

International Women's Day

What do you know about International Women's Day? Read this article to find out what it's all about!

Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. ...g... an achievement	a. when everyone is treated fairly and has the same chances
2. equality	b. someone who is part of, or wants to be part of, a government
3. a protest	c. a person in control of a group, country or situation
4. to vote	d. to give somebody support, courage or hope
5. a leader	e. to say which person or party you want to be in government
6. a politician	f. a chance or possibility to do something
7. to encourage someone	g. something very good and difficult that you have succeeded in doing
8. an opportunity	h. when people show that they disagree with something by standing somewhere, shouting, carrying signs, etc.

International Women's Day

What is International Women's Day?

International Women's Day is on 8 March every year. On this day people celebrate the achievements of women all over the world, but also continue to fight for more equality for women.

How did it start?

It started with a protest in New York City in 1908, when women went out onto the streets to say they wanted the right to vote. They also wanted shorter working hours and better pay. Then, in 1910 in Denmark, there was a meeting about women's rights, where a woman called Clara Zetkin had the idea for an international day for women. The first International Women's Day happened the next year, in 1911.

Why do we need a special day for women?

Around the world, most countries have a male leader and mostly male politicians. Most businesses have mostly male leaders. Men get paid more than women for doing the same job. In many countries, men also get a better education and better healthcare, and do less work at home and with their children.

We need change! And the changes need to start with girls. Did you know that, around the world:

- more boys than girls go to and finish school
- more boys than girls have access to the internet
- in lots of schools, there aren't any toilets for girls
- more boys than girls are encouraged to learn science and maths
- boys get more opportunities than girls to learn how to be a leader
- lots of girls have to do much more housework than boys
- more boys do a healthy amount of sports and exercise than girls?

All these things mean that when lots of girls grow up, they don't get good jobs and they don't become leaders who can help change things. We need to change things because having equality is a basic human right.

How is International Women's Day celebrated?

People celebrate by remembering and talking about important women from history and today, like Emmeline Pankhurst, Rosa Parks, Marie Curie, Kamala Harris, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai ... it's a very long list!

People also protest and have special events to speak about all the changes we still need to make. It's very important that boys and men celebrate this day too! If everyone works together, we can change things faster.

If you want to celebrate this important day, you could ...

- interview a woman you know (for example, your mum or grandma) and find out how life for women has changed since she was young
- find out about an important girl or woman in your country (for example, in politics, sport, science, history, etc.) and tell your family about her
- write a story or draw a cartoon with a girl as the hero
- ask your teacher if you can do a class project about this day.

Happy International Women's Day!

Tasks

Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. International Women's Day is on 8 March every year. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. The first International Women's Day was in 2011. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 3. In most countries in the world, the leader is a man. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 4. Men and women always earn the same money for the same job. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. Around the world, more boys than girls go to school. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. Around the world, girls and boys do the same amount of housework. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 7. International Women's Day is a good time to remember important women. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 8. Only girls and women can celebrate International Women's Day. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

changes	protest	achievements
interview	education	opportunities

- On International Women's Day, people celebrate the **achievements** of women all over the world.
- In New York City in 1908, there was a because women wanted the right to vote.
- In many countries, men get a better than women.
- Boys often get more than girls to be a leader.
- On International Women's Day, people talk about the we still need to make.
- To celebrate International Women's Day, you could a woman you know.

Write and draw

Do you celebrate International Women's Day in your country? Tell us about a woman or women who you admire.

Answers

Preparation task

1. g
2. a
3. h
4. e
5. c
6. b
7. d
8. f

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. False

Task 2

1. achievements
2. protest
3. education
4. opportunities
5. changes
6. interview