

Other Books in the Series

Barack Obama
America's 44th President

Presidential Elections

The U.S. Constitution: "Sign on the Dotted Line!"

Patriotic Biographies of Famous Americans

Patriotic Projects

Young Patriot's Book of Puzzles, Games, Riddles, Stories, Poems and Activities

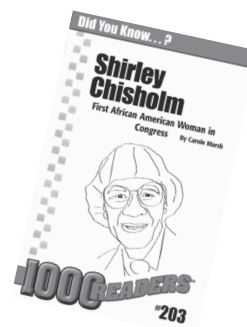
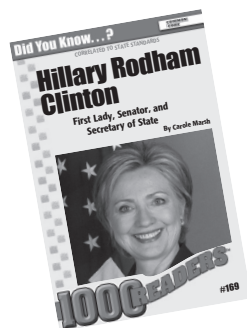
Patriotic Favorites Coloring and Activity Book

Elections Kit

Elections!, Elections!, Elections!

Readers:

Carol Moseley Braun
Shirley Chisholm
Hillary Clinton
Barbara Jordan
Sarah Palin
Condoleezza Rice
Eleanor Roosevelt



Our Woman President Won't Be The First

(Other Countries Have Already Beat Us to the Punch!)

The United States is a very competitive country. You can see it in Olympic sports, in business, and in many other ways. We like to think that we are the best, “number one,” the first. But when it comes to electing a woman to serve as our leader, we have, frankly, been left in the dust! Here are just a few of the women who have successfully led their countries:

- Margaret Thatcher, England
- Corazon Aquino, Philippines
- Elisabeth Domitien, Central African Republic
- Indira Ghandi, India
- Mary Robinson, Ireland
- Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan
- Violetta Chamorro, Nicaragua
- Isabel Peron, Argentina
- Jennifer Smith, Bermuda
- Golda Meir, Israel
- Helen Clark, New Zealand
- Edith Cresson, France
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway
- Janet Jagan, Guyana
- Milka Planinc, Yugoslavia
- Tarja Halonen, Finland
- Susanne Camelia-Romer, Netherlands Antilles
- Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh
- Angela Merkel, Germany



Margaret Thatcher



Corazon Aquino



Golda Meir

Why do you think it has taken the United States of America so long to elect a woman president, or even vice president?

The First Woman to Run for President



Did you know that a woman ran for president in America in 1872—more than 100 years ago? Victoria Woodhull was her name and she was truly unique in what she believed and how she lived her life.

Victoria promoted women's rights and other things we enjoy today like the 8-hour workday and welfare programs to help the needy. She was nominated for president by the Equal Rights Party. Her running mate for vice president was abolitionist Frederick Douglass.



suffragette: woman who worked for women's right to vote

In addition to being the first woman to run for presidential office, she accomplished other firsts:

- First woman to speak to the U. S. House Judiciary Committee. After hearing her speak on women's rights, President Ulysses S. Grant told her, "Someday you will occupy that chair," indicating his own!
- First woman stockbroker
- First woman to own her own newspaper



Woodhull was an outrageous, controversial, and confident woman. Her ideas on freedom, women's rights, love, and marriage were not to everyone's liking. However, she was admired by most suffragettes, who thought her passion helped their cause.

During her presidential campaign, she suffered from exhaustion, illness, and bitterness over how she was portrayed by her enemies. Over time, the story of this brave and **audacious** woman was conveniently left out of the history of the early women's movement.

Today, books and articles are being written about Victoria Woodhull, who once said, "Women are . . . unaware of their power. We are plotting revolution!" Perhaps she was just a woman ahead of her time?

Sonia Sotomayor

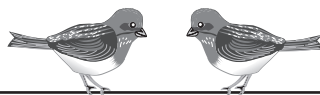
Sonia Sotomayor made U.S. history in 2009 by being confirmed as the U.S. Supreme Court's first justice of Hispanic descent. She was born to a Puerto Rican family in the Bronx, a section of New York City. One of her prized possessions as a child was a set of encyclopedias! Sotomayor has served on the U.S. District Court of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals, and taught at New York University School of Law and Columbia Law School.

Elena Kagan

In 2010, Elena Kagan was confirmed as the U.S. Supreme Court's fourth woman justice. She is the youngest member of the current Supreme Court. Kagan's career reflects her interest in law and teaching. As a senior in high school, she posed for her high school yearbook in a judge's robe with a gavel in her hand! She was a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, taught at the University of Chicago Law School, and later became the first woman Dean of the prestigious Harvard Law School.

Dianne Feinstein

Senator Dianne Feinstein is chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She has served in the U.S. Senate for more than 20 years. She made history when she was elected to her fourth Senate term in 2012 by receiving 7.75 million votes—the highest total for any Senate candidate in American history!



Think about it!

What do you think these powerful women have in common? Write down some character traits that you think they may share.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

