



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

WOMEN'S HISTORY WAX MUSEUM

By Daphne Greene

Activity Description

This activity is a fun addition to a standard research report about men and women who played a role in the woman suffrage movement. Once students have learned a fair amount about their assigned people, they hold a presentation day in which they each dress up like their person and stand still, as if they are wax figures in a museum. When a visitor pushes a paper button, the figures “come to life” and present short, informative presentations in the persona of the person they researched. A student-illustrated presentation board is created ahead of time and used in the presentation. Parents, other students, and other special guests are all invited to visit to the students’ “Women’s History Comes to Life Wax Museum.”

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary and middle school

Estimated Time to Complete

Varies depending on how time spent on research, completion of presentation board, and creation of costume. Much of the work will be completed at home as independent study.

Objectives

Students will

- research important people in woman suffrage history and write a two-page report;
- share important facts during a wax museum presentation; and
- use facts from research to create costumes to wear as they take on the characteristics of their historical figure during their oral presentations.

Materials Needed

- List of people who played a role in the woman suffrage movement (provided)
- Research materials (Internet, books, encyclopedias)
- Paper
- Pencils/pens
- Pictures of important people for display
- Costume materials (students can provide or create their own costumes)
- Paper “Press Me” buttons for wax museum presentations

Activity Procedures

1. Students will write a report including important facts about a specific woman or man who played a role in the women's suffrage movement.
2. Using the facts and completed reports, students will create a presentation board for display during the wax museum presentation.
3. Students will create a costume that depicts their character, and, during their presentation, recite or read aloud important facts about the person they researched.
4. During the presentation, students will become their historical figure and share facts about him or her for those who attend the "Women's History Comes to Life Wax Museum."

Key Players in Women's Suffrage:

Susan B. Anthony

Julia Ward Howe

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Lucy Stone

Carrie Chapman Catt

Ernestine Rose

Alice Paul

Lucretia Mott

Lucy Burns

Harriot Stanton Blatch

Victoria Woodhull

Gerrit Smith

Belva Lockwood

Frederick Douglass

George Francis Train

Abby Kelley Foster

President Wilson

William Lloyd Garrison

Wendell Phillips

Matilda Joslyn Gage

Sojourner Truth

Henry Browne Blackwell

Isabella Beecher Hooker