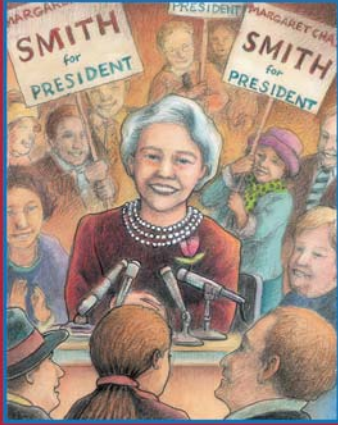


Margaret Chase Smith



A Woman for President

Lynn Plourde
Illustrated by David McPhail

Exploring Women's History Month Using Time Lines

By Lynn Plourde

inspired by her book
*Margaret Chase Smith:
A Woman for President*

About the Book

Margaret Chase Smith was the first woman to run for president on a major party ticket. This biography highlights key moments in her personal and political life. From Smith's humble beginnings to her foray into Congress to her historic decision to run for president, readers will be inspired by the feisty, independent woman who embodied the qualities upon which this country was founded.

A series of thematically organized time lines accompanies the text, providing context for the life of this extraordinary woman.

History of Women's History Month

Since the early 1900s, March 8 was celebrated as International Women's Day. In 1981, the US Congress declared a national Women's History Week in early March. Then in 1987, the entire month of March was declared Women's History Month.





Timeline Activities



Before showing students the time lines on pages 3 and 4 of this discussion guide, photocopy one, cut the facts out and separate them from the actual time line, then challenge students to put the facts in the correct order and with the corresponding date on the time line.



Have students discuss time lines about women in history shown on pages 3 and 4 of this discussion guide; a discussion could include which facts on the time lines most surprised them, which women on the timelines had they heard of before and which they had not, what recent or future developments might be added to the end of a time line, etc.

-  Have students research a famous woman in history and then create a timeline showing the highlights of that woman's life.
-  As a class, work together to create a timeline for famous women in history from *your state* showing their achievements.
-  Choose one of the timelines on pages 3 or 4 of this discussion guide, or another timeline on women in history found in a book or on a website, and turn it into a narrative format. Students will need to research and add more details to the skeletal facts found on a time line in order to turn it into paragraphs that add up to an interesting HERstory.
-  Have students each create a time line showing the history of women in their own families. They can interview older family members, search family trees, and census information. Encourage them to show what women in their family were doing during important historical times, such as the Great Depression, the World Wars, etc. But they also should include important female family milestones, such as when the first woman in their family graduated from eighth grade, high school, or college.

Websites to research Women's History Month

National Women's History Project : www.nwhp.org

Library of Congress, Women's History Month: www.womenshistorymonth.gov

History.com, Women's History Month: www.history.com/content/womenhist

Time for Kids, Women's History Month: www.timeforkids.com/TFK/whm

Biography.com, Women's History Month: www.biography.com/womens-history

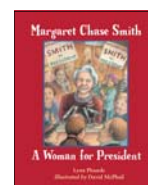
Women's History Month Books from Charlesbridge



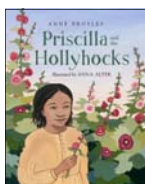
*Amelia to Zora:
Twenty-six Women Who
Changed the World*
by Cynthia Chin-Lee
978-1-57091-522-5 HC
978-1-57091-523-9 PB



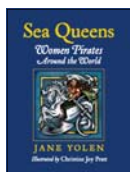
*Come Look With Me:
Discovering
Women Artists*
by Jennifer Tarr Coyne
978-1-890674-08-3 HC



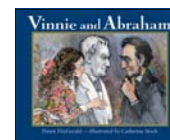
*Margaret Chase Smith:
A Woman for President*
by Lynn Plourde
978-1-58089-234-6 HC
978-1-580189-235-3 PB



*Priscilla and the
Hollyhocks*
by Anne Broyles
978-1-57091-675-5 HC



*Sea Queens:
Women Pirates Around
the World*
by Jane Yolen
978-1-58089-131-8 HC



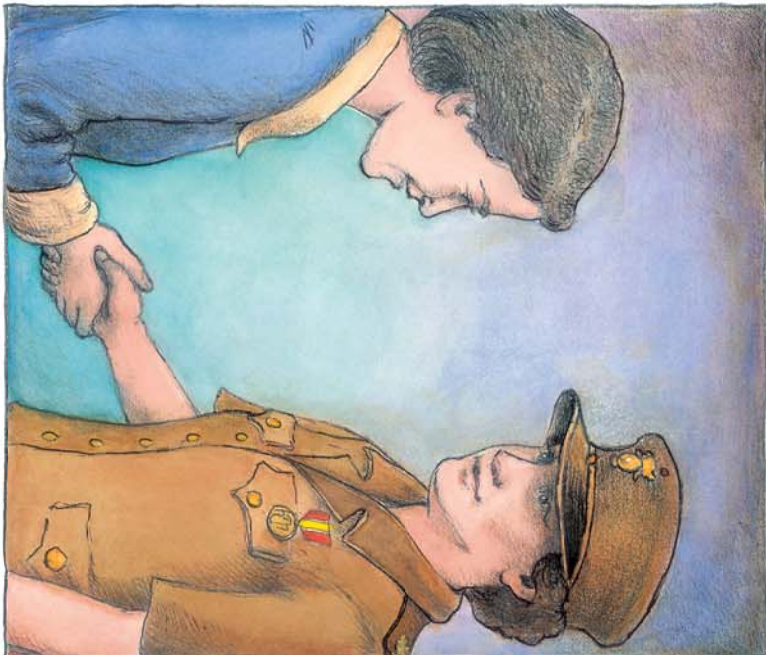
Vinnie and Abraham
by Dawn FitzGerald
978-1-57091-658-8 HC
978-1-57091-644-1 PB

Margaret was a strong military supporter. She worked to make certain that the United States would be ready for any crisis or attack. As Margaret began her senate career, she chose Major General Bill Lewis as her administrative assistant. He worked by her side as her personal and political best friend for more than thirty years.

Margaret helped women in the military receive the same status and benefits as men with her landmark legislation, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. Previously, women were considered volunteers in the military and received no benefits.

As a woman in Congress, Margaret was not expected to be a leader on military issues. But many were learning to expect the unexpected from Margaret.

What a fighter she was—one determined to defend her country.



Women in the US military

1775-1783 In the Revolutionary War, women serve as nurses, cooks, water carriers, laundresses, and saboteurs	1866 Dr. Mary Walker, first and only woman to receive the Medal of Honor	1901 Army Nurse Corps established	1908 Navy Nurse Corps established	1914-1918 Women allowed to serve as yeomen (secretarial Navy officials) during World War I	1941 Anne Fox, first woman to receive the Purple Heart medal	1941-1945 More than 400,000 women serve in non-combat jobs during World War II	1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act passed	1949 Air Force Nurse Corps established	1967 Women allowed to be promoted to admirals or generals	1975 Women allowed to enter service academies	1991 Women allowed to fly in combat	1993 Women allowed to serve on combat ships	2005 One out of seven Americans serving in the Iraq War is a woman
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The right to vote

1789 First US elections: only white adult men who own property can vote	1870 15th Amendment gives black men the right to vote	1920 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote	1924 Indian Citizenship Act assures Native Americans the right to vote	1961 23rd Amendment gives citizens of Washington DC the right to vote	1965 Voting Rights Act outlaws literacy test for voters	1971 26th Amendment lowers voting age from 21 to 18
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In 1936, Clyde was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Margaret loved living in Washington. She called on the First Lady at the White House, joined an organization for congressmen's wives, and took public-speaking lessons. Margaret seemed to be getting ready for bigger and better things.

Before things got better, though, they got worse. Clyde died suddenly, and Margaret became a widow. She was only forty-two years old. She had little time to mourn. It had been Clyde's deathbed wish that Margaret take his place in Congress. One month after Clyde died, Margaret won a special election to finish out his term. It was the first election of many during her eight years in the House of Representatives and her twenty-four years in the Senate.

What a congresswoman she was—ready to serve at a moment's notice.



US women in Congress

1917	Jeanette Rankin of Montana, first woman elected to Congress	1922	Rebecca Latimer Felton of Georgia, first woman to serve in the Senate	1925	3 congresswomen (0 female senators) serve in the 69th Congress	1950	9 congresswomen and 1 female senator (Margaret Chase Smith) serve in the 81st Congress	1965	Patsy Mink of Hawaii, first Asian American congresswoman	1969	Shirley Chisholm of New York, first African American congresswoman	1975	19 congresswomen (0 senators) serve in the 94th Congress	1989	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, first Hispanic congresswoman	1993	Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, first African American female senator	1999	58 congresswomen and 9 female senators serve in the 106th Congress	2007	74 congresswomen and 16 female senators serve in 110th Congress; Nancy Pelosi of California, first female Speaker of the House
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