

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Women's History Month: Women's Rights Movement**

**Directions:** The month of March is Women's History Month! During this month, people all over celebrate women and their achievements. Many of these achievements can be credited to the Women's Rights Movement, which happened in the 1960s and 1970s.

Prepare to read Passage A. This passage is a speech from a woman named Gloria Steinem. She was a writer and an activist. After you finish reading, think about Gloria's words. What does she want people to know?

## **Passage A**

*During 12 years of working for a living, I have experienced unfairness. Other women in this country have, too.*

*At restaurants, people have not wanted to serve me. I've also been kicked out of places. I've also been told I could not live in places I wanted to live. As a writer, I have been asked not to write about topics like politics and the things that men get to do that women do not.*

*All of this has happened because I am a woman. As a woman, I am not encouraged to think of myself as important or responsible.*

*After two years of researching and learning about American women, I now see that I am actually very, very lucky. Most women have a harder time than I do. As a writer, I don't work with many men or in a regular office. I am not one of the millions of women who must support a family. I don't depend on money from the government, and the men who run it, to live my life.*

*I hope this committee will listen to me and all women. We have all been silent for too long. But we won't be silent anymore.*

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Prepare to read Passage B. This passage is a speech from a woman named Shirley Chisholm. She was a member of Congress and an activist. After you finish reading, think about Shirley's words. What does she want people to know?

## **Passage B**

*Why is it acceptable for women to be secretaries, librarians, and teachers, but totally unacceptable for them to be managers, doctors, lawyers, and members of Congress?*

*The thing that no one says is that people think that that women do not have ability, strength, or leadership skills. People think they are too emotional.*

*As a Black person, I am no stranger to unfair treatment. But the truth is that in politics, I have been treated unfairly for two reasons. I am a woman and I am black.*

*In this country, women cannot have certain jobs and they don't get paid as much.*

*More than half of the population of the United States is female. Only a small amount of women hold upper-level jobs. Women are also not present in government.*

*Considering that there are about 3.5 million more women in the United States than men, this situation is outrageous.*

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**Resources:**

*The original sources have been adapted to suit the needs of younger students and aim to capture the spirit of each speaker's words.*

**Citations:**

Gloria Steinem's Speech

<https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/steinem-testimony-speech-text/>

Shirley Chisholm's Speech

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/for-the-equal-rights-amendment/>