



FIRST LADIES OF THE U.S.A.

(Two 50-minute classes)

OBJECTIVE(S)

Students learn about various First Ladies and how the office of the First Lady has changed over time.

MATERIALS

"First Lady Trivia" worksheet	Poster Board
Computer/Internet Access	Markers
"First Lady Trivia" answer key	

GET READY

- ✓ Secure access to computers or computer lab with internet access.
- ✓ Make enough copies of the "First Ladies Trivia" and "First Lady Biography" worksheets for each student or pair.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Allow students to explore the Education and Research sections of the National First Ladies' Libraries (NFLL) web site.
- ✓ Specifically lead students to the Trivia page under the Research section and have them work individually or in pairs to fill out the "First Ladies Trivia" worksheet.
- ✓ Following this activity, discuss the answers. Have students choose one First Lady they are interested in to research. Each student or pair should choose a different First Lady.

- ✓ Have the students navigate to the Biographies page of the NFLL web page and fill out the "First Lady Biography" worksheet for the First Lady they have chosen. They can also use the official White House web site dedicated to First Ladies.
- ✓ Once you have checked over their answers, have students create a poster or other project about their First Lady.
- ✓ Have students give short presentations about their First Lady to the rest of the class. Students should present in chronological order from earliest to most recent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What did you know about your assigned First Lady prior to your research?*
- ★ *How have First Ladies changed over time? How have they remained the same?*
- ★ *How do you think the position of the First Lady will change in the future?*
- ★ *Do you think the First Lady should be an official government position? Why or why not?*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ★ *National First Ladies' Libraries web site:* <http://www.firstladies.org/>
- ★ *NFLL First Ladies Biographies web site:* <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/>
- ★ *The White House page on First Ladies:* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies>



First Ladies Trivia

Write the name of the First Lady who fits each description below.

1. Which First Lady was the first to have a Christmas Tree in the White House?
2. Which First Lady was the first to wear pants in public?
3. Which First Lady raised silkworms?
4. Who is the only First Lady to ever give birth to twins?
5. Which **two** First Ladies were both wife and mother of Presidents?
6. Which First Lady enjoyed watching soap operas in the White House?
7. Which First Lady worked as a professional actress?
8. Which First Lady was the first to drive a car?
9. Which First Lady was the first to appear on a postage stamp?
10. Which First Lady won an Emmy Award?
11. Who is the only First Lady ever elected to public office?
12. Which First Lady was a professional artist?
13. Which First Lady fought to end slavery?
14. Which First Lady was the first to vote?
15. Which First Lady was the first to have an office in the East Wing?
16. Which First Lady worked as a bank teller?
17. Which First Lady was the first American to respond to a telegraph message?



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18. Which First Lady never gave an interview while her husband was in office?
19. Who was the first First Lady to host a weekly radio show?
20. Which First Lady worked as a professional dancer?
21. Which First Lady graduated from college with a geology degree?
22. Who was the youngest First Lady and the first to give birth while living in the White House?
23. Which First Lady has no known portrait?
24. Which First Lady lobbied for environmental protection?
25. Which First Lady worked with deaf students?



First Ladies Trivia (KEY)

Write the name of the First Lady who fits each description below.

1. Which First Lady was the first to have a Christmas Tree in the White House? (Caroline Harrison)
2. Which First Lady was the first to wear pants in public? (Pat Nixon)
3. Which First Lady raised silkworms? (Louisa Adams)
4. Who is the only First Lady to ever give birth to twins? (Laura Bush)
5. Which **two** First Ladies were both wife and mother of Presidents? (Abigail Adams and Barbara Bush)
6. Which First Lady enjoyed watching soap operas in the White House? (Mamie Eisenhower)
7. Which First Lady worked as a professional actress? (Nancy Reagan)
8. Which First Lady was the first to drive a car? (Helen “Nellie” Taft)
9. Which First Lady was the first to appear on a postage stamp? (Martha Washington)
10. Which First Lady won an Emmy Award? (Jacqueline Kennedy)
11. Who is the only First Lady ever elected to public office? (Hilary Clinton)
12. Which First Lady was a professional artist? (Ellen Wilson)
13. Which First Lady fought to end slavery? (Mary Lincoln)
14. Which First Lady was the first to vote? (Florence Harding)
15. Which First Lady was the first to have an office in the East Wing? (Rosalynn Carter)
16. Which First Lady worked as a bank teller? (Ida McKinley)
17. Which First Lady was the first American to respond to a telegraph message? (Dolley Madison)
18. Which First Lady never gave an interview while her husband was in office? (Bess Truman)
19. Who was the first First Lady to host a weekly radio show? (Eleanor Roosevelt)
20. Which First Lady worked as a professional dancer? (Betty Ford)
21. Which First Lady graduated from college with a geology degree? (Lou Hoover)
22. Who was the youngest First Lady and the first to give birth while living in the White House? (Frances Cleveland)
23. Which First Lady has no known portrait? (Martha Jefferson)
24. Which First Lady lobbied for environmental protection? (Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson)
25. Which First Lady worked with deaf students? (Grace Coolidge)



First Lady Biography

Name of First Lady: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City of Birth: _____

Physical Description: _____

Education: _____

Occupation before marriage: _____

Date of Marriage: _____

Name of Husband: _____

Number of Children: _____

Date she became First Lady: _____

Date she stopped being First Lady: _____

Projects/Interests while in the White House: _____



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Post-White House life: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Death: _____

Cause of Death: _____

One interesting fact about her life: _____

Now, use the information that you have gathered to make a poster about your First Lady. Be sure to find a picture of her to include on the poster. Then you will present your poster to the class.