

A Lifetime of Rights

Companion Text: The Jakry Kids: Curiosity Shop, by Lin Jakary & illustrated by Ryan Olson

Subject Area & Grade Level: Social Studies, 5th Grade

Materials: Internet or library access

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify major U.S. laws that protect the rights of women
- Reflect on gender equality in contemporary society

Introduction

Read the story through once without stopping. Then, pause and ask students to reflect on the character of Marlita. Ask if they remember how old she claimed to be. (102 years-old) Ask students if they think Marlita could have been a shop owner in a city 102 years ago—why or why not?

Procedure

Ask students to think about what has changed legally in the lives of American women in the last 102 years (from 1910 and onward). Give students some time with internet or library access to complete the attached worksheet questions, and then have a brief, whole-class discussion to check their answers.

Discussion

Remind students that, in retrospect, questions such as whether or not women should be allowed to vote, or have equal access to education seem to have obvious answers. Argue that it's important to remember how things used to be because it can help you to critically assess our current society. Ask students if they can think of any current "equal rights" issues facing women. Have each student name an issue (such as equal pay for equal work, lack of political representation, etc.), and write a persuasive essay arguing why the issue should or should not be perceived as a current equal rights issue. Alternately, in lieu of an essay, you could chair a class debate about an issue, or organize students into groups and have them create skits to highlight an equal rights issue facing women today.



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1. In what year were women granted the right to vote?
2. In what year was the Equal Pay Act passed and what did it do?
3. Which part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employment discrimination on the basis of sex?
4. What did President Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order 11375 do, and when?
5. Which law expanded the number of sports available for girls and young women to play and when was it passed?
6. What did the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 ensure?



A Lifetime of Rights—Answer Key

1. In what year were women granted the right to vote?

1920

2. In what year was the Equal Pay Act passed and what did it do?

1963, made it illegal to pay women less than a man for the same work.

3. Which part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employment discrimination on the basis of sex?

Title VII

4. What did President Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order 11375 do, and when?

In 1967, made the federal government have to use affirmative action in its hiring

5. Which law expanded the number of sports available for girls and young women to play and when was it passed?

Title IX of the Education Amendments, 1972

6. What did the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 ensure?

That women could not be fired or forced to take a leave of absence if they got pregnant.

