

Recommended Picture Book Biographies of Women Who Made History

- Adler, D. A. (2000). *America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle*. Illus. T. Widener. San Diego: Harcourt.
Despite doubts that any woman could do it, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel.
- Brown, D. (1997). *Alice Ramsey's Grand Adventure*. Boston: Houghton.
In 1909, Alice Ramsey set out to become the first women to travel across the U.S. by car. Accompanied by a few female friends, she overcame all sorts of obstacles to arrive in San Francisco fifty-nine days later.
- Brown, D. (2000). *Uncommon Traveler: Mary Kingsley In Africa*. Boston: Houghton.
After living at home and hardly ever going outside until she was thirty years old, Mary Kingsley set off for West Africa in 1893. She had fabulous adventures and saw amazing sights.
- Corey, S. (2000). *You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer! A Very Improper Story*. Illus. C. McLaren. New York: Scholastic.
Amelia Bloomer was delighted when she saw a new type of clothing that allowed women to move freely, and immediately adopted it. But her neighbors found Amelia's "American costume" shocking.
- Grimes, N. (2002). *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story Of Aviator Elizabeth Colman*. Illus. E. B. Lewis. New York: Orchard/Scholastic.
Born at a time of segregation, Bessie Colman succeeded in becoming the first licensed African-American female pilot. With the support of the *Defender* newspaper, she attended flight school in Paris and became a barnstormer, performing daring stunts in the air.
- Kerley, B. (2008). *What To Do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke The Rules, Charmed The World, And Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!* Illus. E. Fotheringham. New York: Scholastic.
Alice Roosevelt had a passion for exploring the world. Despite her father's attempts to moderate her "outrageous" behavior, Alice loved the attention she got as the daughter of a president. The public loved her too.
- Krull, K. (2004). *A Woman For President: The Story Of Victoria Woodhull*. Illus. J. Dyer. New York: Walker.
In 1872, before women even had the right to vote in elections, Victoria Woodhull ran for president. "It was a wild moment in American history, and times would never be the same for women!"

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- McCully, E. M. (2006). *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became An Inventor*. New York: Farrar.
When an unscrupulous man tried to steal her patent, Margaret E. Knight took him to court . Though it was not considered suitable for a woman to be an inventor, Knight patented more than ninety inventions and was called “the Lady Edison.”
- McCulley, E. M. (2007). *The Escape Of Oney Judge: Martha Washington’s Slave Finds Freedom*. New York: Farrar.
Even though agents of George and Martha Washington tried to lure Oney Judge back into slavery, through daring and clear thinking she managed to find her personal freedom.
- Rockwell, A. (2000). *Only Passing Through: The Story Of Sojourner Truth*. Illus. R. G. Christie. New York: Knopf.
A slave named Isabella transforms herself into a messenger of truth, traveling the country to tell the evils of slavery, and going to court to challenge the slave owner who tried to sell her son away from her.
- Rockwell, A. (2002). *They Called Her Molly Pitcher*. Illus. C. von Buhler. New York: Knopf.
In 1777, Molly Pitcher joined her husband when he went off to war. As the War for Independence raged, Mollie brought fresh water to the troops, carried a soldier to safety, and manned a cannon. For her efforts, General George Washington made her a sergeant in the Continental Army.
- White, L. A. (2005). *I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women The Vote*. Illus. N. Carpenter. New York: Farrar.
Throughout her life Esther Morris was a “can do” person. In 1869 she was able to convince the male citizens of Wyoming Territory to give women the vote. When a justice of the peace resigned in protest, Esther applied for the job and became the first women in the country to hold public office.

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