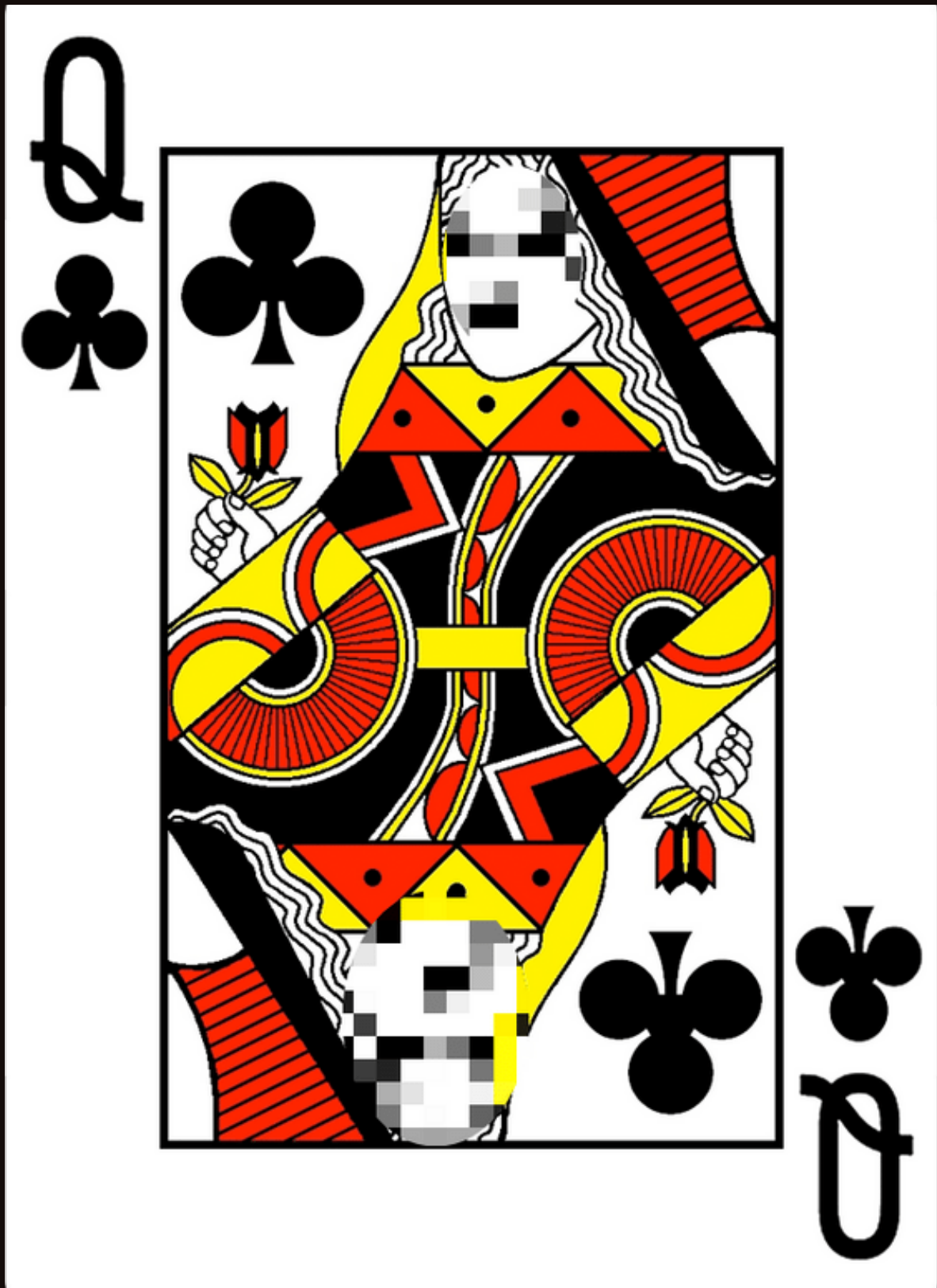


OVERSHADOWED

THESE WOMEN YOU MIGHT HAVE NEVER HEARD OF



BY THE STUDENTS OF 1°G7 & 1°G9 (2021-2022)



Lycée Jean-Paul Sartre

OVERSHADOWED

THESE WOMEN YOU MIGHT HAVE NEVER HEARD OF

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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(1G7 2021-2022)

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(1G9 2021-2022)

COORDINATED BY:

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LYCÉE JEAN-PAUL SARTRE - BRON
JUNE 2022

FOREWORD

Coffee filters, windscreen wipers, wireless devices, programming language, computer software... All these inventions, although totally different, have one thing in common: they were all imagined, created or designed by women.

Despite the importance of their contributions, many women inventors are still not recognised or credited for their work. Many historical figures are not remembered. And yet, women have always acted, ruled, written, campaigned, created, resisted... they have always taken part in our mutual history. Nevertheless, most of them are missing in our history books and our curriculums.

Manon Montagnon

Dear readers,

In this book you will find a collection of portraits of women who were forgotten through history. You will get acquainted with scientists, adventurers, artists and more... You will discover their stories, their fights, their inventions, what they faced and what they stood for.

Our goal is to highlight their achievements and shine a spotlight on their names, in order to remind people that women have played a big part in history too.

Thanks to this book, through this project led by students of 1G7 and 1G9 and coordinated by Mrs. Javori and Mr. Colonge, we hope that these women will no longer be forgotten !

Amélie Kölz & Maélie Oliver



If you scan the *QR codes* using the camera on your smartphone, you will hear a few oral comments!

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INTRODUCTION

From the prehistoric times to the present day, through Antiquity or the Middle Ages, women have long remained on the margins of a History written, transmitted and studied by men. Then minds evolved, and the women of History revealed themselves as warriors or scholars, active and independent. A myriad of them played an important part in our History, whether as leaders, scientists, artists, philosophers, activists, political figures or sportswomen. And yet we bet if you were asked to name great historical figures, you would immediately think of great men such as Caesar, Da Vinci, Copernicus, Napoleon or Pasteur. But History has not been made only by men. In fact, the most serious problem when it comes to the place of women in our History is that when they chose to assert themselves, not to be silent, thus facing the "traditional" values of a patriarchal society, they were criticized, silenced, left aside, and now we tend to forget the place they once took, the role they once played...

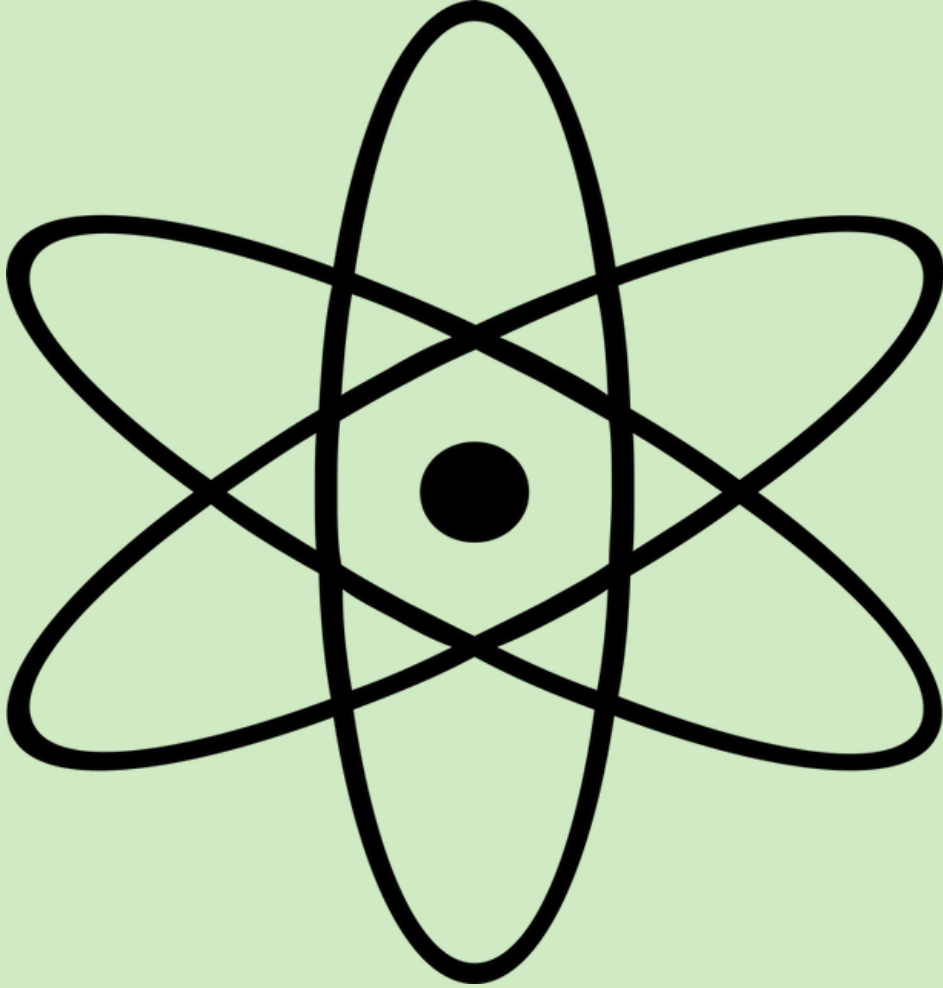
Dear readers, in this book you will find the portraits and memories of some of these women, that time, customs or mentalities have decided to keep quiet and doom to oblivion. Our purpose is to bring them back to life, to shed light on their unknown existences and achievements.

It is indeed important to remember them, whose actions have impacted our present day. They were once considered as "failed men" according to the book *Les Grandes Oubliées: Pourquoi l'Histoire a oublié les femmes*, written by the French historian and activist Titiou Lecoq, or as "inferior sex" according to Olympe De Gouges and others. Too often, their works were stolen by men, who took credit for women's actions.

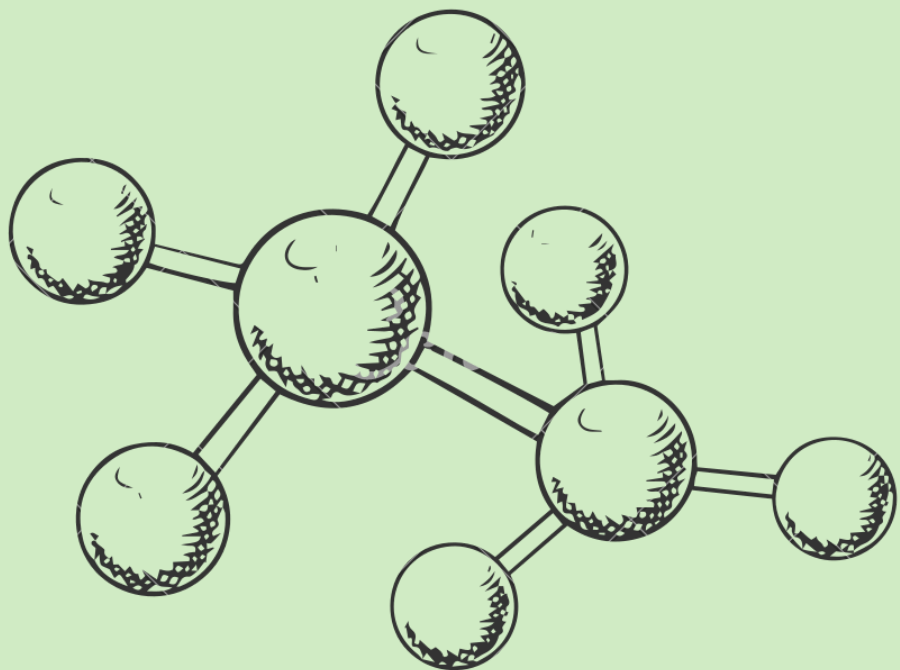
This is why their names have ended up disappearing or being replaced, erased, overshadowed. This is why shining a spotlight on their names is important.

These women deserve to be mentioned in our books, in our classes and curriculums. They have the right to be part of the numerous personalities who have made History and changed the game.

By Inès Favre & Dep Perolari



SCIENTISTS





HYPATIA OF ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria, March 415 A.D: A woman is attacked in the street by a group of fanatical monks who claim to be Christians, then dragged into a public square and massacred in a church. Her name was Hypatia and her killers wanted to erase all memory of this woman whose contemporaries praised the extent of her knowledge and the quality of her teaching.

The exact date of her birth is widely debated, but almost all accounts of her life indicate that she was born between 350 and 370 AD. She is one of the earliest female philosophers, astronomers and mathematicians whose history has come down to us. Hypatia "lived at a time of cultural upheaval", in fact, as a native of Alexandria, she lived in a city plagued by religious conflicts between Christians and followers of other religions and where philosophical and scientific activities left little place for women. As the only child of the erudite Theon of Alexandria, she was trained in the arts, literature, science and philosophy. Historians believe that Theon tried to elevate the "perfect human". So Hypatia, following in her father's footsteps, taught philosophy and mathematics at the Neo-Platonic school in Alexandria. She became one of Alexandria's greatest philosophers, admired for her innovative ideas.



Very little is known about her work. However, historians believe that she contributed to numerous publications of scientific commentaries and philosophical and scientific texts. Some sources indicate that she invented the astrolabe, an instrument capable of measuring the height of the sun and stars in the sky, and discovered the elliptical shape of the solar system. Unfortunately, no work or theory developed by Hypatia has come down to us. Is it possible that, as a woman, she could not sign a scientific text in her name? This is possible, but difficult to state with certainty. We know that she devoted her life to research: despite her great beauty, she considered herself a humanist, not a romantic. She renounced romantic relationships: Hypatia never married and probably led a celibate life (which may also have been in line with Plato's ideas about abolishing the family system).

Hypatia and her father had never adopted Christianity; were they a danger to the growing religion? Were they too free? They were called "pagans". They had become a target in a time of inter-religious conflict. As if that were not enough, for theologians she was a timeless figure of the demonic and of magic. It was not difficult to spread rumors that she was a witch: for the illiterate, mathematical signs seemed to be invocations to the devil and astronomy was easily confused with astrology. Thus, Hypatia was brutally murdered by a mob of Christian fanatics, dragged in a street and horribly tortured (they dragged her into a church, beat her to death, ripped off her limbs...). Her murder philosophical because Hypatia defended dialogue and reason against fanatical faith; political because she believes that religion must be revolted by politics and religious because Hypatia is perhaps the most painful representation of the cultural battle between paganism and Christianity. Through her personality, her particular path and her tragic end, this woman has become an emblematic figure since the Renaissance and today she represents the successful symbiosis of science, wisdom and femininity.

MARGARET HAMILTON

A COMPUTER SCIENCE PIONEER



Margaret Heafield Hamilton is an American computer scientist. She was born on August 17, 1937 in Paoli, Indiana. She grew a fascination for space during her childhood. This woman is the origin of the success of the Apollo 11 mission and of important advance in computer science. In college, Margaret studied mathematics, philosophy and physics. She graduated, and she was one of the only girls in her class.

She learnt many things by herself. She gave legitimacy to the computer science and set it on a par with other types of engineering. Between 1961 and 1963, Hamilton worked as a programmer on the US Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defence system at MIT's Lincoln Lab (Mindell 2008). As Hamilton said: "I was and still am very interested in what causes errors and how to avoid them. That was one of my very first experiences in this regard... from day one, it's been a fascination - the subject of errors..." (Hamilton, 2001). She started working for the program Apollo in the summer of 1968. It was not easy, because during this mission, Hamilton debugged and tested everything before assembly and ran systems level simulations of every imaginable condition to identify potential problems. And after this long period of tests, she decided to publish the code. Hamilton had already fought hard to include user error checking in the code, an omission that nearly led to the failure of Apollo 8.



She worked for the military project "SAGE" (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment) from 1961 to 1963, where she developed some programs to detect planes.

From 1963 to 1976, Margaret Hamilton worked for the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), developing software for the famous program Apollo. Her software was loaded to manage the navigation and the landing on the moon. Important fact: her programs saved the mission, because 3 minutes before the landing the on-board computer had too many tasks to do: it was saturated and overheating. Thanks to Hamilton's programs, the tasks were prioritized, preventing the computer to keep overheating, and the landing on the moon was a success.

From 1976 to 1984 she created the company "Higher Order Software" with Saydean Zeldin. This company developed a program which could detect errors in computer programs.

In 1986 she created the company Hamilton Technologies, which invented a new programming language named "Universal Systems Language".

In 2003, the NASA gave her the Space Act Award, for her scientific and technical contributions. It was a reward of 37 200\$, the most important reward the NASA gave to a person in the history of the NASA. In 2016, Barack Obama gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the highest rewards in the United States. Margaret Hamilton is still alive today: she is 85.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale was born on the 12th of May 1820 in Florence, Italy and died on 13 August 1910 in London. From an early age she had a desire to help others and saw nursing as her divine calling. Her family disapproved of this vocation, considering it an unsuitable profession for their daughter and telling her that she should rather follow social conventions and devote her life to being a wife and mother. Nightingale therefore refused to marry, insisting that she would follow her vocation and become a nurse.

As she wished, she became a great nurse, statistician, writer, politician and teacher of the 19th century. This extraordinary woman is mainly known for her achievements regarding health care, and her research on statistics. She was nicknamed "The Lady with the Lamp". She was interested in statistics as she frequently used them in her analysis and presentation of data regarding medical care and public health. She was a pioneer in the visual presentation of information. During the Crimean War, which lasted from 1853 to 1856 and was the first high-tech conflict of the modern era, Florence Nightingale and her team came to run hospitals for wounded soldiers in Crimea (southern Ukraine). While working in the Scutari Barracks, she discovered what has become a major scandal: more soldiers died due to preventable diseases caused by unsanitary health care than by war injuries. Indeed, she and her team noted disastrous living conditions. As a result, she started collecting and processing statistical data, such as counting the number of wounded and sick soldiers, reporting mortality rates and analysing the main factors of death.



Interesting fact:
Nowadays, the lamp is still an international nurse symbol that is widely known to symbolize Florence Nightingale and her transforming work in the nursing profession.

When she returned to England in 1856, she wanted to make her statistical results known, as well as the proposals for medical reform that followed. Her mission was to reach the people who could put her reforms into practice, who were mostly people who knew nothing about statistics. For this, one of her innovations proved to be very useful: the "rose diagram". This tool is still considered revolutionary. Indeed, it was easy to understand, and thanks to this, she could show that hygiene and sanitary conditions were cornerstones, and that hospitals needed to be restructured. She also published influential books to further expose her ideas on health care reform such as "Notes on hospital". Moreover, although the creation of the chart was what made her famous, it should not be forgotten that she contributed to the development of nursing education programmes. In addition, with her compassion, her dedication to patient care, she set an outstanding example to all nurses, as reflected by one of her well-known quotes: "Wise and humane management of the patient is the best guarantee against infection."

Florence Nightingale even went on to fund the Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, which is still training aspiring nurses at King's College London. She opened up a new profession to women, and, for this reason she is also known as 'The First Nurse'. She did this in a social context that limited opportunities for women (the Victorian Age). Her achievements were revolutionary.

ROSALIND FRANKLIN

Rosalind Franklin obtained a PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge. She discovered crystallography and X-ray diffraction, techniques she applied to DNA fibers. One of her photographs provided essential information about the structure of DNA. Other scientists (men) used it as evidence to support their model of DNA and took credit for this discovery. Rosalind Franklin didn't get any credit for her incredible work. She died of ovarian cancer in 1958 at the age of 37.

Here are further details about her life and achievements:

Rosalind Elsie Franklin was born in a wealthy and influential Jewish family on July 25, 1920, in Notting Hill, London, England. She showed exceptional intelligence from an early age, and knew by the age of 15 that she wanted to be a scientist. She pursued her education in several schools, including North London Collegiate School, where she excelled in science.

Franklin enrolled at Newnham College, Cambridge, in 1938 and studied chemistry. In 1941, she graduated with Second Class Honors in her final exam, which at the time was accepted as a bachelor's degree in employment qualifications. She then worked as a research assistant at the British Coal Utilisation Research Association, where she studied the porosity of coal, which formed the basis of her 1945 doctoral thesis entitled "The physical chemistry of solid organic colloids with special reference to coal". In the fall of 1946, Franklin was appointed to the *Laboratoire Central des Services Chimiques de l'Etat* in Paris, where she worked with the crystallographer Jacques Mering. Mering taught her X-ray diffraction, which was to play an important role in her research. This led to the discovery of the "secret of life," the structure of DNA. In addition, Rosalind Franklin was the first to use X-rays to create images of crystallized solids in order to analyze complex, unorganized matter, not just single crystals. She had a major influence in scientific research, but she was never rewarded, nor mentioned.



Rosalind Franklin in her lab, peering into a microscope.

In the fall of 1956, Franklin discovered that she had ovarian cancer. She kept working throughout the following two years, despite having three operations and experimental chemotherapy. She experienced a 10-month remission and worked up until several weeks before her death on April 16 1958.

Four years after her passing, in 1962, two of her male colleagues, named Francis Crick and James Watson, received the Nobel Prize. They received all the credit, while the name "Rosalind Franklin" wasn't even mentioned during the ceremony.

The role she played in this tremendous scientific breakthrough was forgotten.



HIDDEN FIGURES

KATHERINE JOHNSON, MARY JACKSON & DOROTHY VAUGHAN

Katherine Johnson was born in August 1918 in the USA and died in February 2020 in the USA at the age of 101. She was a physicist, mathematician and space engineer. After becoming a teacher, Katherine Johnson started working at NACA, the ancestor of NASA, in 1953 as a calculator. Katherine created very important mathematical equations which are still used today. She performed trajectory calculations for several flights of the NASA Mercury space program, including Apollo 11 where she calculated the trajectories of the mission of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the Moon in 1969. In 2015, Katherine Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama. After her passing, the director of NASA said of Katherine Johnson that "She was a hero of America, a pioneer who will never be forgotten".



Mary Jackson was born in April 1921 in the USA and she passed away in February 2005. She wanted to improve the condition of black Americans. She joined NASA as a mathematics researcher and later became an aerospace engineer: she was the first black woman to obtain this title. This gave her the opportunity to work directly with other NASA flight engineers. She led the fight against racial inequalities and actively contributed to improving the management of women and other minorities within NASA.

Dorothy Vaughan was born in September 1910 in the U.S.A and she died in November 2008 in the same country. She was an American mathematician and computer scientist whose contribution was significant. In 1943, she started working for the NACA, performing complex calculations and data analysis for aerospace engineers. Vaughan was promoted to computer supervisor in the West in 1949. She became NACA's first black supervisor and one of its few female supervisors. She retired from NASA in 1971.



Racial segregation was still enforced in the mid twentieth century. These women worked with a group of black female calculators nicknamed "the Colored Computers", apart from their white colleagues. Black employees were forced to use separate restrooms and dining rooms.

The work and working conditions of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, were depicted in a book entitled Hidden Figures, by Margot Lee Shetterly. It was adapted into a film in 2016, The Hidden Figures directed by Theodore Melfi.



WARRIORS
&
ADVENTURERS





NADEZHDA DUROVA

THE TSAR RIDER

Nadezhda Durova was born in 1783 in the Russian Empire. Her mother was disappointed to give birth to a girl and not a boy. One day, during a journey, while Nadezhda was crying loudly, her mother threw the kid through the window of the carriage that was carrying them.

This cruel act scared her father, a Ukrainian hussar. He took Nadezhda far away from her mother. In consequence, the strong little girl was raised by the Russian army. There, she grew up learning how to ride a horse, how to fight with a pistol... Her education was very different from the traditional instruction girls used to receive at that time.

In 1806, she was forced to marry. She also had a child that she did not want. Therefore, she ran away from home. She cut her hair in order to look like a man and she joined a Cossack regiment with her masculine appearance, under the name of Alexander. Nobody suspected that she was a woman. Nadezhda took part in a battle against Napoleon's army. She was an exceptional soldier.



Her talent was noticed by the Tsar himself, and he affected her to the Mariupol regiment. Having noticed she was a woman, he also allowed her to keep her male name as long as she fought for the Russian army. Nadezhda showed a real facility to fight. For example, she saved an officer's life in Poland, during the Guttstadt battle. She was thanked by the Russian government with the Cross of St. George for her bravery.

During the battle of Borodino in 1812, she was hurt because of the horrible conditions of the fight. She resigned, convinced by her father, but kept her male name and appearance. She was used to them and felt freer, since women's rights were very limited at that time. One day, she said, talking about her mother: "In her view, women should give birth and live and die in servitude." This was very much in contradiction with Nadezhda's thoughts.

Later, she wrote an autobiography entitled *Memoirs of N. A.* about her life and experience in the army. This text was read by Pouchkine, a famous Russian poet. He loved it and decided to write a laudatory preface, complimenting Nadezhda. She died in 1866 with military honors. She was the first woman to be acknowledged as an officer.

LASKARINA BOUBOULINA

A REVOLUTIONARY SAILOR



She was born in Constantinople in 1771. Her father was a captain and a revolutionary against the Ottomans. Her mother gave birth to Laskarina while she was visiting her husband in jail.

During her youth, Laskarina learnt to sail, although it was seen negatively in Greece during the 18th Century, because she was a woman. Without worrying about what other people were thinking, she learnt how to use weapons too.



She got married twice and she had six children. She fomented the Greek Revolution with her second husband. After the latter died, she inherited his wealth. Thanks to this inheritance, she had four boats built. One of the most famous was the "Agamemnon". She used the rest of her wealth on weapons in order to prepare for the revolution to come.

Some people said that she joined a secret society named "Philiki Etairia". This society was known for preparing the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman occupation. On the 13th of March 1821, a few days before the independence war began, she hoisted the first revolutionary flag on her boat. On April the 3rd of 1821, the revolution really outburst and some people started rising up against the Ottomans. Laskarina joined the 300 boats in the battle. During the fight, she lost her son.

Laskarina Bouboulina was a warrior, but she also fought against social and gender stereotypes: she wasn't concerned about the fact that she was a woman and didn't pay attention to gender roles. She played an important part in the Greek Revolution and freed her country from the Ottoman occupation.

Unfortunately, she was murdered during a family conflict in 1825.

In conclusion, Laskarina Bouboulina was a courageous woman who fought for woman's rights and for the independence of her country. That's why she is an honorable woman we should remember, although she is barely known.

By Amélie K & Maélie O



SEMIRAMIS

QUEEN OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

When it comes to Semiramis, the boundary between myths and real facts is sometimes very thin. People may say she was the founder of the city of Babylon.

Based on what we know, Semiramis, or Sammu-ramat, was the queen of the Assyrian Empire and ruled for five years, around the 9th and 8th centuries B.C. She was the wife of Shamshi-adav V, king of Assyria. After the death of the king, the empire was weakened, economically speaking. Prince Adad-Nirari (her son) was too young to sit on the throne. Therefore, Semiramis ruled as queen regent. She led the campaign against the Medes in the years 810-806 B.C. The latter, strongly impressed by this powerful queen, started building the myth. Part of the legend recovered by Ctesias of Cnide would find its origins there.

Here is what legends would say :

As a young woman, she was renowned for both her beauty and her intelligence. She got married to Omnès, a young general of King Ninos III (or Onnès, an adviser to King Ninos of Nineveh), and had two sons, Hyapaté and Hydaspé. She advised her husband so skilfully that he succeeded in all of his undertakings.

She was bold and audacious. During an expedition to Bactria, Semiramis accompanied her husband: leading a group of mountain soldiers, she seized the citadel of Bactra and its treasures. Eventually, Ninos fell in love with Semiramis and forced Onnès to commit suicide. The king then married the beauty without difficulty. She gave him a son, Ninyas. Shortly after, Ninos died and Semiramis ruled in his stead for 42 years.

Moreover, she was, according to the legend, the founder of a new city, of impressive scale and dimensions: Babylon.

According to Diodorus of Sicily, Semiramis would have erected not only the city but also its monuments: the royal palace, the temple of Marduk as well as the ramparts of the city. According to Strabo (c. 60 BCE to 20 CE), Semiramis is the originator of the fabulous Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Historical evidence does not support their claims.

Legends claim that she was transformed into a dove and taken to heaven in order to be deified there. Several versions by different authors differ regarding her death: Hygin, a Roman author of the 1st century AD, wrote that the queen would have committed suicide. Justin, a Roman historian from the 3rd century AD, claimed that Semiramis was murdered by her son. For modern mythologists, Semiramis would be a divinity comparable to the Syrian Astar.



Queen Semiramis,
by Italian painter Cesare Saccaggi (1905)

PETRA HERRERA

Petra Herrera, also known as "Pedro Herrera", took part in the Mexican revolution in the early 20th century. Almost nothing is known about her early life, until she made herself a name in a singular way as a revolutionary when the revolution broke out in 1911. She was born on June 29 1887, and died in 1917, aged 30.

During this war, women had neither civil nor political rights. One can therefore think that as a poor peasant woman of indigenous origins, and as a woman wishing to emancipate, Petra Herrera had good reasons to rally to this revolution.

In order to join the troops of General Pancho Villa, Petra Herrera, after cutting her hair, dressed as a man, bandaged her breasts, took on a deep voice and changed her name to Pedro.



Petra, under the name and appearance of Pedro, soon proved herself to be particularly capable of command, and became a formidable rifle marksman (or markswoman); as an expert in explosives, she had no equal in blowing up bridges. In order to give a full impression, every day, at dawn, Petra alias Pedro used to ostensibly pretend to shave in front of her men.

Tired of these stratagems, Pedro eventually decided to become Petra again. She let her hair grow back and said "I am a woman and I will continue to serve as a soldier". The revolutionary army recognized her services, but refused to grant her a military rank.

One of her most glorious exploits was the seizure of Tlaxiaco, on May 30, 1914, a strategically important taking in which Petra led 400 women soldiers: the "Soldaderas".

General Pancho Villa did not recognize the merits of Petra's action. In reaction to this disdain, Petra created a non-mixed revolutionary battalion of a thousand female insurgents. To ensure that none of these women were harassed at night, their camp was forbidden to men and sentries were ordered to shoot any intruder. In 1917, Petra Herrera joined forces with Venustiano Carranza. This general instituted a pension fund for the widows of his soldiers. Elected president of the Republic in 1915, the social reforms that he instilled advanced women's rights. Thanks to him, Petra Herrera was promoted to the rank of Colonel, but she was not appointed General.

When peace came, we don't really know what happened to Petra. Some say she would have worked as a spy and waitress in a bar in Jimenez, where she would have been assassinated by counter revolutionaries. According to a legend, she formed a brigade of 25,000 women and lived in a camp where no man could enter.



SCHOLARS,
PHILOSOPHERS
&
ACTIVISTS



MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

MOTHER OF MODERN FEMINISM



Portrait by John Opie, 1797

- Name: Mary Wollstonecraft
- Date of birth: April, 27th 1759
- Date of death: September, 10th 1797. She died due to complications after giving birth to her second daughter, named Mary (Shelley). Wollstonecraft's daughter would later write the famous novel *Frankenstein*.
- Nationality: British
- Occupations/status: Mary Wollstonecraft was a philosopher, a writer and a feminist.

Early life: Mary Wollstonecraft had four brothers and sisters, and grew up with a violent father who spent all the household's money in alcohol. She left home at the age of nineteen in order to work and become independent, when her mother passed away.

In 1787, by the age of 25, Wollstonecraft had opened a small girls' school with her two sisters and her friend Fanny Blood. It was a financial struggle. The school closed after Mary's friend Fanny died in childbirth. Mary Wollstonecraft moved into Mitchelstown Castle in County Cork (Ireland) to work reluctantly as a governess for the aristocratic Kingsborough family, but she was fired within a year. She returned to London, broke and miserable. But she soon found a new purpose as an author.

Influential works: She published important works, with feminist ideas, such as *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*, and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. She also wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*, during the French Revolution.

One of her most famous books was written in 1792, in France: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Mary wrote this book as an answer to the "Talleyrand's report", written by the Constituent Assembly, according to which women didn't need to be educated, except for house work and motherhood. Mary Wollstonecraft thought that women were too emotional not because of natural or biological criteria, but because they didn't have access to education: their brains were not trained. Thereby, she defended that girls needed an education based on reason. **She was convinced that education was the first step towards emancipation, because with knowledge came freedom.** According to her, men and women were equal and had to be treated equally. She called for the equality of the sexes in the public as well as in the private spheres. She also promoted and developed a system and program for national education, where schools would become mixed, because according to her, men and women coexisted in society, so they had to study together too.

We can say that Mary Wollstonecraft was a pioneer of modern feminism.

FATIMA AL-FIHRI

FOUNDER OF THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY

Fatima al-Fihri, who was born in Tunisia and was the daughter of Mohammed Bnou Abdullah al-Fihri - a rich merchant who settled in Fez with his family during the reign of Idris II, hailed from a well-educated family. Not much is known about her early life, but at some point, in the early 9th century, Fatima would have migrated with her father and sister from Qayrawan, Tunisia, to Fez, Morocco. Upon the death of her father, Fatima inherited a large fortune. She invested this wealth in founding a mosque and educational institution for the benefit of her local community. Gradually, the establishment blossomed into the **University of al-Qarawiyyin**, named after Fatima's birthplace: Qayrawan. Until the 13th century, it did not appear in any history book of the Muslim golden age, the accuracy of dates is therefore questioned by some historians.

However, Fatima al-Fihri is thought to be the founder of this university.

Established in the year 859, the University of al-Qarawiyyin is the oldest, still operating, degree-granting educational institute in the world (as recognised by UNESCO and Guinness World Records). Students from all over the world travelled to study a wide range of subjects, from natural sciences and astronomy to languages or medicine, and Fatima herself studied there. During the medieval times, this University was considered a major intellectual centre. Fatima's sister, Maryam, initiated the building of the El-Andalus mosque in 859, in Fez.



The University of al-Qarawiyyin is still in operation today, and amid its other attractions, it houses one of the world's oldest libraries. The library contains over 4000 manuscripts, including the famous historian Ibn Khaldun's 14th-century text *Muqaddimah*. The library recently underwent refurbishment, pioneered by female architect Aziza Chaouni, who worked to renovate the library and give it a face-lift.

The library of al-Qarawiyyin is now open to the public and, amongst other treasures, exhibits Fatima al-Fihri's original diploma – on a wooden board!

Interesting facts:

- The mosque has ceased to expand to become one of the most important Islamic universities.
- The geographer Al-Idrisi, the mystical poet Ibn Al Arab and the philosopher Averroès studied there.
- Its library is considered one of the oldest in the world and contains unique manuscripts including a 9th century Koran.

HARRIET TUBMAN

THE "BLACK MOSES"



Interesting fact:

Harriet Tubman will soon become the face of the new \$20 bill.

Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 on a plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland, United States. She was a slave (her date of birth remains approximative).

At the age of 6, she was "rented" to a lady, Miss Susan, who mistreated her regularly.

In 1849, fearing she might be sold, along with the other slaves on the plantation, Harriet Tubman resolved to flee. One night, she escaped on foot: she left the plantation in September and travelled by night. Later, she became a **"conductor"** on the **Underground Railroad**, a network of people, African American as well as white, offering shelter and aid to escaped enslaved people who were trying to reach the northern states, where they could be free. Tubman organized missions in order to help slaves escape from plantations in southern states, before the beginning of the American Civil War (1861-1865).

In 1850, with the help of William Still, who was an abolitionist too, she helped her first slaves escape north, to the Free States or even to Canada. For nearly a decade, she organized 19 journeys to the South and escorted more than 300 slaves to freedom. And, as she proudly pointed out, on all her trips she never lost a single passenger. She was nicknamed "Moses", as a reference to the *Exodus*, a biblical episode in which Moses helped his people escape from slavery and guided them to the Promised Land.

She was also a nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. She is considered the first African American woman to serve in the military. Later, she was a prominent supporter of the women's suffrage movement. She remains known as a famous figure of the struggle for the abolition of slavery.

Harriet Tubman is one of the most renowned icons in American history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background.

She died on March 10, 1913. She was buried with military honors in Fort Hill Cemetery.

DIANA SPENCER

LADY DIANA

Diana Spencer was born in 1961 in Sandringham, in the East of the United Kingdom. Although she grew up in a family of aristocrats, her childhood was difficult, especially due to the divorce of her parents. During all her life, Diana Spencer had to struggle to find peace.

As an ambitious woman who studied in a prestigious school and was attracted to arts, she had it all to seduce the Prince, Charles of Wales. After only ten dates, they got engaged, in 1980. At first, their relationship was envied by many people. She often made an impression with the media and the public. Everybody called her « Shy Di ». She was considered the perfect future princess. When people came to her, she distracted them, she was friendly, sociable, extravert. For instance, when paparazzi came to her, she was kind to them.

Diana Spencer used her status to lead several fights and defend several causes.

With the outburst of AIDS, in the early 1980's, men began to show a revulsion towards people who had this disease. Everyone walked away from supposedly contagious people, but that was not the case with Lady Diana. She resolved to defend these sick people, denounce discrimination and fight against diseases such as AIDS and cancer. She went to a hospital where shook hands and hugged diseased people, to change mentalities regarding their condition.

After the announcement of Prince Charles' infidelity, as an answer, she started wearing dresses that went against the rules of the Royal Family, in order to impose herself and show that she was free to make her own choices. Her goal was to encourage women to fight for their basic liberties. She took advantage of this opportunity to sell several of her outfits for several millions of pounds, which were donated to organisations fighting against the cancer.



Diana was much loved and appreciated, in England and around the world. She was committed to several causes, but she didn't have the chance to complete her achievements.

She decided to get involved in anti-war actions, with the organisation "la Croix Rouge" (Red Cross), and to visit the war mutilated. She used her influence and the media to demand a ban on weapons such as landmines and invited the whole world to join her fight.

A book was published, entitled Diana: Her True Story. This controversial book denounces the injustice and issues she had to face as a member of the Royal Family: infidelity, anxiety, depression, anorexia, misogyny... an endless nightmare for Diana. This publication led to a controversy, and the Royal Family planned Charles and Diana's divorce.

Diana Spencer died in 1997, in Paris, in car crash. The circumstances of her passing remain a mystery. There are a lot of hypotheses about this tragedy. Some think another car accidentally crashed into hers and then escaped. Others blame the paparazzi, saying she was trying to avoid them. Finally, and this belief remains popular today: some people think that her death was not accidental but planned.



MUSICIANS





NANNERL MOZART

AN OVERSHADOWED PRODIGY

Maria Anna Mozart, known as Nannerl, was born in 1751, in Salzburg, and she died in 1829 at the same place. She was Austrian and she was five years older than her famous brother Wolfgang Mozart. Her father, Leopold Mozart, was a professional musician. He composed, conducted, and taught, as well as played violin. Her mother, Anna Mozart, was a housewife.

When Nannerl was seven, her father started to teach her how to play the violin. She and her brother quickly became interested in it, and started playing other instruments. Their father realized the depth of their talent and continued teaching them over the next three years.

He took them across Europe during four years, and both virtuosos went from princely courses to private concerts, but Nannerl's little brother was always put forward.

And yet, her talent kept impressing people. She was known as a musical prodigy: indeed, during the early tours she received top billing.

Nannerl was considered to be one of the finest pianists in Europe, but sadly, when she got older, her father didn't want her to study and have the same education as her brother.



"Do not do like me, I gave up."
Nannerl Mozart

When she was a teenager her father took away her violin, although he was the one who had got her into it. According to him, she had to focus on other things, and she would never be as good as her brother, because she was a girl. Leopold Mozart then dedicated himself only to his son.

Nannerl eventually stopped playing music and touring when she turned 18, as she was expected to get married and deal with other responsibilities.

Yet, her mother died, and her father wanted Nannerl to run the household in Salzburg. Wolfgang left home in 1781, leaving Nannerl with her father and the servants. At the age of 33, Nannerl finally married Johann Baptist Franz von Berchtold, a magistrate with whom she had three children.

In a nutshell, Nannerl Mozart's story illustrates how social expectations have limited success for women and girls. She was a musical prodigy, perhaps a better musician than her younger brother, but her career was cut short because at the time, it was not considered acceptable for an adult woman to become a professional musician.

By Félisya A , Emma B & Shaïma A

DELIA DERBYSHIRE

AN UNDERRATED PIONEER



Delia Derbyshire was an English musician who was born in 1937 and died in 2001. She is known for having pioneered electronic music. Her most famous work is the electronic arrangement of "Doctor Who" 's musical theme, but she composed many things. She has been a source of influence to many international artists, like Giorgio Moroder. Her works revolutionised musical creations and influenced psychedelic and electro music. And yet, she was underrated at her time, and she remains hardly known today.



Delia Derbyshire got a degree in mathematics and music, but during her career, she was denied access to Decca Record's recording studios just because she was woman. Thanks to her efforts, she was able to join the BBC as a trainee manager in 1960. She was musically active from 1962 until the mid seventies.

Her music was really innovative, but probably too ahead of its time, and the BBC's listeners didn't enjoy it, because they thought it was weird, so she retired from the music industry.

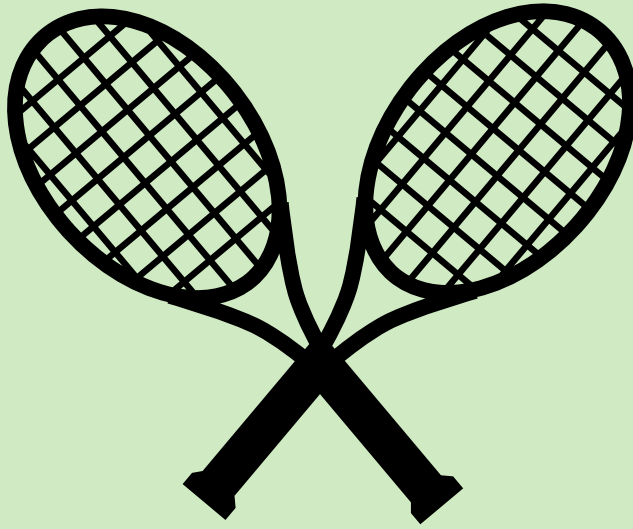
She ended up working for a museum, then a library, remaining far away from the studios.

Although her revolutionary sounds are familiar to over a hundred million people through the theme to the television series "Doctor Who" and the seminal album of 1969 "An Electric Storm", she was hardly ever credited and her name is almost unknown.

Yet, nowadays, her work is being recognized by some people, who consider her a pioneer of electronic music. In 2017, the University of Coventry , decided to give her a posthumous award in order to pay tribute to her and her achievements.

She loved classical composers such as Mozart, Beethoven and Bach.

Her music contains references to WW2 since she synthesised different sounds, such as sounds of shells, explosions, factories and workers running through the streets.



SPORTSWOMEN



BILLIE JEAN KING



Billie Jean Moffitt was born on the 22nd of November 1943 in Long Beach, California, USA. She is an American former world number one tennis player who won thirty-nine major titles through her career.

She started playing tennis when she was eleven years old, on the free public courts in her hometown. She married Larry King in 1965. He fully supported her as she started her career.



Through tennis, when she was young, Billie Jean learned that girls and boys often faced different standards.

Since the day she received 750£ after her victory at Wimbledon in 1968 while the male winner earned 2000£, she has been fighting for equality and against discrimination in sports at large.

In 1970, she and eight other women created the "Original 9", a women-only tournament in Houston. Their purpose was to take a stand against sexism and make a change in the world of tennis. They risked being banned because of this fight.

Billie Jean King is known for her performances as much as her fights.

The major event for both of these aspects of her life is probably **"The Battle of Sexes"**. This was a game that opposed a man and a woman on a tennis court. This event took place three times in history, but the most famous one is the one opposing Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, an arrogant former number 1 tennis player who pretended that even the best female player would not stand a chance against him and would definitely lose against a 55 year-old man. The game took place at the Houston Astrodome, in Texas, on September 20th 1973, in front of 20 492 spectators and a television audience of ninety thousand viewers around the world. The prize was \$100,000 (\$610,000 today). Billie Jean King won the game; three sets zero (with the scores of 6-4, 6-3, 6-3). With this overwhelming victory, she changed a lot of mentalities. She proved that a woman could easily win against a man. After the game, she said: "It would have set us back 50 years back in time if I had lost. It would have ruined the women's tour and affected all women's self-esteem." She became the first female athlete in history to win such a large amount of money in a competition, even though she was not doing this for money.

In 1987, Billie Jean divorced Larry King. By that time, she was in a relationship with Ilana Kloss, a former professional tennis player. They got married in 2018. Once Billie Jean had come out, she became an advocate for the acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community in sports and in society at large.

Though she has retired now, Billie Jean King can still be found on the courts, coaching women's tennis teams, or teaching inner city kids the elements of a strong backhand. She remains an important figure of the struggles against inequality and discriminations.

WILMA RUDOLPH

Wilma Glodean Rudolph was an Afro-American sprinter, who became a world-record-holding Olympic champion. She was born on the 23rd of June 1940, and died of cancer on the 12th of November 1994.

As a child, Wilma Rudolph had a severe condition and could not walk without an orthopedic shoe until she was 11 years old. Her determination to compete, however, made her a star basketball player and sprinter while she was in high school in Clarksville, Tennessee. She attended the Tennessee State University from 1957 to 1961.

At the age of 16, she competed in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia, winning a bronze medal in the 4 × 100-metre relay dash. In 1960, before the Olympic Games in Rome, she set a world record of 22.9 seconds for the 200-metre dash. In the Games themselves, she won gold medals in the 100-metre dash (tying the world record: 11.3 seconds), in the 200-metre dash, and as a member of the 4 × 100-metre relay team, which had set a world record of 44.4 seconds in a semifinal race. She was Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 100-yard-dash champion (1959–62). She was so fast that she would then be nicknamed the “black gazelle”. In 1961 she was the first woman to take part in the Millrose games, a competition for men only.



Wilma Rudolph used her popularity as an Olympic champion to take a stand and to denounce racial segregation and the discriminations suffered by Afro-Americans in the 1960's, during the **Civil Rights Movement**. “You grow up seeing injustice everywhere. These deep wounds won't heal,” she said.

In conclusion, Wilma Rudolph was an exceptional athlete. Despite a serious motor problem at a young age, she became the fastest woman in the world. Thanks to her growing popularity she fought against racism and inequalities. This woman is therefore perfectly in line with the topic of our study, since despite her incredible achievements she remains barely known, or even forgotten.



"I spent my life sharing what it was like to be a woman in the world of sport so that other women may have a chance to realize their dreams."

Wilma Rudolph

By Louis B & Thail B

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

LEARN AND REMEMBER THEIR NAMES

EMMELINE PANKHURST
BLANCHE CALLOWAY
BILLIE HOLIDAY
CAMILLE CLAUDEL
JOSÉPHINE BAKER
HILMA AF KLINT
ANNA PAVLOVA
FANNY MENDELSSOHN
LOTTE REINIGER
ROSETTA THARPE
BESSIE COLEMAN
ANNETTE KELLERMAN
VALENTINA VLADIMIROVNA TERECHKOVA
MARIE DE GOURNAY
CHRISTINE DE PIZAN
SAPPHO
GERMAINE DE STAËL
PHILLIS WHEATLEY
BERTY ALBRECHT
HUBERTINE AUCLERT
ELISABETH EIDENBENZ
LAKSHMI BAI
TOMOE GOZEN
HANGBÉ
HATCHEPSOUT
KÂHINA
ROSA LUXEMBURG
NZINGHA MBANDI
ZAYNAB FAWWÂZ

WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA
SOJOURNER TRUTH
MARIA SKLODOWSKA-CURIE
EDDY LAMARR
ADA LOVELACE
ALEXANDRA DAVID-NÉEL
SABINA SPIELREIN
LISE MEITNER
JOCELYN BELL BURNELL
INDIRA GANDHI
BOUDICCA
WU ZETIAN
MIRABAI
MAYA ANGELOU
THE BRONTË SISTERS (CHARLOTTE, EMILY & ANNE)
LOUISE MICHEL
SARAH BERNHARDT
GEORGIA O'KEEFE
AMELIA EARHART
HELEN KELLER & ANNIE SULLIVAN
ELIZABETH BLACKWELL
EVA PERON
RACHEL CARSON
MARY ANNING
DOROTHY HODKIN
MALALA YOUSAFZAI
NOOR INAYAT KHAN
SOPHIE SCHOLL
ANNE FRANK

AND MANY MORE...

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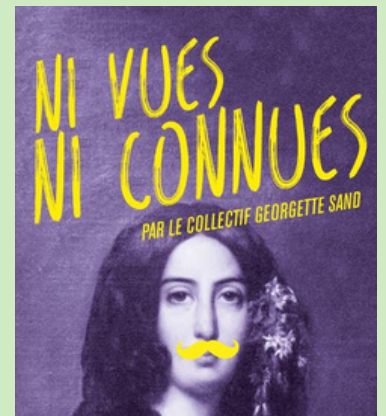
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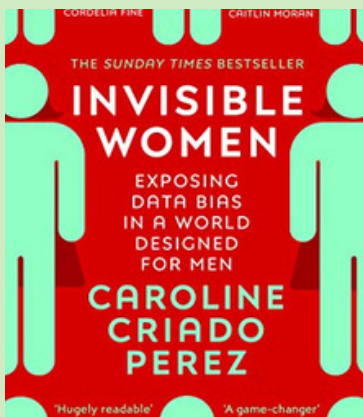
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DEAR READERS,

IN THIS BOOK YOU WILL FIND A COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS OF WOMEN WHO WERE FORGOTTEN THROUGH HISTORY. YOU WILL GET ACQUAINTED WITH SCIENTISTS, ADVENTURERS, ARTISTS AND MORE... YOU WILL DISCOVER THEIR STORIES, THEIR FIGHTS, THEIR INVENTIONS, WHAT THEY FACED AND WHAT THEY STOOD FOR.

OUR GOAL IS TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON THEIR NAMES, IN ORDER TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT WOMEN HAVE PLAYED A BIG PART IN HISTORY TOO.

THANKS TO THIS BOOK, THROUGH THIS PROJECT LED BY STUDENTS OF 1^oG7 AND 1^oG9 AND COORDINATED BY MRS. JAVORI AND MR. COLONGE, WE HOPE THAT THESE WOMEN WILL NO LONGER BE FORGOTTEN !

AMÉLIE K. & MAÉLIE O. (1^oG9)



JUNE 2022