how to read and write and to love books and learning.
- I walked to a one-room school for black children only. The white children went to a bigger school and even got to ride a school bus.
- We couldn't eat in the same restaurants or use the same drinking fountains as white people did.
- Although African-Americans could ride public buses with whites, the law said that we had to sit in the back, and we had to give up our seats to white people if the front seats were filled up.
- One day I was sitting in the middle section of a bus on my way home from work, when the driver told me to give my seat to a white person and move to the back. I refused because it was not fair, and I was arrested.
- After one year the laws were changed to allow all people of any color to ride together fairly.
- I lived to be 92 years old and always hoped that children would grow up without hate and that they would respect one another, no matter what color they are.

Teacher facts

- Parks was born February 4, 1913.
- She refused to give up her seat on the bus December 1, 1955.
- Bus segregation was declared unconstitutional on November 13, 1956.
- Parks died in 2005.







Get to know the Wright Brothers

- I am Orville Wright and was born when my brother Wilbur was 4 years old. We were best friends.
- We were two out of seven children, and we lived in Dayton, Ohio.
- I created kites that bent in the wind and also designed a machine that folded the newspapers Wilbur delivered because he thought folding them was too boring!
- We both loved anything scientific, and we asked our parents many questions. Our mother always told us to look it up first so we would remember it better.
- Once our Dad brought us a toy “flying machine.” We didn’t know at the time that by playing with this “flying machine” we would one day change things forever!
- We never stopped thinking about flying machines. We even watched birds fly to see how they twisted their wing tips for balance control.
- After years and years of experimenting, we gave all mankind the ability to fly in airplanes!

Teacher facts

- Orville Wright was born August 19, 1871; Wilbur on April 16, 1867.
- Their hobby was making and flying kites.
- In 1892, the Wright Brothers opened a bicycle shop.
- In 1903, they flew the first successful heavier-than-air machine.
- Wilbur died in 1912; Orville in 1948.





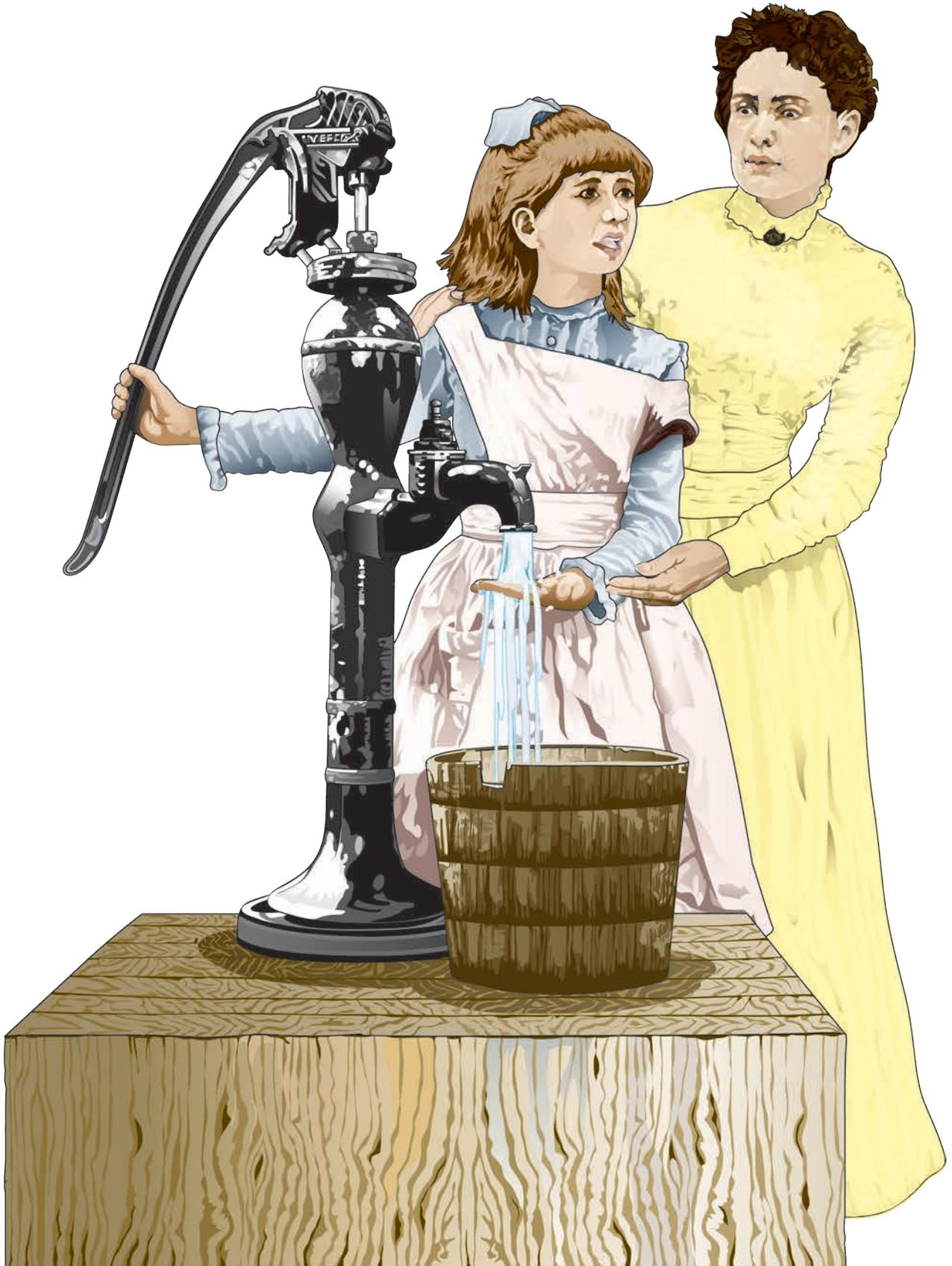


Get to know Helen Keller

- I could see and hear when I was born, but I got very sick when I was 1½ years old and became blind and deaf.
- I was often angry and frustrated because my parents didn't know what I wanted. I often kicked, screamed and cried.
- I was so full of mischief that once I locked my mother in a closet, and another time I cut off my friend's hair!
- Being blind and deaf didn't stop me from learning how to swim or ride a bicycle.
- No doctors could help me, but when I was 6, my parents took me to meet Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who helped us find a special teacher.
- My special teacher was Anne Sullivan. She lived with us and taught me manners and sign language.
- I later learned to read by using my fingers to feel raised dots on paper. This special way of reading and writing for blind people is called Braille.
- I was the first blind and deaf person to graduate from college.
- I wrote a book about my life and other stories to help blind and deaf people.
- Anne Sullivan and I remained friends for almost 50 years.
- I lived to be 87 years old; I spent my life helping others who were also blind and deaf.

Teacher facts

- Keller was born in Alabama on June 27, 1880.
- In 1882, as a result of illness, Helen became blind and deaf.
- In 1887, she met Anne Sullivan.
- In 1900, Helen entered Radcliffe College.
- In 1904, she graduated from Radcliffe with honors.
- In 1964, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Lyndon Johnson.
- Keller died June 1, 1968.







Get to know César Chávez

- I am a Mexican-American who was born on a farm in Arizona and grew up to be a hero for freedom.
- When I was only 10 days old, my family moved me and my five brothers and sisters to California.
- We were very poor and had very little education so we became migrant workers. We moved from farm to farm and town to town to pick crops as they ripened, to earn money to live. My brother and I attended 37 different schools!
- After 8th grade I helped my parents in the field, and I realized how hard the work was and how very little money the workers were paid.
- I used peaceful ways to help the migrant farm workers in the U.S. have better lives and earn money to help their families.
- One time I convinced people in California to stop buying grapes until the workers received better pay and safer working conditions.
- My dream was for all children to be educated, and in 2002 in Sacramento, California, I began the César E. Chávez Book Drive to honor my dream. They collect books and give them to needy children and groups. In 2007 they collected over 6,400 books!

Teacher facts

- César Chávez was born March 31, 1927.
- In 1962, he founded the National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers.
- Famous Quote: "The end of all education should surely be service to others."
- Chávez's motto was "Si, se puede." ("Yes, it can be done.") He proved it to be true. His work for fair treatment of farm workers changed the lives of millions of people for the better.
- Chávez died April 23, 1993.
- After his death, he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994, by President Bill Clinton, for the work he had done.







Get to know Squanto

- My name is Squanto and I was part of the Patuxet tribe.
- I grew up hunting animals in the forest and eating berries, beans, corn and fish.
- I spent time in England where I learned the English language.
- I felt lonely and out of place in England, so when Captain John Smith asked me to sail back to the New World with him I was happy to go.
- When I returned to my village I heard that people called Pilgrims had started to settle and wanted to be friends.
- I decided to stay with the Pilgrims and help them grow crops, hunt, and fish for food.
- I taught the Pilgrim children many Native American stories, songs, and games.
- The Pilgrims had a Thanksgiving feast to show thanks for surviving a hard winter and invited me and other Native Americans who had helped them.

Teacher facts

- Tisquantum (whom the English referred to as Squanto) was born 1585. He was a member of the Patuxet tribe (which is part of the Wampanoag confederation of tribes) that lived near what is present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- In 1605 Squanto, along with Somoset, his best friend, was kidnapped by Captain George Weymouth and taken to England.
- In 1619, Squanto returned home to find his entire tribe had been wiped out by a plague (flu or smallpox).
- On March 22, 1621, Squanto met the Pilgrims for the first time. He negotiated a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe and guided them on trade expeditions and acted as interpreter between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag.
- Squanto died in 1622.







Susan B. Anthony

Get to know Susan B. Anthony

- I was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. I was the second oldest of seven children.
- I was very smart and learned how to read and write when I was only three years old.
- The 'B' in my name stands for Brownell.
- Early in my life I was a teacher.
- At the age of 16 I spoke out against slavery.
- I believed that women should have the same rights as men.
- I believed that women needed the right to vote in order to make these changes (end to slavery and equal rights for women) happen.
- It didn't seem right to me that the men I worked with were making much more money than I was making for doing the same job.
- There is a United States coin named after me. It's called the Susan B. Anthony dollar.
- I became one of the most famous women in American history because of the role I played in gaining equal rights for women.
- In the last speech I gave, I used the phrase "failure is impossible." These words are now famous.

Teacher facts

- Susan B. Anthony attended public schools until she was seven years old and her teacher refused to teach her long division. Her father began an educational program in their neighborhood where Susan, her brothers and sisters, and other neighborhood children were taught.
- After Susan B. Anthony's father's business failed, she found work as a teacher to help support her family. She taught for fifteen years.
- Susan B. Anthony joined a teachers union to fight for equal wages when she learned that male teachers were being paid \$10 a month when female teachers were only being paid \$2.50.
- Susan B. Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women.
- The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in Rochester is located in the house where she was born. It is now registered as a National Historic Landmark.
- It wasn't until fourteen years after Susan B. Anthony died in 1906 that the 19th Amendment was passed giving women the right to vote in the United States.



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