



MORRIS CENTER

FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE

Grade Levels:

Kindergarten - Twelfth Grade

Duration:

10 minutes to introduce the activity

20-30 minutes for activity

10 minutes to share

Materials:

- Lined Paper
- Pencils & colored pencils
- Reference list and profiles of SC women in history
- Comic Strip Templates

SC State Standards:

SCCCR-Social Studies

K.CG.1, 1.CG.1, 2.H.1, 3.5.1.HS
4.3.CX, 5.4.E 6.5.CO, 8.5.CC,
MWH.4, MWH.5,, MWH.5.CX,
USHC.4, USHC.5.CC USG.3.IP

English Language Arts

(I)2.1, 3.1, 3.2 (W) 3.1

Visual Arts

VA.CR.NM.1.1, VA.R NH.5.1,
VA.C NL.6

Key Terms:

suffragist
abolitionist
civil rights
activist

Super Women Lesson Plan

Overview

In this study, students will discuss the 13 women honored in *The Supper Table* exhibition and their significance to South Carolina History. Afterwards, they will brainstorm and plan a comic-inspired scenario about an important South Carolina woman. Then, they will write and illustrate their story.

This activity can be done anytime. It works well in connection with *The Supper Table* exhibition on view at the Morris Center from July 9 - December 31, 2022.

Learning Objectives

- Students will cultivate awareness of South Carolina historic events with a focus on how specific women played a role in these events.
- Students will develop writing skills as they plan their stories.
- Students will practice principles and elements of art as they draw and ink their own comic strip or book.



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Activity

- Introduce the activity to your students.

Today we will explore the lives and importance of 13 women from South Carolina. Afterwards, I will ask questions to see what you have learned. You will then, have the opportunity to choose one of them to create a comic about them that highlights a superhero quality they would have.

[Use the attached profile document for information about the women highlighted in *The Super Table*. Feel free to include any other historical female figures.]

- Discuss with your students. [Depending on the grade level you may want to adjust the type of discussion you have with your students. The questions below can be used as a guideline.]

- *The women we talked about were born at different time periods. How might when someone is born impact their experiences? Give examples.*
- *What woman's story meant the most to you and why?*
- *What characteristics can be used to describe "superhero"?*
- *Do you feel we have real-life superheroes? Why or why not?*
- *Pick one of the women we learned about. What is a "superhero" trait they might have?*

- Have students carry their responses into the next part.

You will take some time to brainstorm a scenario with the "Super Woman" you chose. Plan a comic strip or book sequence to illustrate the story. Using lined paper you will create a rough draft through words and illustration ideas.

You will now use your pencils and template to start your final draft. Take your time and be patient. After you have the words and pictures how you want, you will use colored pencils or markers to add color to your comic. [Depending on the grade level you may want to give students some specific guidelines.]

- Students should share their stories and images to the class.



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The Supper Table Honoree Profiles

Mary McLeod Bethune - July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955. Known as “The First Lady of the Struggle,” this brave Black educator and civil rights activist rose from humble beginnings in Mayesville, SC where she was born to former enslaved parents. Her many achievements include serving as an advisor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and founding Bethune-Cookman University.

Alice Childress - October 12, 1916 – August 14, 1994. Her birthplace may have been Charleston, SC, but her heart-place was Harlem where she moved when she was 9 years old. It was there that she experienced the inequities of life for society’s have-nots which would later become the focus of her work as a novelist, playwright and actress.

Septima Clark - May 3, 1898 – December 15, 1987. When the “Father of the Civil Rights Movement” called this woman from Charleston, SC, the “Mother of the Movement” it underscored her significance as a Black civil rights activist. The daughter of a Haitian washwoman and a former slave, she earned her MA in 1946 and spent most of her life teaching, conducting workshops and fighting for social justice.

Mathilda Evans - May 13, 1872 – November 17, 1935. As a strong healthcare advocate and doctor in Columbia, SC, Mathilda Evans was proud to display her diplomas and medical licenses as a testimony to her hard work. But the framed documents didn’t tell the whole story—she was the first Black female licensed to practice medicine in SC. She was born in Aiken, SC, attended Oberlin University and established the first Black hospital in Columbia in 1901.

Angelina and Sarah Grimke -- Angelina, February 21, 1805 – October 26, 1879. Sarah, November 26, 1789 – December 23, 1873. Born and raised on their father’s Charleston, SC plantation and having to sometimes work in the fields themselves showed the Grimke sisters the harsh cruelties of slavery. They eventually moved north to become noted abolitionists and suffragists.

Althea Gibson - August 25, 1927 – September 28, 2003. Winning 11 Grand Slam tournaments and several other important tennis titles over her career, Althea Gibson was one of the first Black athletes to break through racial lines in international tennis. Born in Silver, SC, she was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Women’s Sports Hall of Fame and was the first Black female to compete in professional golf.

Eartha Kitt - January 17, 1927 – December 25, 2008. Perhaps best known for her rendition of the Christmas classic, Santa Baby, Eartha Kitt was born on a cotton plantation in North, SC. At the age of 9 she moved to Harlem where she lived in the homes of friends or in the subways. But because of her natural talents and immutable spirit, she soon sang and danced her way into the spotlight on television, Broadway and abroad.



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The Supper Table Honoree Profiles Continued

Sarah Leverette - December 28, 1919 – August 29, 2018. Calling Iva, SC home, Sarah Leverette became the first female law professor at USC. During WWII, she served as a Lt. Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, then later went on to make her mark as an advocate for civil and women's rights.

Julia Peterkin - October 31, 1880 – August 10, 1961. Many of Julia Peterkin's short stories as well as her 1929 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Scarlet Sister Mary*, are set near her birthplace of Laurens, SC and deal with plantation life and the Gullah people of the Lowcountry. Some of her writings were quite controversial and she was one of the few white authors who wrote about the Black experience.

Eliza Pinckney - December 28, 1722 – May 26, 1793. Although she was born on Antigua in the Caribbean, Eliza Pinckney is credited with changing the agricultural landscape in SC. Within years of moving to the Lowcountry as a curious sixteen-year-old, she realized the potential world market for new dyes, particularly indigo. Combining her entrepreneurship with the human energy of the enslaved labor on her plantations, she created an economy for SC that lasted decades.

Modjeska Monteith Simkins – December 5, 1899 – April 9, 1992. Modjeska Monteith Simkins, of Columbia SC, is best remembered for her role as an early crusader in the civil rights movement in the state. Working in public health as the first Director of Negro Work for the South Carolina Tuberculosis Association, she witnessed the inequality in treatment and health education between Blacks and whites. As an advocate and fundraiser, she made a great impact on the health of Black people in SC.

Elizabeth Evelyn Wright – August 18, 1872 – December 14, 1906. Inspired by her time as a student at Tuskegee Institute, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright championed for the education of Black youth. After starting several schools which closed for various reasons, she went on to found a learning institution for Black elementary and high school children. The school evolved into what today is Voorhees College in Denmark, SC. She is buried on the campus of this historically Black college.





