

# *This Old Hat*

Women of American History



*Patriots of Liberty*

## Study Guide

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## ABOUT THE SHOW

*This Old Hat, Women of American History, Patriots of Liberty* is a one woman musical where four famous women are portrayed through music and dialogue. Women portrayed include Betsy Ross, Deborah Sampson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Amelia Earhart. (Elizabeth Cady Stanton also sings of and talks about Harriet Tubman.) The characters speak directly to the audience and there will be some audience participation. The structure of the show is four scenes or vignettes. During each vignette, one of the women is portrayed.

## PRE-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY

1. Read the biographies and discuss the five women and their accomplishments.
2. Discuss the fact that this will be a "musical." Sometimes music and song is used instead of dialogue. Have the students ever been to the theatre before? What have they seen?
3. Discuss behavior during a theatrical performance.

## BIOGRAPHIES

Following are biographies, facts and activities on each woman portrayed in the show.

### BETSY ROSS 1752-1836

Elizabeth Griscom, also called Betsy, was born on January 1, 1752. Betsy went to a Friends (Quaker) public school. For eight hours a day she was taught reading, writing, and received instruction in a trade - probably sewing. After completing her schooling, Betsy's father apprenticed her to a local upholsterer. Today we think of upholsterers primarily as sofa-makers and such, but in colonial times they performed all manner of sewing jobs, including flag making. It was at this job that Betsy met and fell in love with another apprentice, John Ross, who was the son of an Episcopal assistant rector at Christ Church.

Quakers frowned on inter-denominational marriages. The penalty for such marriages was severe. The "guilty" party, as a punishment would be "read out" of the Quaker meetinghouse. Getting "read out" meant being cut off emotionally and financially from both family and meetinghouse. One's entire history and community would be instantly dissolved. On a November night in 1773, 21-year-old Betsy eloped with John Ross. They took a ferry across the Delaware River to Hugg's Tavern and were married in New Jersey. Her wedding caused an irrevocable split from her family. [It is an interesting parallel to note that on their wedding certificate is the name of New Jersey Governor, William Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's son. Three years later William would have an irrevocable split with his father because he was a loyalist against the cause of the Revolution.

Less than two years after their marriage, Betsy and John Ross started their own upholstery business in Philadelphia. Their decision was a bold one as competition was tough and they could not count on Betsy's Quaker family circle for business. As she was "read out" of the Quaker community, on Sundays one could now find Betsy at Christ Church sitting in pew 12 with her husband. Some Sundays would find George Washington, America's new commander in chief, sitting in the next pew.

In January 1776, Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense" (These are the times that try men's souls.) This pamphlet had a profound impact on the colonials and the Revolutionary War had begun. In Philadelphia, many still felt themselves citizens of Britain. Others were ardent revolutionaries heeding a call to arms.

Guarding an ammunition cache in mid-January in 1776, he was mortally wounded in an explosion. Betsy tried to nurse him back Betsy and John Ross keenly felt the impact of the war. Fabrics needed for business were becoming hard to find. Business was slow. John joined the Pennsylvania militia. While to health but he died on the 21st and was buried in Christ Church cemetery.

In June of 1776, Betsy tells us about her fateful meeting with the committee of three: George Washington, George Ross and Robert Morris which led to the sewing of the first American flag.

After becoming widowed, Betsy returned to the Quaker fold, in a way. Quakers are pacifists and forbidden from bearing arms. This led to a schism in their ranks. When free, or fighting Quakers, who supported the war effort, banded together, Betsy joined them. (The Free Quaker Meeting House, which still stands a few blocks from the Betsy Ross House, was built in 1783, after the war was over.)

Betsy would be married again in June of 1777, this time to sea captain Joseph Ashburn in a ceremony performed at Old Swedes Church in Philadelphia.

During the winter of 1777, Betsy's home was forcibly shared with British soldiers whose army occupied Philadelphia. Meanwhile, the Continental Army was suffering that most historic winter at Valley Forge.

Betsy and Joseph had two daughters (Zillah, who died in her youth, and Elizabeth). On a trip to the West Indies to procure war supplies for the Revolutionary cause, Captain Ashburn was captured by the British and sent to Old Mill Prison in England where he died in March 1782, several months after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, the last major battle of the Revolutionary War.

Betsy learned of her husband's death from her old friend, John Claypoole, another sailor imprisoned at the brutal Old Mill. In May of 1783, Betsy was married for the third time... to her old friend John Claypoole. Betsy convinced her new husband to abandon the life of the sea and find landlubbing employment. Claypoole initially worked in her upholstery business and then at the U.S. customs house in Philadelphia. The couple had five daughters (Clarissa Sidney, Susannah, Rachel, Jane, and Harriet, who died at nine months).

After the birth of their second daughter, the family moved to bigger quarters on Second Street in what was then the Mercantile District. Claypoole died in 1817 after many years of ill health and Betsy never remarried. She continued working until 1827, bringing many of her immediate family into the business with her. After retiring, she went to live with her daughter Susannah Satterthwaite in the then-remote suburb of Abington, PA, to the north of Philadelphia.

In 1834, there were only two free Quakers still attending the Meeting House. It was agreed by Betsy and Samuel Wetherill that the usefulness of their beloved Meeting House had come to an end. At that last meeting, Betsy watched as the door was locked, symbolizing the end of an era.

Betsy died on January 30, 1836 at the age of 84.

## DEBORAH SAMPSON 1760-1827

Deborah Sampson was born in Plympton, Massachusetts on December 17, 1760 into an impoverished family. When she was a small child, Deborah's father abandoned the family leaving them destitute. At the age of ten, she was bound as an indentured servant to a family in Middleborough. Working long hours of physical labor where her "hard, outdoor work had given her the strength and endurance of a man," she still found time to learn how to read and write despite the objections of her master.

Before Deborah's indenture ended in the spring of 1781, she had concocted a plan to fight in the American Revolution and join the Continental Army as had one of her brothers. Secretly, she sewed a man's outfit for herself. Donning her new attire, she stole away into the night from Middleborough and walked westward. She enlisted in the American Revolutionary Army in April of 1781 in Uxbridge, MA.

Using her dead brother's name, "Robert Shirlieff," Deborah was known to the soldiers as "Bob" and nicknamed "Smock skinned boy," a reference to her smooth skin, which like many recruits didn't require shaving. During her time in the army, she took on several reconnaissance missions and was wounded three times, including once when she removed a bullet from her thigh so as to continue with the disguise.

Deborah witnessed the fall of Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. After the surrender of the British, her regiment was sent to Philadelphia, where an epidemic was raging, and to which she became a victim.

While unconscious from fever, she was examined by a physician, who much to his amazement, found out that she was a woman. Keeping her secret, she was soon honorably discharged from the army as a "faithful and good" soldier. However, her disguise was not looked upon favorably by her church, The Third Baptist Church of Middleborough, with withdrew fellowship from her in 1782.

Returning to her native state in 1763, she married Benjamin Gannett of Sharon a year later and started a family. In 1791, she appealed to the state legislature for compensation for her army services which she was granted, aided by a letter from her neighbor in Canton, Paul Revere. She suffered continuously during her life from an injury received in combat, and, being sickly, led a quiet life in Sharon until her death in 1827. Her husband petitioned the Commonwealth for a widow's pension which was also granted.

In 1802-03, Deborah embarked on a lecture tour through New England and New York enrapturing audiences about her exploits in the Revolution. The main attraction to her presentation included how well she could handle a weapon. A handbill at the time circulated about her announced, "Mrs. Gannett, Equipt in complete uniform will go through THE MANUAL EXERCISE." In addition to this display, Deborah also gave a speech, and, said in part about her unusual role: "I burst the tyrant bonds which held my sex in awe... with an inflexible resolve to preserve through the last scene."

Both towns, Plympton and Sharon have remembered Deborah Sampson Gannett in their patriotic celebrations. For example, in 1902, a large Centennial Dinner was held in her honor at Sharon, in the Town Hall. A toast proposed by a celebrant, Eugene Tappan, proclaimed "Deborah Sampson Gannett, among the first of her sex in the field and on the platform." Celebrations have continued over the decades in both towns. Each year,

schoolchildren in Sharon celebrate "Deborah Sampson Gannett Day" and learn about the town's patriot.

Recognition of Deborah has reached beyond Massachusetts. Her fame was popularized as early as 1797 when poet Philip Freneau penned an ode in her honor. Her exploits have been romanticized as well, especially by an early biographer, John Adams Vinton in 1866. In 1944 a liberty ship was christened in her name. In 1959, a play entitled, Portraits of Deborah, was published. Commemorative coins of the revolution have been stamped with her likeness, and at one time, a postage stamp was considered. Recently, her name has been called up in regard to the newly proposed monument honoring women in the military currently being planned for the Arlington National Cemetery. In 1989, a statue of her sculpted by Lu Stubbs was placed in front of the Sharon Public Library.

## ELIZABETH CADY STANTON 1815 - 1902

Elizabeth Cady was born in Johnstown, New York on November 12, 1815, daughter of prominent attorney, Daniel Cady and Wife, Margaret Livingston Cady.

A vivid memory from her youth was when her brother died at a young age.

"I can still recall going into the darkened parlor to see my brother and finding the casket and my father by his side, pale and immovable. As he took no notice of me, I climbed on his knee. At length, he heaved a heavy sigh and said, "Oh, my daughter, I wish you were a boy." Throwing my arms about his neck, I replied, "I will try to be all that my brother was."

"I resolved to be like his son... determined to be courageous, to ride horses, and play chess. I would study "manly subjects like Greek Math and Philosophy. I read all my fathers law books. Here I discovered the cruelty of the laws regarding women."

"My efforts to make my father proud only embarrassed him... for what I was doing was inappropriate for a young lady."

She attended Jonestown Academy until she was 15 years old. She was always at the head of her class, even in the classes where she was the only girl. Her father wouldn't allow her to go to college. She was enrolled in the Emma Willards Female Academy in Troy. She learned a lot there but found it artificial and unnatural... Elizabeth was in favor of co-education... she said, "knowledge has no sex." She graduated in 1833.

Elizabeth Cady married Henry Stanton on May 1, 1840. She omitted the word "obey from vows. She said, "I obstinately refuse to obey with whom I supposed I was entering an equal relation."

The World Anti Slavery Convention was held on June 12, 1840. Elizabeth claimed here her life long commitment to the cause of women's rights was born as she listened to the debate over women's place at this convention. That night, after she had attended The World Anti Slavery Convention, she said to Lucretia Mott, "I resolve to hold a convention as soon as we return home, and form a society to advocate the rights of Women."

Thus, Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

The Stantons had moved from Boston to Seneca Falls in 1847. Seneca Falls was a small town compared to Boston and Elizabeth found small town life oppressive. She said of her life in Seneca Falls, "My duties are too numerous and varied and none sufficiently exhilarating of intellectual to bring into play my higher faculties. I suffered with mental hunger, which, like an empty stomach, is very depressing."

Elizabeth also said, "I resent my husband's freedom while I'm confined to "the woman's sphere" to care for children and manage the home. This confinement is in all aspects of women's lives. Social, Legal and Religious."

For several years she hosted a "conversation club" in her back parlor where young men and women discussed issues of the day and socialized. She was aware of the economic insecurity of women.

Elizabeth planned the Seneca Falls Convention over Tea with Lucretia Mott, Wright, McLintock and Jane Hunt. On July 19, 1848 over 300 men and women assembled at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls for the First Women's Rights Convention. It was the first convention to discuss social, civil and religious condition and rights of women. *THIS WAS THE FORMAL BEGINNING OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT.*

said of that meeting, "Immediately, I liked her thoroughly. We were... what you call kindred spirits. For the rest of our lives we worked together."

Susan B. Anthony traveled and gave speeches while Elizabeth stayed home and wrote those speeches, provide analysis and create strategies for the movement. Susan was Elizabeth's surrogate... out in public doing the work that she herself wanted to do.

Elizabeth was deeply divided between her devotion to her seven children and the cause. Susan B. Anthony would sometimes come in and help with the children to free Stanton to write. Elizabeth sometimes took issue with Susan's demands. She'd say, "As soon as you ask too much of me I shall have another baby. Don't provoke me to that step!"

Elizabeth said of Susan, "I forged the thunderbolts, she fired them."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was five feet tall, thirty-two years old and the Mother of three. She was nervous that day... In her address she said, "The right of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any state on account of sex." This was a simple statement but Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first woman to make this declaration. She was the first woman to demand the right to vote.

She said, "It is the duty of women to secure themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise." Elizabeth believed suffrage was a symbol of women's citizenship and the tool they needed to secure all their rights. In 1848 she asked for the unthinkable. She was even at one time called "The most dangerous woman in America."

After The Seneca Falls Convention, Elizabeth stayed home and cared for her growing family while other women, inspired by her words, held other women's rights conventions. Elizabeth's husband was sometimes gone on business for ten months out of the year. She waited for the time when she could leave home and join the revolution that she began.

In March of 1851, Amelia Bloomer introduced Elizabeth to Susan B. Anthony. Elizabeth

Elizabeth wisely understood that marriage and motherhood brought her legitimacy in the eyes of the public reluctant to embrace and quick to condemn changes in women's roles.

Elizabeth was a front runner in women's dress reform. She spoke out against women's dress of the day which included corsets, hoop skirts, layers of petticoats, high heels and assorted garments that sometimes weighed more than forty pounds. Her cousin, Amelia Bloomer promoted harem like trousers with a shirtwaist and knee length dress over the pants. Elizabeth eagerly adopted this dress. She said, "For once, I could climb the stairs carrying a candle in one hand and an infant in the other... impossible in a regular dress."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton devoted her life to the Women's Rights Movement. She died on October 26, 1902.

On August 18, 1920 The Nineteenth Amendment became law and women were granted the right to vote.

She said, "My life has been one long struggle to do and say what I know to be right and true. I would not take back one brave word or deed. My only regret is I have not been truer in uttering the honest conviction of my soul."

## HARRIET TUBMAN 1820-1913

The Underground Railroad was a secret coalition of sympathetic "conductors" who housed and many times fed and clothed runaway slaves in the pre-Civil War days.

The slaves were aided by thousands of "conductors" who used covered wagons or carts with false bottoms to carry slaves from one station to another. With the help of 3,000 conductors over 10,000 slaves escaped to freedom.

Harriet Tubman was the greatest single conductor in the history of the Underground Railroad. An escaped slave herself, Tubman earned the nickname "Moses" for her heroic exploits in leading slaves to the promised land. Returning nineteen times to the dangerous South, Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom, including her own family.

The first slave she freed was herself, in 1849. Uneducated, 25 years old and living with dizzy spells brought on by a masters blow (which broke her skull as a teenager), Tubman took off, found the North Star in the sky and made her way to freedom. She then secured work for herself, working mostly in northern kitchens to raise funds for what ended up totaling nineteen successful trips into the South and back. Although the winter brought additional danger of cold and sickness, she preferred to travel these nights... the nights were longer with more darkness to conceal her.

While some abolitionists of the period spent their time arguing over the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 -- legislation enacted to force northerners to capture and return any slaves who had fled Dixie for freedom-- Tubman simply accepted that the promised land had been pushed further north. "After that" she said, "I wouldn't trust Uncle Sam wid my people no longer, but I brought'em clear off to Canada." How she arrived in Canada, and the absolute focus she had for her task made her a legend.

Silently she would sneak off, her followers hidden in a forest, to make sure each "station" was secure. Then, unsure of what had become of their guide, the slaves would hear her beautiful voice approaching, singing words that had been forbidden on many plantations:

*Oh go down, Moses,  
Way down into Egypt's land,  
Tell old Pharaoh,  
Let my people go.*

Her cunning carried every one of her "passengers" to safety. Enraged Southern planters offered \$40,000 for her capture without success. The wily and fearless Tubman carried a pistol on her freedom raids and if a slave had second thoughts about escaping she pulled out her gun and said, "You'll be free or die!" She traveled at night... the North Star guided her. She said, "I had reasoned this out in my mind... there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other."

Tubman was widely read about and talked about, although she herself was unable to read or write. Two of her most famous sayings were: "Lord, you have been with me through six troubles. Be with me in the seventh." And "I nebber run my train off de track and I nebber lost a passenger."

Tubman's amazing success sprang in part from her quick and inventive mind. On one occasion, fearing pursuers were close at hand, she and her fugitives boarded a southbound train to avoid suspicion. On another rescue mission, Tubman had just purchased some live chickens when she saw her former master. She threw down the chickens and chased after them before he could recognize her.

She also had a wry sense of humor. By 1851 the Fugitive Slave Law was forcing conductors to lead slaves all the way to Canada. On one such trip a very frightened slave would not say a word or even look at the scenery while crossing into Canada with Tubman on a real train. But when the man realized he was on free soil, he began to sing and shout so loud that no one could quiet him. An exasperated Tubman finally cried out, "You old fool, you! You might at least have looked at Niagara Falls on the way to freedom!"

Tubman was a victim of brutality at an early age. Tubman received a fractured skull at age 13 while defending another slave from a cruel master.

Harriet Tubman continued her courageous exploits during the Civil War. She became a nurse, scout and spy for the Union armies. In one campaign she personally led 750 Southern slaves to freedom. General Saxon reported she "made many a raid inside the enemy lines, displaying remarkable courage, zeal and fidelity."

Harriet "Moses" Tubman lived into her nineties and died in 1913. (Her birth date has never been verified and estimates range from 1816-1823.) When she first set foot on the free land of the north she said, "I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. Dere was such a glory ober eberthing, de sun came like gold through de trees and ober de fields, and I felt like I was in heaven."

## AMELIA EARHART 1897-1937

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. From her earliest childhood days, she demonstrated an attitude of daring and confidence.

*Whether it was considered the thing to do or not was irrelevant. As a little girl I had ridden my buggy in the stable; I had once climbed up on a delivery horse; I had explored the fearsome caves in the cliffs overlooking the Missouri; I had invented a trap and caught a chicken; ...and I knew there was more fun and excitement in life than I would have time to enjoy.*

In January of 1921, at the age of 23, Amelia had her first flying lesson. By July 24 of that same year she had become the proud owner of a new Kinner Airster Aircraft. In October of 1922, Amelia set an unofficial Women's Altitude Record of 14,000 feet. Amelia's flying was constantly hampered by her lack of funds. She worked many jobs to enable her to fly. In 1924, Amelia's parents divorced, she sold her airplane, bought a car, and took her mother back to the east coast. During these years she had a variety of jobs as teacher, nursing assistant, photographer, secretary, and social worker. She even bought a truck and hauled gravel. All of this work was undertaken in an effort to fulfill her desire to fly.

Amelia flew a little during the spring and summer of 1926. Bert Kinner, the designer and manufacturer of the Kinner Airster biplane, which she flew in California, had come east in the hopes of establishing a sales agency. He mentioned to some of the pilots, during the demonstration of the plane, that Amelia had set an altitude record in one like it in California; and that she was one of the few women who held a license with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale... She was magnetically drawn to fly again, now that she had the income and the opportunity. She demonstrated the Kinner plane to prospective customers in return for the use of it.

Fog, muddy runways, and her work cut down her flying hours, but she flew when she could. Amelia became known to most of the free-lance pilots around Boston as a woman who could not only fly well, but who also who knew about engine performance, tensile strengths, and something about instrument flying. The mechanics at the field soon learned that she was not averse to getting her hands greasy. She watched, asked questions, and helped service her plane. Pilots and mechanics liked and respected Amelia. Amelia's fame began in 1928 when she was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. She did so as a passenger in a Kokker F7, named the Friendship. The trip was plagued with problems, including weather and marginal fuel reserves. After a flight of 20 hours and 40 minutes, the Friendship successfully landed at Burry Port, Wales. Amelia Earhart was immediately an international hero.

Amelia continued to set records. She acquired a Lockheed Vega, powered by a Pratt & Whitney engine and in 1929 competed in the first Women's air Derby, flying from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH. In 1930,

Amelia set a women's speed record of 181.8 mph over a three-kilometer course, and acquired a Transport Pilot's license. In 1931, she became the first person to set an altitude record of 18,451 ft., in an Autogiro, and then completed a solo transcontinental flight in an Autogiro for the Beechnut Nutrition Corporation. Amelia Earhart constantly worked toward the advancement of women in aviation, and believed strongly in the viability of commercial aviation.

In 1930, Amelia worked with Gene Vidal and Paul Collins to form a new airline that offered shuttle service between New York, Washington and Philadelphia. She was the Aviation Editor for *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, wrote many articles, lectured, and continued to work for the advancement of goals, which she held important. She was instrumental in the formation of an organization for the advancement of women pilots called "The Ninety-Nines." This organization is very active today, with over 7,000 members worldwide. In 1932, on the fifth anniversary of Lindbergh's flight, Amelia Earhart, in her Lockheed Vega, became the second person and the first woman to successfully solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Had anyone asked Amelia what force impelled her to risk her life alone over the seemingly limitless expanse of water, She would have said with a shrug, "Why, for the fun of it, of course!" In her heart she would have admitted that the real reason for this flight was to wipe out the stigma she felt at being only a passenger on the *Friendship*. Amelia, however, was thoroughly convinced that safe flying was important for the U.S.A. and the world. Hence, each and every flight had to open an exciting frontier which eventually would become commonplace.

Amelia Earhart landed near Londonderry, Northern Ireland, after flying 2,026 miles in 14 hours and 54 minutes. For this daring flight, Amelia was the first woman awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor by France, and The Cross of Chevalier of the Order of Leopold by Belgium, as well as many other honors in Europe. At home in the USA, she was the first woman awarded the National Geographic Gold medal for her contribution to the science of Aviation. President Herbert Hoover made the presentation. The majority of the Presidential cabinet, members of congress and dignitaries from more than 20 foreign countries attended the ceremony. During President Hoover's introduction, he said the following, in part: "Amelia has a place with the great pioneering women to whom every generation of Americans has looked with admiration for their firmness of will, their strength of character, and their cheerful spirit of comradeship in the work of the world. Her success has not been won by the selfish pursuit of purely personal ambition, but as part of a career generously animated by a wish to help others to share in the rich opportunities of life, and by a wish to enlarge those opportunities by expanding the powers of women as well as men to their ever widening limits... The nation is proud that an American woman should be the first woman in history to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean."

The next day, Amelia Earhart became the first woman awarded the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, presented to her by Congress before a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives. After her 1932 trans-Atlantic flight, Amelia continued to set records. She became the first person to fly solo, non-stop to Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, California. She was the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles, CA, to Mexico City. (By official invitation of the Mexican government.) and from Mexico City to Newark, NJ. She traveled across the United States speaking to men's professional organizations, women's luncheons, and school children. She was employed as a counselor at Purdue University to assist women choosing careers in engineering and mechanics. March 17, 1937,

Amelia Earhart departed Oakland, California for Honolulu, Hawaii in a Lockheed Electra 10E, on the first leg of her record setting attempt to circumnavigate the world at its longest point, westward along the Equator. This flight set a new record between Oakland and Honolulu - 15 hours and 47 minutes. The Electra was damaged during take off from Honolulu on the start of the second leg. Amelia was greatly disappointed; she had failed in front of the entire world, and was plagued with a severe lack of funds to repair her plane. However, she was determined and courageous and did not give up. Amelia returned the Electra to the Lockheed factory for repairs. Her supporters were many. Lockheed employees volunteered to work overtime without pay to repair the plane.

On May 20, 1937, Amelia Earhart departed from Oakland, CA. Her second attempt had flown eastward due to weather patterns in the Atlantic at that time of year. Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, completed 22,000 miles and 23 legs of the 29,000 mile trip. On July 2, 1937, they disappeared on the leg from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island. Over the nine years spanning her first and last transoceanic flights, Amelia Earhart became one of the most famous women in the world. The private Amelia disliked the fame intensely. But the public Amelia played on it relentlessly as a platform on which to fight for her ideals of equality for women, international peace, and a world where flying would become commonplace, acceptable and accessible to all. She lived and died in dogged pursuit of her vision, and by so doing, brought it ever closer to reality. Her achievements were worth all the physical discomforts and dangers she endured in seizing that one rare chance offered to so few-- to be the first.

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## POST-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss the show. Who was your favorite woman of American History?
2. Make a five-point star with a single snip of the scissors.  
*Enclosed are directions on how to make a five-point star in a single snip!*
3. Discuss the colors of the flag and what they represent.  
*Red - Courage, White - Peace, Blue - Freedom.*
4. Under what name did Deborah Sampson enlist in the army?  
*Robert Shirliff.*
5. How did Deborah Sampson conceal her identity?  
*She sewed her own suit of man's clothing and wore it as a disguise. The other ever suspected a thing because they thought she was only 15 years old. She took baths at odd hours and changed her clothes in the dark.*
6. Why was Elizabeth Cady Stanton called "the most dangerous woman in America"?  
*Because she demanded the right to vote.*
7. At what convention did Elizabeth Cady Stanton demand the right to vote?  
*The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.*
8. Who worked with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and delivered her speeches?  
*Susan B. Anthony.*
9. What Era did the Seneca Falls Convention formally begin?  
*The Women's Rights Movement.*
10. What was the Underground Railroad?  
*A secret network of people and places that gave slaves shelter as they escaped north to freedom.*
11. Who was the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad?  
*Harriet Tubman.*
12. How many trips back into the south did Harriet Tubman make?  
*Nineteen.*
13. How many slaves did she lead to freedom?  
*Over three hundred.*
14. Why was Harriet Tubman so successful?  
*She traveled only at night. The North Star guided her. She preferred to travel during winter nights when there was nights were longer and there was more darkness to conceal her. She was also very cunning.*
15. What was Amelia Earhart's first famous flight in 1928?  
*The first woman to fly across the Atlantic.*
16. What famous flight did Amelia Earhart make in 1932?  
*First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.*
17. What famous flight did Amelia Earhart attempt in 1937?  
*A round the world flight.*
18. What was it like flying in an airplane during Amelia Earhart's time?  
*Airplanes were slower, smaller and made of wood. The cockpit was small - only room enough for a few people.*
19. Discuss why each woman portrayed in the show can be considered a hero.  
*BETSY ROSS - Sewed first American Flag.  
DEBORAH SAMPSON - Disguised herself as a man to fight in the Revolution.  
ELIZABETH CADY STANTON - Began the Women's Rights Movement.  
HARRIET TUBMAN - Conductor-Underground Railroad. Freed 300+ slaves.  
AMELIA EARHART - Aviator - 1st woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.*
20. Why do you admire each of these woman. Who are the people you admire... who are your heroines today?



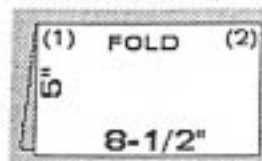
George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred.

Betsy Ross, however, recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it deftly, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. This seeming feat of magic so impressed her audience that they readily agreed to her suggestion.

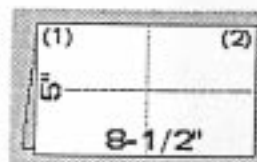
To you we pass along the secret...

Take a thin piece of paper  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" (or an exact proportion thereof), fold it as indicated and cut yourself a perfect 5-pointed star.

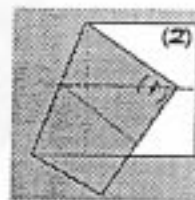
Thanks to the Betsy Ross House for providing these instructions.



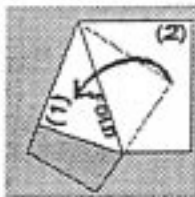
Step 1. Fold an  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" piece of paper in half.



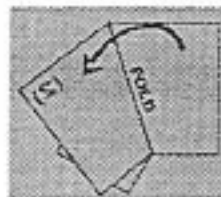
Step 2. Fold and unfold in half both ways to form creased center lines. (Note: be sure paper is still folded in half.)



Step 3. Bring corner (1) right to meet the center line. Be sure to fold from the vertical crease line.



Step 4. Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.



Step 5. Bring corner (2) left and fold.



Step 6. Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.



Step 7. Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece.



Step 8. Marvel at your perfect (we hope!) 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper ( $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" -- not  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11") and return to Step 1.