

"Women in the Pullman Era"

Goals:

- Investigate the diverse roles of women during the Pullman era, focusing on their contributions within the Pullman company and in broader societal contexts.
- Understand the impact of women in labor movements during this period.
- Develop skills in historical research, critical thinking, and empathetic understanding.
- Enhance literacy through reading, writing, and discussion.

Scenario:

Students will be transported back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, exploring the dynamic and often underrepresented roles of women during the Pullman era. They will delve into the lives of real women who made significant impacts within the company and in the wider labor and social movements of the time.

Women to Focus On:

Jane Addams - A prominent social reformer who played a key role in labor movements and advocated for workers' rights.

Ida B. Wells - An African American journalist and activist who led anti-lynching crusades and championed racial and gender equality.

Mother Jones (Mary Harris Jones) - A fearless labor and community organizer known for her work with the railroad workers and miners.

Florence Kelley - A social and political reformer who worked against sweatshops and for the minimum wage, eight-hour workdays, and children's rights.

Resources:

- Access to a computer lab or digital devices for online research.
- Biographies and historical texts about the Pullman era, labor movements, and the featured women.
- Documentaries and online resources focusing on the Pullman era and women's roles in labor movements.

Call to Action:

Students will undertake a comprehensive project to explore the impact and contributions of women during the Pullman era. This will include research, presentations, and creative expressions.

Activities:

Biographical Research:

- Divide students into groups, each assigned one of the four women.
- Research their lives, focusing on their roles and contributions during the Pullman era.

Contextual Analysis:

- Explore the broader social and economic context of the Pullman era, including the status of women in the workforce and society.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of these women with general female workers in the Pullman company.

Creative Presentations:

- Each group will create a presentation on their assigned figure, using a mix of media such as digital slideshows, posters, or dramatizations.
- Focus on highlighting how these women influenced labor rights and societal changes.

Panel Discussion Simulation:

- Host a simulated panel discussion where students role-play the four women, discussing their views on labor rights, women's roles, and social reform.

Reflection:

- **Group Discussions:** After presentations, facilitate discussions about the roles of women in the Pullman era and their relevance today.
- **Reflective Essays:** Students will write essays on how the contributions of these women have shaped contemporary views on labor rights and gender equality.
- **Class Debate:** Organize a debate on the impact of the Pullman era on modern labor movements, with references to the roles played by these women.