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# 33 Things Every Girl Should Know About Women's History: From Suffragettes To Skirt Lengths To The E.R.A.



## Synopsis

Here's the perfect book for anyone interested in learning more about girls and women in the United States from the 18th century to the present. Featuring contributions from a wide variety of women, including well-known nonfiction writers, a children's librarian, historians, and many more, this latest addition to the 33 Things series provides an engaging, inspiring, informative look at the role women have played in shaping American history.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Crown Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (February 12, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375811222

ISBN-13: 978-0375811227

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #526,443 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice #393 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States

## Customer Reviews

Did you know that as recently as 1972, male employees could legally be paid twice as much as females for doing the same job? Or that in the 1992 edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, only 5.5 percent of the quoted lines were written by women? It's easy now to be complacent about such rights as voting, equal pay for men and women, education, even speaking. But it wasn't so long ago that women were fighting--sometimes with their lives--for these rights. And, as this rabble-rousing collection of essays, poems, drama, photos, illustrations, and stories reveals, the many "firsts" in history (or "herstory") are entirely relevant to the lives of girls and women today. Gathered by Tonya Bolden, editor of 33 Things Every Girl Should Know and Hands On! 33 More Things Every Girl Should Know, the exuberant voices in this volume encourage young women to empower themselves with knowledge ("it's the ultimate girl power"). Girls will learn about "Beauty" "Why Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) Still Rules," and how "Title IX Helped Level the Playing Field," by a diverse group of well-known and less familiar authors, including Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Patricia C. McKissack, Abigail Adams, and Ophira Edut. (Ages 12 and older) --Emilie Coulter

The impressive, chronologically organized 33 Things Every Girl Should Know About Women's History: From Suffragettes to Skirt Lengths to the E.R.A., edited by Tonya Bolden, begins with Abigail Adams's 1776 letter to her husband, "Remember the Ladies," proceeds through Charlotte Perkins Gilman's groundbreaking "The Yellow Wallpaper" (excerpted) and includes thoughtful reflections on other leading women, such as Patricia McKissack's fictional essay narrated by Charlotte Woodward (the only woman in attendance at the Seneca Falls convention still alive to exercise her right to vote). Period photographs, quotes, timelines, bios and varied typography give the volume an attractive, accessible feel. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Bought this for both grand girls and finally got a copy for myself. It's been around for a while, but this is still an excellent book for girls--who don't learn much about women's history in school. Women's "never done" work and contributions to society remain "unsung" in so many ways, so it's important for girls to learn from the past (and ongoing!) struggles toward equality. In the current atmosphere of regressive repression, books like this are more important than ever.

This book is a great resource to my 7th grade US history classroom library. I love how many little known facts I can pull out to empower my female students as well as enlighten the males.

Even though I have studied Women's history in college, I still found some information I didn't know. For myself, reading about multicultural women and the differences they have made in the world, makes me proud to be a woman. Every woman should know their history. This book is also a quick read.

Snippets telling of the not so distant efforts benefitting today's American girls. Connects to today's political gamesmanship as relates to women's health, need to continue efforts toward equal pay. I bought it for my granddaughter, my daughter was the first reader. Women, missing in the history books, never missing in life.

Tonya Bolden has selected excellent articles, pictures, excerpts from historical documents, a journal excerpt, a poem, and a short story to help girls learn the history and perspectives of more than half of the population that have been either left out or trivialized for too long. The problem is that, with the exception of Chapter 20 "Girl Groups Mean Girl Power," these selections were not written in a style that would appeal to young girls; therefore, I don't believe that most of them would take the

time to read the entire book. Unfortunately, I wasn't exposed to any of these things until I was over 50 years old and earning a minor in Women's Studies in college, so it seems obvious to me that the information in this book should not be restricted to girls. Boys should also be learning this information that has been systematically left out of history classes. As long as books and classes continue to separate "women's" history from "men's" history, women's history will be ignored by men and boys as unimportant. I ordered this book to give to my teenaged granddaughter, but after reading it, I was disappointed that it just wasn't presented in a way that would pique her interest or that of her friends. I would love for her and her friends to read Bolden's book, but I really doubt that they would take the time.

33 things Every Female Should Know About Women's History is a charming and insiteful book. It contains 33 chapters each on a different aspect of woman's history. I was pleased to find that there were things I never thought to associate with woman's history. For example, there is a chapter devoted to National Monuments and how few are dedicated to women. It gives the locations of a few and then suggests sending for a pamphlet published by the US Government on how you can suggest a National Monument. Other chapters in this book include subjects such as magazine publishing, fashion, health issues, sports, short stories, politics and even a helpful book review. The only problem I had with the book wasn't anything the authors could have helped. Because there is such limited information on women's history, the chapters seemed to repeat the same information over and over. I do give them credit for trying to present it all in a different light though. I am definately going to pass this book on to my daughters (and sons) so that they can read about and appreciate the struggles women in the past have made so that women of the present can be free to do as they please.

I thought this looked like something I should have on my shelf. Only a few chapters into it, there is an abridged version of "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. I read this in 1999 in a Women Studies course and remembered being affected by it. However, this time it totally FREAKED me out...all the bits about creeping women and being trapped. Eek!! (Although I had just seen the horror movie "The Grudge" so that may have influenced my emotions, too). Despite my powerful response to that selection, this book is not as wonderful as I had hoped. Rather than a list of 33 top/most important things, or 33 rarely taught things, etc...it is just 33 pieces written by 33 different women. One is a poem inspired by a woman's immigrant mother, another a fictional tale of women on the frontier, etc. I mean, they are each sort of interesting, but there is little cohesion between the

pieces. And, the order seems odd. Still, makes a quick "bathroom reader" or as something to read while uploading songs to one's computer. I felt that the last third of the book was remarkably better than the first two-thirds. The pieces were more powerful and interesting, and lots of facts were introduced as well. Overall, this was not the greatest book I've read on these subjects, but it was fine. Also, perhaps this format makes these topics more accessible to someone who is not as familiar with them.

I bought this book for my granddaughter but my daughter also read it. They both agreed with me that it is very informative. This book sheds light on some less well known contributions to history by women. The list for other sources of information is really great and very helpful to encourage more research. I know my granddaughter was eager to learn more.

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