



2nd Grade Bio Cards

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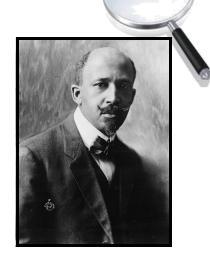




Abigail Adams

ABIGAIL ADAMS was the wife of John Adams, second President of the United States, and mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth U.S. President. Abigail was not only a mother, but a competent Massachusetts farmer and manager of the household finances. When her husband served as a delegate at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Abigail and John began communicating through letters. While the Declaration of Independence was being written and debated, Abigail's letters included advice concerning the need for equal rights for women and her views about slavery. The letters exchanged by Abigail and John have become a rich source of information about the Revolutionary period in our country's history.

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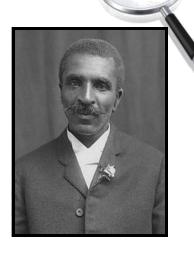


William Edward
Burghardt
Du Bois

(1868-1963)

I Spy...

WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHARDT DU BOIS was an African American who studied and wrote books about life among African Americans. He grew up in a town in Massachusetts that had very few African American citizens, and he always felt left out. When he went to college in Tennessee, the prejudice against African American was even worse, and he was determined to do something about it. He became a writer and speaker about how bad racism was in the United States and about the need for education for all races of people. He graduated from Harvard University in 1895, and in 1909 he and others started the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). He wrote articles for their magazine, The Crisis. At the beginning of World War I, African Americans were not allowed to have leadership roles in the armed forces. But thanks to Du Bois' writings, Congress set up African American officer training schools.



George
Washington
Carver

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER was born a slave in Missouri but raised as a free man by the Carver family. He left home in his teens to seek an education. After being denied admission to Highland College because he was African American, he was accepted to Simpson College and later Iowa State College of Agriculture, where he majored in botany. Carver believed he should use his abilities to help his fellow African Americans. When Booker T. Washington invited him to be director of agricultural education at the Tuskegee Institute, Carver accepted. He taught the local farmers to use good agricultural practices to improve their soil and crops. He also developed over 300 products made from the peanut plant. Carver faced discrimination during his lifetime, but never let it discourage him. He taught at Tuskegee for 47 years.

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Amelia Earhart

I Spy...

AMELIA EARHART was somewhat of a tomboy while growing up in Kansas. During World War I, she served as a nurse and took her first airplane ride in 1920. After that flight, she said, "As soon as we left the ground, I knew I myself had to fly." After Amelia took her first flying lessons, she bought her own plane and then achieved many "firsts." After breaking the woman's altitude record in 1922, she became famous when she was the first female passenger to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a plane. In 1932 Earhart was the first woman to fly alone (solo) across the Atlantic Ocean. She also became the first person to fly solo from California to Hawaii and from Los Angeles to Mexico City. Amelia Earhart's last flight was in 1937 when she attempted to fly around the world. She and her navigator were never heard from again. Numerous searches failed to locate them or the plane.



Robert Fulton

ROBERT FULTON did not invent the steamboat, but he adapted it for commercial use. Fulton was born in Pennsylvania and began his career as a portrait painter. To further his career as an artist, Fulton traveled to London in 1786. While in Europe, he became interested in engineering and building canals and ships. In 1804 he tested the first successful submarine, which he built for the British Navy. When Robert Fulton returned to the United States, he built a flat bottom ship powered by an English steam engine. On August 17, 1807, the *Clermont* made its first voyage from New York City to Albany, New York. The *Clermont* was soon used for commercial purposes because water travel enabled manufacturers to transport their materials and goods faster than by land. Steamboat services helped industries and America grow.

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John Hancock

I Spy...

JOHN HANCOCK was raised in colonial Massachusetts. As an adult, he publicly spoke out against the British Stamp Act and reminded Americans about the deaths the British caused at the Boston Massacre. The British government offered large rewards for the capture of several patriot leaders, including Hancock. Hancock attended the First Continental Congress and in 1775 was elected President of the Continental Congress. He was the first man to sign the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776, and wrote his signature in large script at the center of the document. Hancock served as the first Governor of Massachusetts and died while serving his ninth term as governor. He was known for his patriotism and dedication to the American cause of independence.



Thurgood Marshall

THURGOOD MARSHALL was our nation's first African American Supreme Court Justice and a leader in the civil rights movement. Born in Baltimore to an interracial family, he knew what it was like to be discriminated against in housing, education, and jobs. He believed all people were created equal, and fought for new protections for women, children, prisoners, and the homeless. Attorney Thurgood Marshall represented Rosa Parks, the African American who refused to move to the back of the bus at the beginning of the civil rights movement. He also represented Linda Brown in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* case. The Supreme Court ruling ended separate schools for African Americans and Anglos. Marshall was appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1967.

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Navajo Code Talkers

I Spy...

THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS were men of the Navajo tribe in Arizona who helped the United States Marines achieve victory in the Pacific during World War II. The Navajo language is a complex spoken language understood only by members of the Navajo tribe. The Navajo men recruited to join the Marines developed a code and dictionary of military terms from their language. They used this code to send vital military information by radio or telephone during battles. The code was never broken by the Japanese and remained a secret even after the end of the war. Code Talkers were used in every major Marine battle in the Pacific, and the men performed bravely and courageously. The Navajo Code Talkers did not receive recognition for their service until 1992, when they were honored for their patriotism at a ceremony at the Pentagon.



Irma Lerma Rangel

IRMA LERMA RANGEL was born in Kingsville, Texas. Even when she was young, she realized that education and hard work were very important. She wanted to make life better for Mexican Americans in Texas. Rangel graduated from college and became a teacher. After teaching in South Texas, Venezuela and California, she decided to become a lawyer. She graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio in 1969, a time when it was unusual for Hispanic women to earn a college degree. She had a successful law practice in her hometown of Kingsville until 1993. In 1976, Rangel became the first Mexican American woman elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, an office she held for 26 years. The Texas laws that she helped to develop emphasized education and opportunities for men and women of all races.

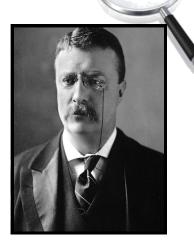
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Paul Revere

I Spy...

PAUL REVERE was trained by his father to be a silversmith. When he was twenty-one, Paul volunteered as a soldier to fight the French during the French and Indian War. Preceding the American Revolution, Revere was a member of the "Sons of Liberty," a group of colonists who were anti-British. He took part in the Boston Tea Party by helping dump tea into Boston Harbor to protest high British taxes. During the American Revolution, Paul Revere became one of the colonists' most trusted and dependable messengers. When his spies found out British troops were going to march to Lexington and Concord, Revere boldly made a dangerous ride. He warned almost every house between Charleston and Lexington that troops were coming. As he continued to Concord, Paul Revere was captured, but the British eventually let him go.



Theodore Roosevelt

THEODORE ROOSEVELT was the 26th President of the United States. After graduating from Harvard University, he was elected to the State Legislature of New York. During the Spanish American War, he became famous for leading a group of cavalry known as the Rough Riders. After the war, Roosevelt returned to New York and was elected governor. He later became Vice President of the United States under William McKinley. McKinley was killed in 1901, and Roosevelt became the youngest President in American history. He was reelected in 1904. As president, his policy was "walk softly and carry a big stick". While he was President, the Panama Canal was built, Oklahoma became a state, and many national parks were established. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating an end to a war between Russia and Japan. He ran unsuccessfully for President in 1912.

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Sojourner Truth
(1797-1883)

I Spy...

SOJOURNER TRUTH was originally named Isabella Baumfree. She was a slave for the first 30 years of her life. Isabella wanted to become a traveling preacher, so she changed her name to Sojourner (traveler) Truth. She became a powerful speaker even though she never learned to read or write. She spoke out against slavery, and after the Civil War, helped newly freed slaves to find homes. During her lifetime, Sojourner spoke before Congress, met with President Lincoln, and spoke at a women's rights convention in 1851. Fredrick Douglas described her as a mix of "wit and wisdom." She was one of the most famous African American women of the 19th Century.

WASP (1942-1944)

I Spy...

WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) were a special group of young female pilots who became the first women to fly America's military aircraft. During World War II, there was a large shortage of male pilots. Female pilot Jacqueline Cochran convinced the Chief of the Army Air Forces that she could gather enough women pilots to replace the male pilots that were being sent overseas. Out of the 25,000 women who volunteered, 1,830 were accepted, and 1,074 graduated from flight training. Their training was the same as male cadet training, and they received no special treatment. They flew every type of military aircraft, but were not allowed to fly combat missions. WASP delivered cargo, test flew planes, and even towed targets so male gunnery trainees could practice firing live bullets at moving targets. WASP were sent to air bases all over the U.S., and 39 of them lost their lives while serving their country.

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