



## What is Women's History Month?

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society.

The idea for Women's History Month grew out of a week-long event at a California school in 1978. Other communities and schools began holding similar events to celebrate the accomplishments of women and to note the lack of these achievements in the history books.

Why was the month of March chosen?

On March 8, 1911, the first International Women's Day was celebrated in Europe. This event was held to fight for women's voting rights. After that, suffrage (the right to vote) marches took place around North America until finally, in 1920, every woman in the United States had the legal right to vote.

Interest in International Women's Day declined during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. In the 1960s and '70s, the women's movement became more active. Women wondered why they weren't included in the history books and why there were still differences in rights between men and women.

In 1977, the United Nations officially declared March 8 as International Women's Day. In some countries (for example, China, Russia, Vietnam, Zambia), Women's Day is an official holiday where women are honored.

In 1980, 2 years after that first California school event, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. Seven years later, in 1987, when Ronald Reagan was president, Congress expanded the event to the entire month of March.

Throughout history, many women have stepped forward to fight inequality. Their work to create a fairer society has allowed future generations to enjoy more freedoms and a better life. [Women's History Month](#) honors all the women who have made that possible.

## Questions for "What is Women's History Month?"

1. When is Women's History Month?  
January   February   March
2. When is International's Women's Day?  
February 22   March 8   March 17
3. When did American women get the right to vote?  
1911   1920   1978
4. When was the first official Women's History Month?  
1977   1980   1987
5. International Women's Day is an official holiday in China.  
True   False   It doesn't say in the story.
6. Where was the school that first started Women's History Week?  
California   Scotland   New York
7. Who was president when Congress declared that the whole month of March would be Women's History Month?  
Jimmy Carter   Ronald Reagan   Woodrow Wilson
8. What does "suffrage" mean?  
female  
It's a type of dress with bloomers.  
the right to vote
9. What was the main goal of the 1911 women's march in Europe?  
equal pay  
free speech  
the right for women to vote
10. Why was March picked as Women's History Month?  
March 8 is International Women's Day.  
Many important women were born in March.  
President Grover Cleveland was born in March.