



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Women's Day began in the early 1900s. **1** Before that time, women had mainly worked at home. They cared for their families or they helped on family farms. However, in the 1900s, women in these countries were starting to enter paid work. They worked mostly in cloth factories.

2 And the working conditions were very poor. These factories were not very safe. And the workers had to work long hours. At this time trade unions were developing. These groups worked to protect the rights of all workers. **3**

Women also joined these protests. They protested the poor treatment of women factory workers. The Social-Political Party formed a women's national committee. This group called for the party to give one day each year to women. **4**

In the year 1910, Women's Day celebrations became more popular. Many women joined the protests in the USA. Some of these women to the International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in Denmark. They planned to suggest that Women's Day become an international event.

Other women fought for the right to vote. **5** She proposed that women throughout the world should unite for their rights. They should do this on a particular day each year. Many countries celebrated International Women's Day on March the 8th, 1911.

Over time, women have gained many rights; they gained the right to vote. And they gained many other rights too.

6 In some places, like Russia, no one has to work. In other places, like China, only women get a day off. Even in places where Women's Day is not a holiday, people still celebrate. In Chile and Albania, men may give women small presents, like flowers or chocolate.

- A. One of these activists was Clara Zetkin.**
- B. It was a time of great social crisis in Europe and the United States.**
- C. The workers in these factories worked for low pay.**
- D. National Woman's Day began the following year, in 1909.**
- E. They organized mass strikes – the workers stopped working for some time.**
- F. Women's Day is an official holiday in many countries.**

Match the words to their meaning:

1	Care for	A	a day when you do not work
2	Factory	B	to keep someone or something safe from injury, damage, or loss
3	Conditions	C	all the particular things that influence someone's living or working environment
4	Protect	D	to protect someone or something and provide the things they need
5	Vote	E	a building where large amounts of goods are made using machines
6	Day off	F	the act of showing your choice or opinion in an election or meeting

Fill in. Use the words above:

1. their families 2. cloth 3. working
4. the rights 5. right to 6. get a

True or false:

Before 1990 women worked on farms. ()

The factories had good conditions. ()

Women in New York went on strike because of low pay and terrible conditions in the factories where they worked. ()

The International Conference of Socialist Women was in Copenhagen in Denmark.

Clara Zetkin fought for a right to work. ()

Over time, women haven't gained many rights. ()

In Chile and Albania Women's Day is an official holiday. ()