



The Florida Historical Society

Curriculum Guide



FEMALE FLORIDA

Historic Women In Their Own Words

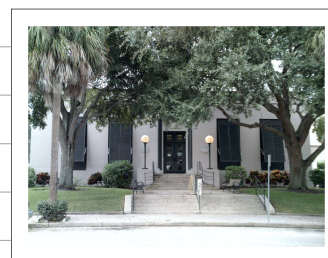
A performance about four Florida women and
the story of how they found their passion.



Welcome!

The Florida Historical Society

Established in 1856, the Florida Historical Society is the oldest existing cultural organization in the state. The FHS operates the Florida Historical Society Press, maintains the Library of Florida History, hosts the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) East Central Region, and manages the Historic Rosseter House Museum and Gardens. We publish scholarly research in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, produce *Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society* and host our Annual Meeting in May at various locations around the state.



The Library of Florida History in Cocoa, Florida

Mission

The FHS is dedicated to preserving Florida's past through the collection and archival maintenance of historical documents and photographs, the publication of scholarly research in Florida history, and educating the public about Florida history through a variety of public history and historic preservation projects.

Female Florida

The performance is an autobiographical presentation of each woman's memories of how they came to Florida and what significant impact they have had on the state that they claimed as home. The script was compiled and edited by Dr. Ben Brotemarkle, Executive Director of the Florida Historical Society. The performance and the Curriculum Guide are intended to be useful resources for teaching students not only about how these four important women contributed to Florida history, but also to draw attention to the greater role they played in American history. Their stories highlight what was going on in our country at that time and give students a sense of place as they relate to the events as they happened in Florida.

Using this Guide

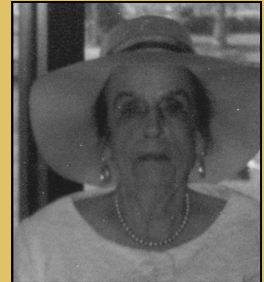
This guide is intended to give background information on the women portrayed in the performance and to suggest activities that will engage students in learning more about them. It is ideal for Middle and High School classrooms, however, most activities can be adapted to any grade level with minor adjustments. For more information or to obtain any supplemental resources needed for activities, please contact the **Educational Resources Coordinator** at ben.dibiase@myfloridahistory.org



Comprehension Questions

Caroline P. Rossetter

- Why did Carrie Rossetter become a Standard Oil Agent?
- What milestone of women's rights occurred just months before Carrie took over her father's business?
- What childhood memory does Carrie discuss?
- Which President sent Carrie a personal letter?



Zora Neale Hurston

- How does Zora perceive color?
- How did growing up in Eatonville affect Zora's attitude about race?
- What childhood memory does Zora discuss?
- Which President was responsible for starting the WPA?



Marjory Stoneman Douglas

- What was Marjory's passion?
- At what point in her life did Marjory become an environmental activist?
- Which President came to the dedication of Everglades National Park?
- What did Marjory do for work when she moved to Miami? Is this what she studied in college? How did it impact the rest of her career?



Mary McLeod Bethune

- What inspired or motivated Mary McLeod Bethune to open a school?
- What are some characteristics of Bethune's family?
- Did Bethune perceive race relations in the same way as Hurston?
- Which First Lady was Bethune very close to?





The Women

Caroline Rossetter

"My career has proven that a woman can be every bit as successful as a man in business—and I am still a Southern lady."

Upon her father's death in 1921, Carrie P. Rossetter took responsibility for the family home and the Standard Oil Distribution business. At only 22 years of age, she was the oldest child at the passing of her father. For several years prior to his death, James W. Rossetter had relied heavily on Carrie in the operation of his businesses. Although she was not able to maintain the family fishing

businesses, she was able to keep the Standard Oil Franchise. Since women were given the right to vote in the United States only a year prior in 1920, this was an incredible feat for Carrie and a significant moment in women's history. She remained an agent of Standard Oil for over sixty years. Carrie held the family together, saw her siblings through school and became a pillar of the community. Her story is one of great success against many challenges.



Caroline (Carrie) Rossetter

Listen to a segment about Carrie and her legacy of the Rossetter House Museum on Florida Frontiers at myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/shows/004

Zora Neale Hurston

"Sometimes I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can anyone deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me."

Hurston studied anthropology and collected folklore in many African American communities. Her books such as, *Mules and Men* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* depict the town of Eatonville, Florida. Hurston was not born in Florida; however she always considered it to be her home. Through her literature,

Hurston brought attention to the nation's first incorporated African American town during the Harlem Renaissance. Hurston's work focused more on literature and anthropology rather than politics. Hurston also worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which was a federal program to help get writers back to work during The Great Depression. She traveled all over Florida collecting folk stories and songs. She also wrote for a number of prominent and local newspapers and magazines.



Zora Neale Hurston

For more information on Zora Neale Hurston check out Florida Frontiers programs #003, 045, 078, 079, 082, 108 and 144 at www.myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/shows



The Women

Marjory Stoneman Douglas

"It was almost as if the Everglades had waited for me. It was a subject to which I could apply my passion."

Upon moving to Florida and working as an editor for her father's newspaper, *The Miami Herald*, Marjory Stoneman Douglas found her passion for writing. This passion led her to explore and ultimately advocate for Florida's most important

resource, The Everglades. In her first book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, she'd written about the plight of the birds and other animals. Twenty years after the release of the book she found herself in her mid-70s lobbying for the protection of the national park she once sat on the committee for to establish.



Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Florida Frontiers is the weekly radio magazine of the Florida Historical Society.

Listen to more information about Marjory online at: myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/shows
Episodes: 075 and 057

Mary McLeod Bethune

"I knew that academic training could give all people a clear vision of the full life they were capable of living."

Bethune is perhaps most well known for helping gain rights for African American women. She has also left her touch on Florida education. In Daytona, Bethune opened up a school for African American girls with the help of donations and free labor. Bethune's political activism gained her recognition from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. She served on his Black Cabinet to help give voice to the African American community. While

Bethune became a national figure, she first gained recognition in Florida. She joined the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) which she served as a president in 1924 to 1928 and also the Florida State Federation of Colored Women (FSFCW). Acknowledging that education was a primary goal of hers for African Americans, the school Bethune-Cookman College (now Bethune-Cookman University) is named after her. Bethune believed in equal rights in both race and gender. Bethune soon became a leader not only in Florida but also for African American women nationwide.



Mary McLeod Bethune

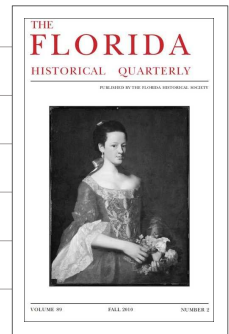
Be sure to visit <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/shows> for all the archived editions of Florida Frontiers.



Florida Historical Quarterly

The Florida Historical Quarterly (ISSN 0015-4113) is published by the Florida Historical Society, Cocoa, Florida, in cooperation with the Department of History, University of Central Florida, Orlando.

Subscription accompanies Membership in the Society. Correspondence relating to membership and subscriptions, as well as orders for back copies of the Quarterly, should be addressed to the Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922; (321) 690 - 1971, Ext. 205; email: membership@myfloridahistory.org



Female Florida

The following articles have been selected to provide teachers with background information that relates to each woman in the performance.

“Zora Neale Hurston” by Theodore Pratt, Volume 40 Issue 1

For many years, when giving talks in Florida, I have pointed out that there is only one first-class native-born Florida author who has written any even small body of work about the state.

“Ringling Up A School: Mary McLeod Bethune’s Impact on Daytona” by Audrey Thomas McCluskey, Volume 73 Issue 2

The limited scholarly attention given to Mary McLeod Bethune has focused either on her pioneering efforts to integrate the federal bureaucracy...

“Florida Women Get the Vote” by Kenneth R. Johnson, Volume 48 Issue 3

Florida women worked long and hard to secure the right to vote. In 1912 Mrs. Roselle Cooley, Miss Frances Anderson, and a few other energetic women...

“The Everglades Before Reclamation” by J.E. Dovell, Volume 26 Issue 1

Within our own generation a scientist who always weighed his words could say of the Everglades: Of the few as yet but very imperfectly explored regions in the United States, the largest perhaps is the southernmost part of Florida...

How To Access the Entire Article

- Email the Educational Resources Coordinator at: archivist@myfloridahistory.org
- Search for each title or volume listed at this link: <http://palmm.fcla.edu/fhq/>



Key Terms

Folklore: The traditional beliefs, legends, customs, etc., of a people; lore of a people.

Suffrage: The struggle for the right to vote in a political election, particularly for women.

Environment: All the combined factors (such as soil, climate, and living things), that must be present in order for a plant or animal to survive.

Everglades: A low lying area of swampy or marshy land: a river of grass.

Assegai: A southern African tree, *Curtisia dentata*, of the dogwood family, from whose wood spears are made.

WPA: Work Projects Administration: the former federal agency (1935–43) charged with instituting and administering public works in order to relieve national unemployment. Originally, Works Progress Administration.

Federal Writers' Project: A program established in the United States in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of the New Deal struggle against the Great Depression.

Florida East Coast Railway: A Class II railroad operating in the US state of Florida. The FEC is renowned as the railroad that built the first railroad bridges to Key West that have since been rebuilt into road bridges for vehicle traffic.

Flagler, Henry: (January 2, 1830 — May 20, 1913), American financier and partner of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in establishing the Standard Oil Company; he pioneered in the development of Florida as a U.S. vacation center through the construction of his Florida East Coast Railway.

Plant, Henry: (October 27, 1819 — June 23, 1899), Founder of the Plant System of railroads and steamboats and tourist development in Tampa, Florida.

Mission: A group of persons sent by a church to carry on religious work and often to establish schools, hospitals, etc. in an undeveloped area.

Booker T. Washington: (April 5, 1856 – November 14, 1915), American educator, author, orator, and political leader. First leader of Tuskegee Institute.

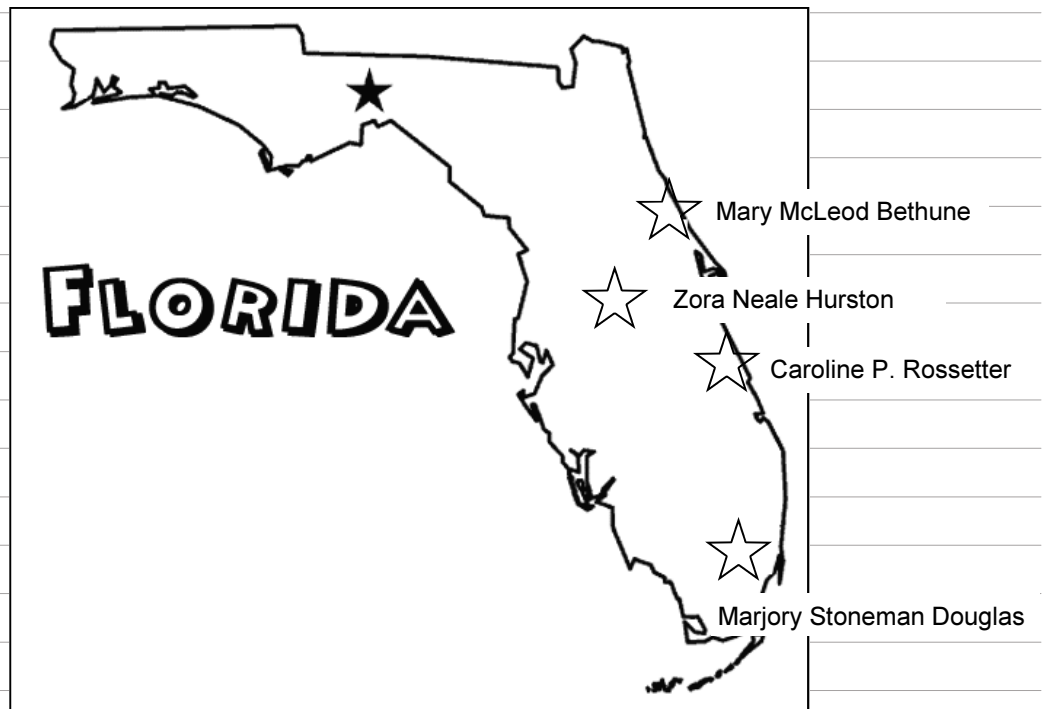


Activities

Map It!

The Activity (Middle School)

In order to give students a sense of place, have students study the maps provided in the study guide and then have them identify on the blank map the specific regions where each woman from the performance, "Female Florida" resided. Then have them pick one of the women and write a brief identification. See sample below, see opposite page for a blank activity page.



Map available at www.blackdog.net

NAME	Zora Neale Hurston
BORN	1891
DIED	1960
CAREER	Writer, folklorist, anthropologist
CITY	Eatonville, FL
PASSION	Studying people, literature



Activities

Map It!

Student Name: _____



NAME	
BORN	
DIED	
CAREER	
CITY	
PASSION	

Map It!

For detailed snapshots of each individual region, use the Map Locator at <http://www.usgs.gov>





Activities

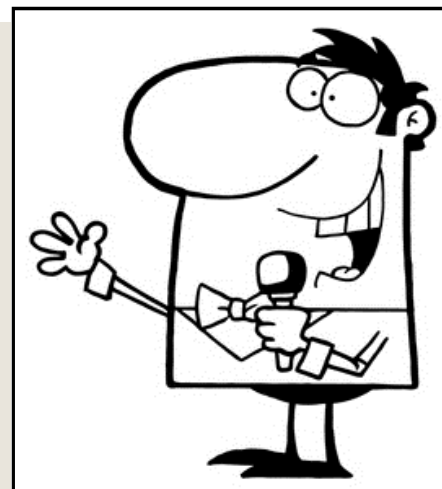
Interview Me!

The Activity (Middle School & High School)

Students conduct their own oral histories to use as primary resources for a presentation or historical paper.

One of the resources used to compile the Female Women performance were oral history interviews. Even Marjory Stoneman Douglas' autobiography, *Voice of the River*, is a product of an oral history project. Furthermore, Zora Neale Hurston was part of one of the largest oral history projects in the country, The Federal Writer's Project.

The objective of this activity is to demonstrate the importance of first-hand information as opposed to using secondary source material to form interpretations.



How To

Students can work individually or as a group depending on class size

Present the resources below to students to get an idea of how to do oral histories.

Florida Frontiers segment on the Rossetter House Museum:

<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/shows/004>

Transcribed Interview with Mary McLeod Bethune:

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/MaryBethune/interview.cfm>

Transcribed Interview with Zora Neale Hurston:

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Visit these links for direction on how to do an oral history:

<http://www.tcomschool.ohiou.edu/cdtm/conducti.htm>

http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html

Suggested Topics to Research

Women's Suffrage Movement

Civil Rights

Federal Writers' Project

Everglades National Park

Environmental Issues

Industrialization in Florida

NASA history in Florida

Regional folklore

Florida History Fair topics



Activities

Sing With Zora!

The Activity (Middle School & High School)

Students will listen to the folksong, "Shove It Over", sung by Zora Neale Hurston and answer questions either in discussion or essay form.

About the Song

The song was recorded during an interview in 1939 with folklorist, Herbert Halpert. During the interview, Hurston claims to have heard the song while doing fieldwork for the WPA's Federal Writers' Project (FWP). She cites Charlie Jones as the singer, who sung it to her when she was at the railroad construction camp near Lakeland, Florida. This song and many others like it collected by Hurston during the FWP are what they call railroad lining tunes. These songs were led by the singing liner while workers double-tracked Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway. The songs reveal glimpses of what life was like in the early twentieth century for African American laborers, including information about personal relationships, work life and financial concerns.

The song is available at the following link:

http://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/folklife/sound_hurston.cfm#



Shove It Over

When I get in Illinois,
I'm going to spread the news
about the Florida boys.

Chorus:

Shove it over!
Hey! Hey! Can't you line it?
Ah, shack-er-lack-er-lack-er-lack-
er-lack-er-lack-er-lack! UMH.
Can't you move it?
Hey! Hey! Can't you try?

Eat him up whiskers, and he
won't shave
Eat him up a body, and he won't
bathe

Chorus:

Oh the rooster chew tobacco
The hen dip her snuff
The biddy can't do it but he
struts his stuff

Chorus:

Here comes a woman walking
cross the field
Her mouth smoking like an
automobile.

Chorus:

The cap'n got a pistol
He tried to play bad
But I'm goin ta take it if it make
me mad.

Chorus:

Interview with Hurston

See next page for a transcript of the interview with Hurston where she explains the meaning of the song "Shove It Over"

Questions

1. Is there any relation between Eatonville and the song "Shove It Over"?
2. After listening and reading the folksong, what is the main idea of the song?
3. Identify the words in the song that Hurston explains in her interview correspond to specific actions.
4. Since folksongs such as these reveal what life was like, identify the different topics in the song.



Activities

Interview with Zora Neale Hurston

About the song, "Shove It Over"

Halpert: About how long ago?

Hurston: I gathered that in '33, 1933.

Halpert: This is again for lining?

Hurston: This is a lining rhythm.

Halpert: Now where is the moving?

Hurston: When they say "Shakalaka, shakalaka," like they are getting ready to pull back, and when they say "AHH," they shove the rail over.

Halpert: In other words, it's a part of that, so this song gives quite a lot of rest in between.

Hurston: A lot of rest in between.

Halpert: And a harder shove?

Hurston: And a harder shove! At "UH!" they all go.

Halpert: It seems to have different effect [than] the other line, lining one you gave, that one about Mobile.

Hurston: Yes. Some are short, some are long, just according to the mood of the liner, and the men work whatever song he sung. They work that rhythm. Now when the men are lining, they put the rail down, and then of course the captain, he squats straddle of it and looks down and he could tell when it is lined up in, in, in exact line with the others. If they carry it too far, the captain, he'll say, "Shove it over." And if they carry it too far, he'll say, "Stand it back." And when they get it exactly in line he'll tell them, "Join it ahead," but they done corrupted that to "Jonahead." And all of them say "Jonahead" for "Join it ahead." So this song is about lining. And the rhythm goes to a lining bar. They puts this long steel bar, crowbar, between the legs and uh, and pull back on it.

Halpert: How are they standing to the rail?

Hurston: Their back is to the rail.

Halpert: In other words, they have to force up on the bar.

Hurston: Pulling up on the bar, they don't have to look at the rail because that is the captain's job, to see when it is right.

Halpert: How do they get it under the rail?

Hurston: They just push the flange of this lining bar under the rail and then pull back on it.

Halpert: Do they have to look back at it or do they just feel it?

Hurston: Oh, they just feel it and they send it back.



Florida Frontiers

Florida Frontiers

The Weekly Radio Magazine of The Florida Historical Society

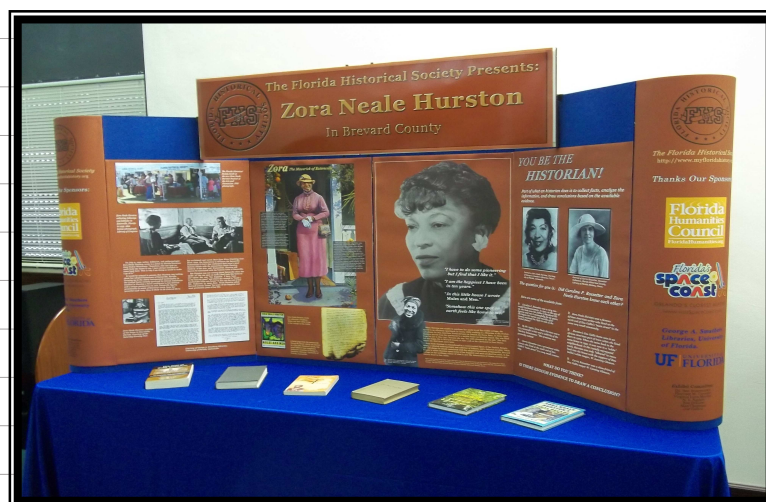
Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society is a weekly, half-hour radio program airing on public radio stations throughout the state since January 2009. The program is a combination of interview segments and produced features covering history-based events, exhibitions, activities, places and people in Florida. We explore the relevance of Florida history to contemporary society and promote awareness of heritage and culture tourism options in the state.

A word-searchable archive of *Florida Frontiers* episodes can be found at:

<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/frontiers.shows>

You can also access a digital display entitled: "Zora Neale Hurston in Brevard County" to learn more about Hurston's time on the Space Coast

<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/educational-resources/exhibits>





More Information

Florida Historical Society Library of Florida History

435 Brevard Avenue
Cocoa, FL 32922
Phone: 321.690.1971
E-mail: archivist@myfloridahistory.com

Visit our website for more information:

www.myfloridahistory.org



Facebook: Florida Historical Society

For Today in Florida History Posts!

The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.), a membership-based, tax exempt, historic preservation organization.

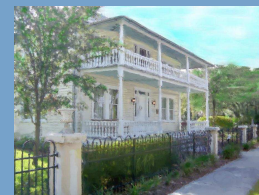
Established in 1988, the organization's mission is: To enhance the resources of Eatonville, Florida, which is the oldest incorporated African American municipality in the United States and the hometown of writer, folklorist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston. To educate the public about Eatonville's historic and cultural significance and to use the community's heritage and cultural vibrancy for its economic development.

The Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities is now recognized internationally as a premier event celebrating the cultural contributions Africa-descended people have made to the United States and to world culture.



The Historic Rossetter House Museum

Located in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne, Florida.
The museum is the 1908 James Wadsworth Rossetter House and Gardens.



Class field trips are welcome.
Contact the museum to schedule a tour.

321.254.9855

For more information online:
www.rossetterhousemuseum.org/

