

March 11-17, 2007

▶ This Week's Focus:

## Women's History: The Little Rock Nine

It's Women's History Month, a good time to look back at the brave girls who helped integrate Little Rock Central High School 50 years ago. Our first lesson plan revisits their story, and two skills sheets help you bring women's history into the classroom. Our second lesson plan focuses on a new vaccine which could prevent a sexually transmitted disease from giving women cervical cancer. Should teenage girls be required to get the shots? (Use this lesson only if you feel it is appropriate for your classroom.) Finally, what 10 modern inventions would people be most willing to live without? Find out what PARADE's readers answered, then ask your students.

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*Six of the Little Rock Nine were girls. With the protection of U.S. Army troops, they became the first African-American students at Central High.*

### Everyday Newspaper Activity

**Activity # 28: Women in the News.** Scan the paper for a week. How many stories center on men? How many on women? What is the most interesting story involving a woman? The biggest? Can you draw any conclusions about women in America? In the world?

### Coming Up Next Week

- What's In Your School Lunch?
- Metal Bats vs. Wood Bats
- How to Set Goals

#### ▶ In the News:

**Women's History: The Little Rock Nine; The New Cancer Vaccine for Girls p.2**

▶ In PARADE: **Least-Wanted Devices p.3**

#### ▶ Skills Sheets:

**Women's Rights Timeline p.4; Notable American Women p.5**

## Women's History: The Little Rock Nine

**Curriculum links:** American history, social studies, civics, education

**Briefing:** This year's Women's History Month theme, "Generations of Women Moving History Forward," offers an opportunity to study the young women who helped integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., 50 years ago. In its *Brown* decision in 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was illegal, and that African-Americans had a right to an equal education. But three years later, many African-Americans were still forced to go to separate and inferior schools. When nine families tried to integrate Central High, it was a key test of the civil rights movement. On Sept. 23, nine courageous teenagers, including Elizabeth Eckford, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed-Wair and Melba Pattillo Beals, arrived at school to begin classes, but when protesters turned violent, they were forced to leave. Two days later, protected by 1,000 U.S. Army troops sent by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, "the Little Rock Nine" returned to Central High for good.

**Newspaper activity:** Choose a woman involved in integrating Central High and research her achievements. Then write newspaper articles about the events as if they had just taken place.

**Resources:** Books: Dennis Brindell Fradin's *The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine* (Clarion, 2004), Melba Pattillo Beals' *Warriors Don't Cry* (Washington Square Press, 1995), Toni Morrison's *Remember: The Journey to School Integration* (Houghton Mifflin, 2004), and Tonya Bolden's *33 Things Every Girl Should Know about Women's History* (Crown, 2002). Web sites: Visit the National Women's History Project, the National Women's History Museum, and PBS Kids for resources and more.\*

### Classroom Debates

• **Who are the most influential women in America today?** Which do you most admire? Do women in the U.S. today have all of the same opportunities as men? List the areas in which they do, and others in which they may not. In your community and school, do people have the same expectations for girls as for boys? Explain.

## Should Girls Get a Cancer Vaccine?

**Curriculum links:** Current events, health, critical thinking, economics

**Briefing:** One in four women age 14 to 59 is infected with the human papillomavirus, a common sexually transmitted virus that in some forms can cause cervical cancer, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 7.5 million women ages 14 to 24 carry HPV. Just three percent of women have one of the strains which a new vaccine, Gardasil, protects against—but that still amounts to about 3 million women overall. For the vaccine to be most effective, it should be administered before a woman becomes sexually active. The vaccine is effective for five years and can begin to work at age 9, but it has no booster, so there has been much ethical and moral debate about the appropriate age to offer it to girls. The state of Texas will require girls entering the sixth grade to get the three-shot regimen, and at least 20 other states are considering similar proposals. But some parents insist that it should be their choice whether their daughters get a new vaccine. Some medical experts say more time is needed to decide the best way to proceed with a vaccination program. Cervical cancer kills more than 3,600 women each year in the U.S.

**Newspaper activity:** Has your paper covered the debate over the HPV vaccine or vaccinations in general? Vaccination programs are often controversial. Has your paper reported on all sides of the debate? What have columnists written?

**Resources:** Books: The Boston Women's Health Book Collective's *Our Bodies, Ourselves: A New Edition for a New Era* (Touchstone, 2005) and Columbia University's Health Education Program's *The "Go Ask Alice" Book of Answers* (Owl Books, 1998). Web sites: Learn more from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Women in Government.\*

### Classroom Debates

• **Should states require girls to get the new vaccine?** Given that it's effective for five years, what is the best age for girls to get the vaccine? Should parents have the final say over whether their daughters get the vaccine? The vaccine costs about \$360 per person, and would be administered to 2 million girls each year. Is it worth the price?

\*Visit [www.paradeclassroom.com/links](http://www.paradeclassroom.com/links) for links to all mentioned Web sites.

# 10 Least-Wanted Inventions

**Curriculum links:** Business, technology, sociology, economics, family and consumer science

**Briefing:** Which modern devices would you most like to “uninvent”?

That was the question PARADE columnist Marilyn vos Savant recently posed to readers. Their responses helped her form a top 10 list of the least-wanted inventions, including: high heels; jet skis (“They. . . allow one person to enjoy a formerly quiet lake or beach while ruining the scene for swimmers, picnickers and sailors, not to mention wildlife,” wrote one reader); leaf-blowers; automated telephone assistance (“My biggest fear in life is that the person who invented this will invent something else,” another reader claimed); television (“TV has desensitized the world to violence; reduced political discourse to sound bites; fostered short attention spans, sedentary lifestyles and crass materialism; and demeaned women and fathers,” a reader complained); video games (“As a schoolteacher, I see how video games have shifted children from interaction to isolation with their controllers,” a reader told Marilyn); bass amplifiers; neckties; car alarms (“No one takes them seriously. Have you ever heard a car alarm sounding and thought, ‘Wow! Someone is trying to steal that car!’?” a reader wrote); and, finally, the cell phone. “On the plus side, they’ve made us instantly available anywhere, anytime,” a reader wrote Marilyn. “On the minus side, they’ve made us instantly available anywhere, anytime.”

## Classroom Debates

• **What inventions could you live without?**

Do you agree with the choices of PARADE readers? Do the advantages of cell phones outweigh their disadvantages? Can you imagine living without the cell phone, or any of the other inventions on PARADE’s list, like television or video games? What would you put on a list of the greatest inventions?

**Newspaper activity:** How does your paper cover annoying devices? Does it run articles about efforts to limit the use of cell phones and PDAs in schools, on planes or trains, or in restaurants or theaters? What has the paper written about the proliferation of TVs and video-game players? Can you find articles about other controversial inventions, like jet skis or snowmobiles?

**Resources:** Books: Barbara Pachter and Susan Magee’s *The Jerk with the Cell Phone: A Survival Guide for the Rest of Us* (Marlowe & Company, 2004), Stephen Tomecek’s *What A Great Idea! Inventions That Changed The World* (Scholastic, 2003), and Catherine Thimmesh’s *Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women* (Houghton Mifflin, 2000). Web sites: Learn more from the World Almanac for Kids, *Time* magazine and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.\*

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

### Should China Be Our New Ally?

**For class discussion or writing assignment:** For years, relations between China and the United States have been chilly. In 1999, we accidentally bombed their embassy in Yugoslavia; they forced down one of our military planes in 2001 and held our airmen hostage. But diplomats say it’s time for America to take a fresh look at China. Its current foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing, is the former ambassador to the U.S. and is someone who could improve relations. China is positioning itself as a rising global power. It has great influence with neighboring North Korea and sells weapons technologies to Iran. China also has become a

major participant in the global oil trade, which has involved it in the Darfur crisis in oil-rich Sudan. Experts on Chinese politics say the U.S. should reach out to Beijing and work with its leaders on key diplomatic issues. Ask students to research U.S. and Chinese policies on a major international issue—North Korea, Darfur, oil, nuclear proliferation, the environment—and suggest how the countries could work together.

**Find out more:** Learn more about China, and U.S. policy toward China, from the *Washington Post*.\*

### Answer Key:

**Women’s History Timeline (p. 4):** 1. d; 2. b; 3. b; 4. d; 5. d; 6. b; 7. b; 8. b; 9. b.; 10.

**Answers will vary.**

**Notable American Women (p. 5):** 1. k; 2. d; 3. i; 4. f; 5. g; 6. n; 7. j; 8. o; 9. a; 10. e; 11. l; 12. m; 13. h; 14. b; 15. c; 16. s; 17. t; 18. r; 19. p; 20. q.

## Time for Women's Rights

The United States was slow to grant women some basic rights. Use this timeline to answer the questions below.

1848	First women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, N.Y.
1863	The Emancipation Proclamation frees the slaves.
1868	The 14th Amendment gives black men the right to vote.
1872	Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote. First Equal-Pay-for-Equal-Work Act is proposed.
1887	The U.S. Senate rejects the vote for women.
1909	Female garment workers strike in New York City.
1917	Jeanette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to Congress.
1920	The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.
1933	Frances Perkins becomes the first female Cabinet member.
1963	The Equal-Pay-for-Equal-Work Act is passed.
1972	Congress passes the Equal Rights Amendment and sends it to the states for ratification.
1977	Indiana becomes the last state to ratify the ERA, but three more states are still needed.
1981	Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court.

- When did women win the right to vote?
  - 1848
  - 1868
  - 1887
  - 1920
- When was the first woman elected to Congress?
  - 1872
  - 1917
  - 1920
  - 1933
- How many years ago did the first woman join the Supreme Court?
  - 11
  - 26
  - 36
  - 101
- Who was the first female Cabinet member?
  - Susan B. Anthony
  - Jeanette Rankin
  - Shirley Chisholm
  - Frances Perkins
- How long did it take an Equal-Pay-For-Equal-Work law to pass after the idea was first proposed?
  - 3 years
  - 30 years
  - 50 years
  - 91 years
- Congress did not pass the Equal Rights Amendment.
  - True
  - False
- The 14th Amendment gave all black Americans the right to vote.
  - True
  - False
- Why isn't the Equal Rights Amendment in force?
  - The President vetoed it.
  - Not enough states ratified it.
  - The Supreme Court overturned it.
- Why was Susan B. Anthony arrested in 1872?
  - for starting a riot
  - for trying to vote
  - for speaking in public
  - for owning property in her own name
- This timeline ends in 1981. If you could add an event that took place since then, what would it be?
 

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## Notable American Women

Do you know the accomplishments of these great American women? If you do, match each one to her achievement. If you don't, look them up—and then match. Use whatever materials you need to find the information. Your teacher has the answers.

\_\_\_1. Clara Barton

\_\_\_2. Elizabeth Blackwell

\_\_\_3. Ellen Ochoa

\_\_\_4. Sacajawea

\_\_\_5. Frances Perkins

\_\_\_6. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

\_\_\_7. Harriet Tubman

\_\_\_8. Nellie Bly

\_\_\_9. Jeannette Rankin

\_\_\_10. Maya Lin

\_\_\_11. Jane Addams

\_\_\_12. Maria Mitchell

\_\_\_13. Bessie Coleman

\_\_\_14. Margaret Bourke-White

\_\_\_15. Toni Morrison

\_\_\_16. Marian Anderson

\_\_\_17. Yoshiko Uchida

\_\_\_18. Rachel Carson

\_\_\_19. Wilma Mankiller

\_\_\_20. Althea Gibson

a. first woman in Congress

b. first female photojournalist

c. Nobel prize-winning novelist

d. first woman doctor

e. architect who designed the Vietnam Memorial

f. only woman on Lewis & Clark expedition

g. first woman to serve in the Cabinet

h. the first black woman pilot

i. American astronaut

j. fugitive slave who rescued other slaves

k. founded the American Red Cross

l. social worker who won the Nobel Prize

m. astronomer who discovered a comet

n. current Supreme Court Justice

o. crusading reporter

p. former chief of the Cherokee Nation

q. first black tennis player to win Wimbledon

r. environmentalist who wrote *Silent Spring*

s. first black singer at the Metropolitan Opera

t. renowned children's book author