

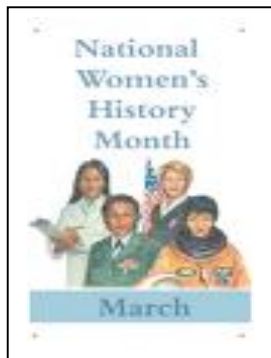
March 2014 Multicultural Connections

Irish American Heritage Month

First proclaimed by Congress in 1995, **Irish American Heritage Month** celebrates the many achievements and contributions made to American culture by persons of Irish heritage. Each year the President of the United States issues a proclamation declaring the month of March to be **Irish American Heritage Month**. <http://irishamericanheritage.com/>



Women's History Month



How did March come to be **Women's History Month**?

International Women's Day was first celebrated in Europe in March, 1911. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights were a political hot topic. Women's suffrage, winning the vote, was a priority of many women's organizations. Women (and men) wrote books on the contributions of women to history.

But with the economic depression of the 1930s, which hit on both sides of the Atlantic, and then World War II, women's rights went out of fashion. In the 1950s and 1960s, after Betty Friedan pointed to the "problem that has no name" — the boredom and isolation of the middle-class housewife who often gave up intellectual and professional aspirations — the women's movement began to revive. With "women's liberation" in the 1960s, interest in women's issues and women's history blossomed.

By the 1970s, there was a growing sense by many women that "history" as taught in school — and especially in grade school and high school — was incomplete with attending to "her story" as well. In the United States, calls for inclusion of Black Americans and Native Americans helped some women realize that women were invisible in most history courses.

And so in the 1970s many universities began to include the fields of women's history and the broader field of women's studies.

In 1978 in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a "Women's History Week" celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with **International Women's Day, March 8**.

The response was positive. Schools began to host their own Women's History Week programs. The following year, leaders from the California group shared their project at a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants were determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a National Women's History Week.

Three years later, the United States Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. Co-sponsors of the resolution, demonstrating bipartisan support, were Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah, and Representative Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat from Maryland.

This recognition encouraged even wider participation in Women's History Week. Schools focused for that week on special projects and exhibitions honoring women in history. Organizations sponsored talks on women's history. The National Women's History Project began distributing materials specifically designed to support Women's History Week, as well as materials to enhance the teaching of history through the year, to include notable women and women's experiences.

In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with wide support, for **Women's History Month**. The U.S. President has issued a proclamation for **Women's History Month** each year.

To further extend the inclusion of women's history in the history curriculum (and in everyday consciousness of history), the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America met through the 1990s. One result has been the effort towards establishing a National Museum of Women's History for the Washington, DC area, where it would join other museums such as the American History Museum.

The purpose of **Women's History Month** is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history: to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, in hopes that the day will soon come when it's impossible to teach or learn history without remembering these contributions.

Source: http://womenshistory.about.com/od/womenshistorymonth/a/whm_history.htm

Are you looking for facts about *Famous Firsts by American Women*? Thumbnail sketches on the website <http://www.nwhp.org> will provide information that can be used for daily facts or game cards. This was established by presidential proclamation to draw attention to and rectify the limited focus on women in historical studies. For the theme for the Year 2010, and for educational materials, contact the National Women's History Project.

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womensfirsts1.html>

<http://www.suelebeau.com/women.htm>

A website that chronicles milestones in Women's History is

<http://www.daretodream.org/milestones.htm>

For additional information: <http://www.history.com/content/womenhist>

Music in our Schools Month

Teachers, ask your music teacher or choral director for the lyrics to a variety of multicultural songs. Let students discover how the rhythm of the words forms a type of lyrical poem.



Have students use the song lyrics for choral reading activities, chants, or raps. Here is a website that lists songs that build an appreciation of diversity.

Lyrics and sound clips are featured on this website.

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/diversitymulticulturalism.htm>

<http://www.musiceducationmadness.com/miosm.shtml>

National Noodle Month: Honoring the Ultimate Comfort Food

Have students bring in the recipes for ethnic dishes made with noodles.

Discuss how noodles/pasta is a universal food.

www.ilovepasta.org/pdf/NatlNoodleMnthMarch.pdf



March 10 - U.S. Daylight Saving Time

Beginning in 2007, Daylight Savings Time is extended one month and begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March.

Spring Forward - Set clocks forward 1 hour

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on the First Sunday of November

Fall Back - Set clocks back 1 hour

http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/daylight_time.php



March 15th - Ides of March

The Ides of March is the first day of the Roman New Year. It also marks the first day of spring in the Roman calendar.

On this day in history, Julius Caesar was warned by soothsayers to "beware of the Ides of March".

Apparently, he did not heed the warning strongly enough as he was stabbed by Marcus Brutus on the Ides of March in 44 BC. <http://www.holidayinsights.com/other/ides.htm>



March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is believed to have driven the snakes from Ireland. Once a pagan himself, St. Patrick is one of Christianity's most widely known figures.

The holiday is based on the original Christian Saint's Feast Day also thought to be the date of the saint's death. In 1737, Irish immigrants to the United States began observing the holiday publicly in Boston and held the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City in 1766.

Today, the tradition continues with people from all walks and heritages by wearing green, eating Irish food, and attending parades. St. Patrick's Day is bursting with folklore from the

shamrock to the leprechaun and to pinching those that are not wearing green.
www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday

Are you Irish perchance? The saying goes everyone is a little Irish on Saint Patrick's Day. *Erin Go Braugh* is perhaps the most common Irish term you will hear. It means "Ireland Forever". Did You Know? Over 34 million Americans are of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland!

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/stpat/index.htm>

<http://www.irishamericanheritage.com/>

March 20th - First Day of Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons of temperate zones. Astronomically, it begins with the spring equinox (around March 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and September 23 in the Southern Hemisphere), and ends with the summer solstice (around June 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and December 21 in the Southern Hemisphere).

The Vernal Equinox is one of the four great seasonal changes every year. Day and night are equal, and the changing weather can lift the spirits of young -- and old -- alike. Don't miss this opportunity to have some fun and educate at the same time.

www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/spring.shtml

Celebrate the first day of Spring. Find ideas for crafts, games, and other activities.

<http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/marchholidays/l/blmar21st.htm>

