

CELEBRATIONS

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International Women's Day

Worksheet

1. Women of the world

a. Write the name of a well-known female for each category.

politician	_____	artist	_____
business leader	_____	designer	_____
scientist	_____	writer	_____
musician	_____	activist	_____
actor	_____	social media influencer	_____

b. Work in pairs. Compare and discuss your lists.

2. Key words and expressions

Read the article about *International Women's Day* quickly. Find the keywords in context and match them to the definitions below.

achievements	challenge	discrimination	equal	gender	stereotypes
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1. when people are all treated in the same way as one another _____
2. when you question and ask whether something is true or right _____
3. strong and simple ideas about what a particular type of person or thing is like _____
4. unfair treatment of someone because of their religion, race, or other personal features _____
5. things that people have succeeded in doing, even when the things were difficult _____
6. male, female, or other _____

demand	economic	hold public office	local	rights	support
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7. relating to business, industry and trade _____
8. help an idea or way of thinking become successful _____
9. things that you are morally or legally allowed to do or have _____
10. said very strongly that they wanted something _____
11. have a job in the government _____
12. in or related to the area that you live in _____

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International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated in many countries around the world on 8 March each year.

Each year IWD has a special theme. The theme for International Women's Day 2020 is #EachforEqual, because an equal world is a stronger world. The official IWD website says that we all should try to challenge stereotypes, fight discrimination, and celebrate women's achievements. We are asked to remember that, "each one of us can help create a gender equal world"¹.

IWD celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women everywhere. It started over a century ago, on 8 March, 1911. On that day, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, more than one million women and men came together to support women's rights. They demanded that women should be allowed to vote, to hold public office and to get proper training for jobs.

The United Nations decided to officially celebrate IWD in 1975. It is now one of the biggest supporters of women's rights and equality around the world.

In 2019, Berlin, the capital of Germany, made International Women's Day a public holiday for the very first time.

These days, there are not only thousands of large International Women's Day events such as concerts and conferences, but also many, many more, smaller local events. These smaller events often take place in places like schools, hospitals and libraries.

The IWD website offers free event packs with posters, selfie signs, balloons, stickers, ribbons, flags, pens, wristbands, and activity packs, to help local groups advertise and decorate their events and tell the world why they are coming together to celebrate and support women.

More than 100 years after the first International Women's Day, women are still not equal to men in many ways, and so IWD continues and is as important as ever.

Let's all be #EachforEqual.

Note: International Men's Day is celebrated on 19 November each year.

¹Source: www.internationalwomensday.com

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3. Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false according to the text? Correct any that are false.

1. The celebration of International Women's Day is more than 100 years old.
2. The first large IWD meetings were held at the beginning of the twentieth century in different European countries on the same day.
3. Men were not allowed to attend the first IWD meetings.
4. The United Nations officially made IWD a public holiday in the year 1975.
5. People who want to run an IWD event need to ask permission from the United Nations.
6. The last IWD will be in 2025 because women are now equal to men.

4. Discussion

Complete the task for yourself, then discuss your answers.

Which of the women you noted in Exercise 1 – or other women from history – would you most like to meet to:

- have tea with? _____
- spend a whole day with? _____
- say thank you to? _____

*I would like to spend a whole day with
_____ (name) because she ...*

5. Questions for a special woman

a. Work in pairs. Choose just one of the women you selected in Exercise 4 and write five questions that you would like to ask her.

Who?: _____

Q1: _____ ?

Q2: _____ ?

Q3: _____ ?

Q4: _____ ?

Q5: _____ ?

b. Work in groups. Tell other students who you would like to talk to and what questions you have written and why.

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6. Writing

Write 50 – 80 words about a woman you respect or admire. This could be someone from your family, a friend, a neighbour, someone you work with, or anyone else. Write why you think that she is a good role model. The words in the box might help you write your short text.

strong	kind	clever	brave	modest	intelligent	fair
generous		positive	caring	helpful	hard-working	