

American women's rights heroines



Susan B. Anthony was a social activist and icon in the early women's rights movement. She was raised in a Quaker family and as a child already petitioned for the abolishment of slavery. In 1872, Ms. Anthony was arrested when she tried to vote, which was forbidden for women at the time. The trial still helped her to present the 19th Amendment to the Congress. When it was ratified in 1920, it gave all women the right to vote, and it has been named after Ms. Anthony.



In 1963 **Betty Friedan** wrote *Feminine Mystique*, a book that proved women were not happy to just stay at home. Several years later, she co-founded the National Organization of Women (NOW) and helped to organize the Women's Strike For Equality in 1970. Over 20,000 women gathered in New York to ask for equal opportunities in the workplace and in society. It was the beginning of the feminist movement in America.



Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was an American poet, singer, novelist, and activist for civil rights. She is the author of numerous books, as well as several plays, films, and TV shows. Her focus was on the lives of African Americans and women, so her books focus on racism, family and travel. Her poetry has even influenced hip-hop musicians, including Kanye West, Tupac Shakur and Nicki Minaj.



Sally Ride was the first American woman in space. In 1983, she flew on the space shuttle Challenger, with the mission to put up two communications satellites and the first Shuttle Pallet Satellite. During her entire career and life, she asked to be held to the same standards as her male colleagues. She also wrote six science books for children and worked on education projects for students who were interested in science. She received many awards, and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg is an American lawyer and jurist who has served on the US Supreme Court since 1993. From the beginning of her career, Ms. Ginsburg fought discrimination based on gender. As the Supreme Justice, she has ruled that women can enrol into the Virginia Military Institute, that mentally ill people can live in communities rather than hospitals, and that industries which pollute the environment can be sued. She participates in the ACLU Women's Rights Project, and supports the #MeToo movement.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a famous American novelist and essayist, who openly talks about women's rights, and the need to write about different cultures and experiences. She was born in Nigeria, but moved to the US to study at college. Ms. Adichie has begun publishing books almost immediately after graduating. She believes it is impossible to write non-politically, so she has become a voice in the fight for women's rights. In 2016, she collaborated on the song Flawless with Beyoncé.

Questions:

- 1 Which different fields do the six women belong to?
- 2 Who of them was (or is) more focused on the rights of African American women?
- 3 Which women (or woman) have not written any books?
- 4 Who has influenced popular musicians?
- 5 What was (or is) each woman famous for apart from their activism?
- 6 Whose life do you think was most difficult one?
- 7 Who has (or had) the most responsible career?
- 8 Can you find out about more champions of women's rights, in Croatia or other countries?