

STEM: Celebrating Inspiring Women (9+)



Countries celebrate International Women's Day in early March.

The lessons on [Kids Boost Immunity](#) celebrate top women leaders with a passion for science or math. Historically, these were not fields of study women were welcomed or even allowed into. In the past, women's work was often credited to men or had its impact minimized when compared to the findings of their male counterparts. One result of this was that women were discouraged from entering STEM fields in both overt and quiet ways. One study called [Draw A Scientist](#), which has been repeated since its first test in 1966 showed that in the mid-60s-70s, children, when asked to draw a scientist, would draw a female scientist 0.56% of the time. Even from a young age, children associated fields of science as 'male'. Since the 1980s, children have been increasingly likely to draw a female scientist when they are younger but less and less likely to do so as they grow up.



Part of celebrating Women's History Month is to shine a light on women who created new ideas and innovations. It allows us all to learn more about a group of people who are often overlooked in history. It also allows us a chance to reflect on our society today-how it has changed and how it continues to grapple with gender equality. In this activity, you will have the chance to learn more about women in STEM as well as the challenges which still exist.

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Choose 2 of the women below and research more about their lives and accomplishments.

Elizabeth Anionwu
Ruth Rogan Benerito
Elsie MacGill
Helen Rodriguez-Trias
Rosalind Franklin
Irene Uchida

Gladys West
Brenda Milner
Edith Monture
Susan La Flesche
Helen Sawyer Hogg
Barabara McClintock

Person I chose:	
What fields of science and math did they study?	
How does this STEM field affect our daily lives (2 ways min.)	
Today, what percentage of people in this field are women?	
When and where did they live?	
What were 2 legal limitations on women at this time in history?	
What were the greatest scientific and/or mathematical achievements of this person?	
How has this person changed their field of study?	
What is one aspect of their lives or story that you	

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connected with and why?	
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How similar or different were these 2 women in terms of their attitudes, journeys, and choices? Place your evaluation on the spectrum below and defend your answer with at least 3 distinct arguments.



Very Different

Very Similar

1.

2.

3.

The Draw A Scientist test today reveals that as young people move through the school system, they are increasingly less likely to draw a woman when they draw a scientist. Think of your own experiences as well as general social values and give 2 reasons why you think this may be happening. Why do older young people draw fewer women scientists?

1.

2.

SIT Activity: Watch this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn3yqmiwKAK) *The 'gender-equality paradox' in STEM fields – BBC Newsnight*. What did you find: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn3yqmiwKAK>

Surprising:

Intriguing (I need to learn more about this):

Troubling: