WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Read the text below. For questions 1-20, use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

As 1) _____ [RECENT] as the 1970s, women's history was virtually an 2) _____ [KNOW] topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public 3) _____ [CONSCIOUS]. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" 4) _____ [CELEBRATE] for 1978.

The week March 8th, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point of the 5) _____ [OBSERVE]. The local Women's History Week 6) _____ [ACT] met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week. Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special 7) _____ [PRESENT] in classrooms throughout the country and an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries. The finale for the week was a celebratory parade and program held in the center of downtown Santa Rosa, California.

Mobilizing a Movement

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, a member of the National Women History Alliance group, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by noted 8) _____ [HISTORY] Gerda Lerner and attended by the national 9) _____ [LEAD] of organizations for women and girls. When the 10) _____ [PARTICIPATE] learned about the success of the Sonoma County's Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations, communities, and school districts. They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National Women's History Week."

Presidential and Congressional Support

The first steps towards success came in February 1980 when President Carter issued the first Presidential 11) _____ [PROCLAIM] declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week. In the same year, 12) _____ [REPRESENT] Barbara Mikulski, who at the time was in the House of Representatives, and 13) _____ [SENETE] Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional 14) _____ [RESOLVE] for National Women's History Week 1981. This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the 15) _____ [ACHIEVE] of American women.

A National Lobbying Effort

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education 16) _____ [COURAGE] celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials for all of their public schools. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

Each year, the dates of National Women's History Week, (the week of March 8th) changed and every year a new lobbying effort was needed. 17) _____ [YEAR], a national effort that included thousands of individuals and hundreds of 18) _____ [EDUCATION] and women's organizations was spearheaded by the National Women's History 19) _____ [ALLY].

National Women's History Month

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the 20) _____ [RATION] to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

LIVEWORKSHEETS