

Magnificent Mississippi Women

*developed by of the Museum of Mississippi History
a division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History*



Suggested Enrichment Activities and Program Evaluations

for

Magnificent Mississippi Women

(may be adapted for grades 4 – 9)

These activities and evaluations are to be completed after viewing the video.

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Mississippi Women Timeline

- Make a timeline of Mississippi history.
- Take the women and events that are named in the movie and place them on it. See if there are any gaps.
- Then ask:
 - Why are there gaps?
 - Weren't women doing things in these times?
 - What were they doing
- Try to fill in the gaps with women and events that shaped women's history

Other Women in Mississippi History

Who are women that are not mentioned in the movie? Look into Mississippi's past and see what other Mississippi women have made a difference in Mississippi's and the nation's history.

EXAMPLES:

Lucy Somerville Howorth

Faith Hill

Robin Roberts

Bobbie Gentry

Luisa Harris

Margaret Wade

Cat Holland

Mae Beth Carter

Winson Hudson

Nevada Barr

Sela Ward

Dorothy Moore

Sister Thea Bowman

Amy Tuck

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Untold “She-roes”

Groups of women have also played an important part in Mississippi’s history. See what you can find out about such groups. Then have the students make a movie poster to tell about their lives, struggles, etc. Have the students vote to see which movie they would want to see.

- Women at the Gulf ordinance plants
- Women in military service in WWII
- Sisters of Mercy
- Decoration Day Ladies
- Students involved in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- French cassette girls
- Female slaves
- Suffragettes
- Mississippi Federation of Women’s Clubs

Map it!

Pin a paper tag with the name of the women mentioned in *Magnificent Mississippi Women* on the Mississippi town each is from.

- See if there is someone from your county.
- If there is not, see if you can research a woman from your county to add to the long list of *Magnificent Mississippi Women*.

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Role of women in Mississippi through the years

- Make a chart with the TIME PERIODS AND WOMEN'S GROUPS listed below.
- Take the FACTS listed below and re-write them beside the group of women to which they belong.
- The FACTS can be used more than once. Just add them in where you think they fit.

TIME PERIODS AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

Pre 1800

- Native American women

1850 - 1870

- White women
- Free black women
- Slave women

1870-1919

- White women
- Black women

1920-1960

- White women
- Black women

1960 - present

- White women
- Black women

FACTS

Had to watch movies from the balcony

Gathered and cooked food

Could join the armed forces

Ran the household

Performed the housework

Farmed

Could attend college

Took care of children

Worked in the fields

Forced to work for others

Joined clubs

Could run for public office

Worked for others for pay

Took care of the home

Could vote

Worked outside the home

Could attend University of Mississippi Law school

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Name _____ Date _____

Magnificent Mississippi Matches

Write the letter of the quotation, fact, place, or thing next to the “Magnificent Mississippi” woman featured in the film.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Fannie Lou Hamer | A. “Stand by Your Man” |
| 2. _____ Dr. Margaret Lawrence | B. <i>Jubilee</i> |
| 3. _____ Judith Sargent Murray | C. International Ballet Competition |
| 4. _____ Katherine Miller | D. First woman to chair the NAACP |
| 5. _____ Fannye Cook | E. Five-time Olympian |
| 6. _____ Tammy Wynette | F. “I want to help someone else’s child go to college.” |
| 7. _____ Thalia Mara | G. First black postmistress of Indianola |
| 8. _____ Hazel Brannon Smith | H. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science |
| 9. _____ Kate Freeman Clark | I. “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.” |
| 10. _____ Margaret Walker Alexander | J. One of the first black psychoanalysts |
| 11. _____ Oseola McCarty | K. Holly Springs, Mississippi |
| 12. _____ Willye White | L. University of Mississippi Law School |
| 13. _____ Constance Slaughter Harvey | M. <i>On the Equality of the Sexes</i> |
| 14. _____ Myrlie Evers | N. Pulitzer Prize |
| 15. _____ Minnie Cox | O. Natchez Pilgrimage |

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Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ was the Jackson author who wrote a book based on her grandmother's life as a slave.
2. The artist _____ from Oxford has works of art collected by museums around the country.
3. The first woman lieutenant governor of Mississippi was _____.
4. The _____ were French orphans who were sent to the Gulf Coast to settle in the French colony of Louisiana.
5. _____ was one of the first civil rights workers. She began her fight after she was removed from a train.

True or False (Mark + for true or O for false in the blank)

1. _____ Willye White competed in a total of six consecutive Olympic games.
2. _____ Judith Sargent Murray corresponded with important historical figures, including George Washington.
3. _____ Memphis Minnie is considered the mother of blues pianists.
4. _____ Sarah Ann Dickey helped found Mount Hermon Female Seminary for African American students in 1875.
5. _____ Ellen Sullivan Woodward was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the federal director of work relief for women.

Essay Questions

1. What was the importance of Elizabeth "Betsy" Love and the property dispute her husband James Allen won in 1837?

2. Although women were legally allowed to vote in 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, there were still some people unable to vote in Mississippi. Why?

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Student Evaluation Form

*The thing I liked most about this film and activities was _____

I liked this because _____

*The thing I liked least about this film and activities was _____

Because _____

*Some new and interesting things that I learned from this program were

Please mail or fax completed evaluations to:

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Museum of Mississippi History, Education Department P. O. Box 571 Jackson, Mississippi 39205
Phone: 601-576-6920 Fax: 601-576-6981

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Teacher Evaluation Form

1. Total number of students participating: _____
2. What was the age or grade of the students? _____
3. In your opinion, did this film and activities elicit better-than-average student response? _____

4. Did any of the segments of this film exceed your students' attention span?

5. Will this film and activities be of assistance in developing future classroom activities on this subject?

6. Did this film and activities add to your earlier teaching on the same subject? If so, in what way(s)?

7. How do you think this program could be improved? _____

8. Are there other topics/films you would like to have us develop for outreach?

9. Additional comments? _____

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Role of women in Mississippi through the years

ANSWER KEY

Pre 1800				
Native American				
Gathered and cooked food Took care of the children		Farmed Performed the housework		Took care of the home
1840 – 1870				
White women				
Ran the household Performed the housework		Farmed Could work for others for pay		
Free black women				
Ran the household Performed the housework		Farmed Could work for others for pay		
Slave women				
Forced to work for others Worked in the fields		Performed the housework Took care of the children		
1870 – 1919				
White women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college Joined clubs		Took care of children Worked outside the home Could attend the University of Mississippi Law School	
Black women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college (black colleges only) Joined clubs		Joined clubs Took care of children	
1920 – 1960				
White women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college Joined clubs	Worked outside the home Could vote Could attend the University of Mississippi Law School	Could run for public offices Could join the armed forces	Took care of children
Black women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college (black colleges only) Joined clubs		Could join the armed forces Took care of children	
1960 – present				
White women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college Joined clubs	Worked outside the home Could vote Could attend the University of Mississippi Law School	Could run for public offices Could join the armed forces	Took care of children
Black women				
Ran the household Performed the housework Farmed	Could work for others for pay Could attend college Joined clubs	Worked outside the home Could vote Could attend the University of Mississippi Law School	Could run for public offices Could join the armed forces	Took care of children

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ANSWER KEY

Fill in the Blanks

1. Margaret Walker Alexander was the Jackson author who wrote a book based on her grandmother's life as a slave.
2. The artist Theora Hamblett from Oxford has works of art collected by museums around the country.
3. The first woman lieutenant governor of Mississippi was Evelyn Gandy.
4. The cassette girls were French orphans who were sent to Gulf Coast to settle in the French colony of Louisiana.
5. Ida B. Wells-Barnett was one of the first civil rights workers. She began her fight after she was removed from a train.

True or False (Mark + for true or O for false in the blank)

1. O Willye White competed in a total of six consecutive Olympic games.
2. + Judith Sargent Murray corresponded with important historical figures, including George Washington.
3. O Memphis Minnie is considered the mother of blues pianists.
4. + Sarah Ann Dickey helped found Mount Hermon Female Seminary for African American students in 1875.
5. + Ellen Sullivan Woodward was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the federal director of work relief for women.

Essay Questions

1. What was the importance of Elizabeth "Betsy" Love and the property dispute her husband James Allen won in 1837?

Although the law was passed as a way for men to protect their property by hiding it within their wives' assets, the law was the first in the country to recognize the right of women to hold property.

2. Although women were legally allowed to vote in 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, there were still some people unable to vote in Mississippi. Why?

Poor whites and blacks were disenfranchised by the Mississippi 1890 Constitution, which applied a poll tax, a literacy test, and registration with a county official. These laws kept the poorer people of the state - men and women - from voting. Intimidation tactics were also used against the black citizens who tried to vote. This disenfranchisement lasted into the 1960s when the civil rights movement overcame many of these injustices.

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Magnificent Mississippi Matches

ANSWER KEY

Write the letter of the quotation, fact, place, or thing next to the “Magnificent Mississippi” woman featured in the film.

- I Fannie Lou Hamer
 - J Dr. Margaret Lawrence
 - M Judith Sargent Murray
 - O Katherine Miller
 - H Fanny Cook
 - A Tammy Wynette
 - C Thalia Mara
 - N Hazel Brannon Smith
 - K Kate Freeman Clark
 - B Margaret Walker Alexander
 - F Oseola McCarty
 - E Willye White
 - L Constance Slaughter Harvey
 - D Myrlie Evers
 - G Minnie Cox
- A. “Stand by Your Man”
 - B. *Jubilee*
 - C. International Ballet Competition
 - D. First woman to chair the NAACP
 - E. Five-time Olympian
 - F. “I want to help someone else’s child go to college.”
 - G. First black postmistress of Indianola
 - H. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
 - I. “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.”
 - J. One of the first black psychoanalysts
 - K. Holly Springs, Mississippi
 - L. University of Mississippi Law School
 - M. *On the Equality of the Sexes*
 - N. Pulitzer Prize
 - O. Natchez Pilgrimage