U.S. Women’s History

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932?
   - A. Amelia Earhart
   - B. Bessie Coleman
   - C. Jacqueline Cochran
   - D. Harriet Quimby

   Correct answer: A. Amelia Earhart
   Earhart made the solo crossing in a Lockheed Vega. The aircraft is now in the National Air and Space Museum.

2. Which astronaut became the first American woman in space on a 1983 Challenger mission?
   - A. Kathryn Sullivan
   - B. Judith Resnik
   - C. Sally Ride
   - D. Mae Jemison

   Correct answer: C. Sally Ride
   Ride flew as a mission specialist on STS-7 in June 1983.

3. Who became the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, representing Montana in the House?
   - A. Margaret Chase Smith
   - B. Jeannette Rankin
   - C. Patsy Mink
   - D. Shirley Chisholm

   Correct answer: B. Jeannette Rankin
   Montana elected Rankin to the House in 1916. She took her seat the following year.

4. Which Shoshone woman helped the Lewis and Clark expedition communicate during its journey west?
   - A. Zitkála-Šá
   - B. Sarah Winnemucca
   - C. Wilma Mankiller
   - D. Sacagawea

   Correct answer: D. Sacagawea
   Sacagawea helped the expedition communicate with Shoshone people. Her language skills were an important part of her contribution.

5. Which document did participants adopt at the 1848 women's rights convention in Seneca Falls?

A. The Seneca Falls Peace Treaty
B. Declaration of Sentiments
C. A completed Equal Rights Amendment
D. The Emancipation Proclamation

Correct answer: B. Declaration of Sentiments
The Declaration of Sentiments listed grievances and called for changes to women's rights and opportunities.

6. A 1933 appointment record names the first woman to serve in a U.S. president's Cabinet. Who became Secretary of Labor?

A. Frances Perkins
B. Eleanor Roosevelt
C. Jane Addams
D. Mary Anderson

Correct answer: A. Frances Perkins
Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Perkins as Labor Secretary. She served throughout his presidency.

7. A museum displays hair-care products sold by a company built with a network of trained sales agents. Which entrepreneur founded that company?

A. Estée Lauder
B. Lydia Pinkham
C. Elizabeth Arden
D. Madam C. J. Walker

Correct answer: D. Madam C. J. Walker
Walker developed a hair-care business and trained agents to sell its products. The agent network helped her business reach customers.

8. A 1960 Olympic record lists women's gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and 4 × 100-meter relay. Which U.S. sprinter won all three?

A. Alice Coachman
B. Althea Gibson
C. Wilma Rudolph
D. Wyomia Tyus

Correct answer: C. Wilma Rudolph
Rudolph won the two individual sprints and ran on the U.S. relay team that won gold in Rome.

9. A collection traces an Osage dancer's career as a leading ballerina with New York City Ballet. Whose career does it describe?

A. Maria Tallchief
B. Martha Graham
C. Katherine Dunham
D. Agnes de Mille

Correct answer: A. Maria Tallchief
Tallchief was a member of the Osage Nation and became a leading dancer with New York City Ballet.

10. Grace Hopper's oral history describes her work on early compilers. What problem does compiler development address?

A. Finding errors in a printed arithmetic table by hand
B. Saving punched cards from damage caused by light
C. Increasing a processor's physical clock speed
D. Translating program instructions into a form the computer can execute

Correct answer: D. Translating program instructions into a form the computer can execute
Compiler work helped automate the translation of instructions for a machine. Hopper was among the pioneers of that approach.

11. A World War II service file changes a unit's designation from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to the Women's Army Corps in 1943. Why did that change matter?

A. The unit ended military service and joined a civilian agency.
B. The unit transferred from the Army to the Navy.
C. Members gained Army military status instead of auxiliary status.
D. The unit moved all its personnel to combat infantry positions.

Correct answer: C. Members gained Army military status instead of auxiliary status.
The 1943 law created the WAC as part of the Army. That gave its members military status, a distinction from the earlier auxiliary.

12. Two jobs in a 1963 record have different titles. Which comparison matters under the Equal Pay Act's original standard for equal work?

A. Whether the employees chose the same title for their jobs
B. The skill, effort, and responsibility required under similar working conditions
C. How long each job title had appeared in the payroll system
D. Whether both employees came from the same training program

Correct answer: B. The skill, effort, and responsibility required under similar working conditions
The law compares work requiring equal skill, effort, and responsibility under similar conditions. It also specifies exceptions, such as a seniority system.

13. Mary Jackson needed permission to attend classes at a segregated high school before her 1958 promotion at NASA. What barrier was she working to overcome?

A. A refusal to recognize engineering work as a career field
B. A rule that engineers could never take courses at night
C. A requirement that all engineers be licensed aircraft pilots
D. Restricted access to the courses she needed to qualify as an engineer

Correct answer: D. Restricted access to the courses she needed to qualify as an engineer
The required night courses were held at a segregated school. Jackson gained permission to attend, completed the training, and became an engineer.

14. A historian pairs school records with autobiographical writing by Yankton Dakota author Zitkála-Šá. What can her writing help the historian understand most directly?

A. How she remembered and described her own schooling
B. How many children enrolled in every school in the state
C. What all officials said at meetings she never attended
D. How every student felt about the same school rules

Correct answer: A. How she remembered and described her own schooling
Zitkála-Šá wrote about her childhood and schooling from her own perspective. Her account adds experiences that an enrollment record cannot supply.

15. An exhibit labels Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments ‘a rule for varsity sports only.’ Which correction best reflects the original law's scope?

A. It guaranteed the same admission decision to every school applicant.
B. It addressed sex discrimination only in employment by federal agencies.
C. It addressed sex discrimination in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.
D. It applied only to federally funded intercollegiate sports teams.

Correct answer: C. It addressed sex discrimination in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.
The statute's wording covers education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, subject to stated exceptions. Athletics is one area within that broader scope.