



A POSTAL TRIBUTE TO WOMEN

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Research the lives of famous women whose images are on U.S. postal stamps.
2. Recognize the contributions of famous women in America's history who exemplified good citizenship.
3. Create a visual to honor an influential woman.

TEKS: SS 3.9B, 3.14A

Materials Needed: One copy of the stamp template for each student, access to research materials or websites, large index cards, markers or crayons.

Vocabulary: influential, commemorative, tribute, monuments, honor

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students how famous people are often honored (monuments, statues, buildings named after them (perhaps your school), images on stamps or coins, books written about them, etc.) What do you have to do to get one of these honors?
2. Display pictures of various stamps that honor or "commemorate" a famous person. Ask students to identify the ones whose names they recognize.
3. Assign each student one of the women. Women who are honored on stamps are found on the US Postal Service website (www.usps.com).
4. Students will discover why that woman was famous, when she lived and died, as well as other pertinent facts. Assign students to find three to five significant facts, with the more facts presented, the better their grade.
5. Using a large index card, students will create a "Who Am I?" card for the woman they studied. The card will read, "I was famous because I _____" or "I am remembered as _____." "Who Am I?"
6. Each student will read his/her card and allow the class to guess. Then he/she will tell other information discovered. If possible, enlarge a picture of the stamp for each student to show as he/she tells about the woman researched.
7. Students will then design a commemorative stamp for a woman they think should be honored. It does not have to be a well-known woman. Some may choose to honor their mothers, grandmothers, favorite teacher, etc. It should be someone whose life influenced that student.
8. Stamps should be drawn on the stamp template, colored, and include the name of the person and a value of the stamp. The stamp may include a picture of the person or a graphic which represents them in some way. Display the stamps when complete. Students may tell about the person they honored on the stamp.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students may research the process the U.S. Postal Service goes through to decide on who is honored with a commemorative stamp. An optional activity would be to investigate another category of commemoratives, such as entertainers, athletes, inventions, events, or presidents.

