Medal of Honor Recipient: Mary Walker, M.D.

**Introduction:** In this lesson plan, students will learn who Medal of Honor Recipient Mary Edwards Walker, M.D. was and how she participated in the Civil War as a doctor.

**Illinois Learning Standards Addressed:**

16.A.2a Read historical stories and determine events which influenced their writing.

16.A.2b Compare different stories about a historical figure or event and analyze differences in the portrayals and perspectives they present.

16.A.2c Ask questions and seek answers by collecting and analyzing data from historic documents, images and other literary and non-literary sources.

16.B.2d (US) Identify major political events and leaders within the United States historical eras since the adoption of the Constitution, including the westward expansion, Louisiana Purchase, Civil War, and 20th century wars as well as the roles of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

16.B.1 (W) Explain the contributions of individuals and groups who are featured in biographies, legends, folklore and traditions.

16.D.2c (US) Describe the influence of key individuals and groups, including Susan B. Anthony/suffrage and Martin Luther King, Jr./civil rights, in the historical eras of Illinois and the United States.

(Source: http://www.isbe.state.il.us/lhs/social_science/word/goal16.doc)

**Objectives:**

1. Know when and where Mary Walker was born.
2. Know when Mary Walker got married and to whom.
   a. What did she wear on this day?
   b. Why was this unusual?
      i. What are Bloomers/Bloomerites?
      ii. How was Walker a part of the Dress Reform?
3. Know when the Civil War started and who was president.
4. Know why Walker was turned down in October of 1861 after applying for a position as an assistant surgeon.
   a. How did she overcome this obstacle?
   b. Were her efforts appreciated?
5. Know when Mary Walker became a prisoner of war.
   a. How was she captured?
      i. How long was she a prisoner?
      ii. What did she do while in captivity?
   b. When was she released?
      i. Whom did she think she was exchanged for?
      ii. Whom was she really exchanged for?

6. Know when she received the Medal of Honor.
   a. Why was the medal revoked?
   b. When was the medal reinstated?

7. Know when Mary Walker died and how the U.S. Postal Service honored her.

**In the Classroom:**

Have students create a picture biography of Mary Walker using drawings and captions. The front page should be the title page which will include the students’ name as the author and illustrator. The other pages should be in chronological order beginning with her birth. (There should be 8-10 pages in this biography).

Possible layout:
- Title page: Title, picture of Mary Walker, author, and illustrator’s name.
- Page 1: Mary’s birth (November 26, 1832)
- Page 2: Mary’s education at Falley Seminary in Fulton, NY (1850) and Syracuse Medical College in Syracuse, NY (1853)
- Page 3: Marriage to Albert Miller and unconventional bridal outfit (1856)
- Page 4: Civil War and Abraham Lincoln (1861)
- Page 5: Working as a doctor during Civil War (fight to save soldiers from unnecessary amputations)
- Page 6: Prisoner of war and helping other imprisoned soldiers (April 10 1864)
- Page 7: Receiving the Medal of Honor (1865)
- Page 8: U.S. Postal Service honoring Mary Walker with a 20 cent stamp (1982)

Students can add more pages if they feel it is necessary. Captions should be easy to read and describe what is happening in the picture.

**At the Library:**

Have students complete the Mary Walker Treasure Hunt. There are three (3) different Treasure Hunt assignments. Break the class up into three (3) groups so that each group receives a different assignment. See Dr. Mary Walker Treasure Hunt (1, 2, 3).
Resources at the Pritzker Military Library, also available through interlibrary loan:


Dr. Mary Walker Treasure Hunt (1)

Your group will have to complete the following activities in order to find the Mary Walker Treasure. Good luck to you all!

1. Find the title of the book.

Directions: Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTODC</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIICV RAV</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REWLAK</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELDAM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YRMA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Search the title of the book on the computers provided in the library. Write down the call number once you found it.

Now find the book!
3. Find the following item in this book

Directions: Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

WOUND

| 3 | 10 |

RYERUGS

| 6 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 2 |

ROCDOT

| 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 |

| M | A | | A | L | K | | | P | K |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

| I | A | L | K | I |

| 6 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3 |

Write down the page number: __ __

If your group made it this far, then you all have successfully completed the treasure hunt. Congratulations!
Dr. Mary Walker Treasure Hunt (2)

Your group will have to complete the following activities in order to find the Mary Walker Treasure. Good luck to you all!

1. Find the title of the book.
   Directions: Unscramble the tiles to reveal the title.
   
   
   
   
   

2. Search the title of the book on the computers provided at the library. Write down the call number once you found it.

   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

   Now find the book!
3. Find the following item in this book.

Directions: After all of the words are found the letters that are not used reveal a hidden message

B D P M N R W
L A R E A L K
O E I D M R S
O H S A O D E
M C O L W O R
E A N N H T I
R O E N O A S
E Q R A W R T

BLOOMER
HAT
HONOR
MEDAL
PRISONER
WAR
WOMAN

___ ___  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
___ ___  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Write down the page number: __ __

If your group made it this far, then you all have successfully completed the treasure hunt. Congratulations!
Dr. Mary Walker Treasure Hunt (3)

Your group will have to complete the following activities in order to find the Mary Walker Treasure. Good luck to you all!

1. Find the title of the book.

Directions: Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

DIOSELR

LINLOCN

MORFER

REDSS

COHSOL

2. Search the title of the book on the computers provided at the library. Write down the call number once you found it.

Now find the book!
3. Find the following items in this book.
Directions: Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Write down the page numbers: __ __ and __ __

If your group made it this far, then you all have successfully completed the treasure hunt. Congratulations!
Solutions

Treasure Hunt (1)
1. Doctor
   Civil War
   Walker
   Medal
   Mary
   A Woman of Honor: Dr. Mary E. Walker
2. E621.W242001
3. Wound
   Surgery
   Doctor
   Mary Walker’s Pocket Surgical Kit
Page number 41

Treasure Hunt (2)
1. Dr. Mary Walker: The Little Lady in Pants
2. R154.W18S51974
3. B D P M N R W
   L A R E A L K
   O E I D M R S
   O H S A O D E
   N C O L W O R
   E A N N H T I
   R O E N O A S
   + + R A W R T
   (Over, Down, Direction)
   BLOOMER(1,1,S)
   HAT(5,6,SE)
   HONOR(2,4,SE)
   MEDAL(4,1,S)
   PRISONER(3,1,S)
   WAR(5,8,W)
   WOMAN(5,5,N)

Dr Walkers Decorations
Page number 98

Treasure Hunt (3)
1. Soldier
   Lincoln
   Reform
   Dress
   School
   Civil War Doctor: The Story of Mary Walker
2. R154.WJ652006
3. Picture of Young Mary and Elderly Mary
   Possible page numbers 19, 44, 76, 90, 106, 109