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Remarkable women

Reading

Before reading

- 1 Discuss these questions.
 - 1 Can you name any important women in the world now, or from the past?
 - 2 Have you ever heard of Pocahontas? Who was she?
- 2  Read and listen.



The real Pocahontas

Most people know the name Pocahontas because a famous cartoon film about her was made in 1995. The film mixes **fact** and **fiction** to create an exciting story. The real Pocahontas wasn't like the Pocahontas in the film. However, she was a **remarkable** woman and she had an amazing life.

Pocahontas was born in America in about 1595. Her father, Powhatan, was the **chief** of many Native American **tribes** in the area that is now called Virginia. Pocahontas's real name was Mataoka, but she was given the **nickname** Pocahontas because she liked to run and play. Pocahontas means '**playful** little girl' in the language of her tribe.

In May 1607, Englishmen sailed to Virginia. One of them was John Smith. Some Native Americans saw John Smith. They didn't know if he was a friend or an **enemy** so they took him to Chief Powhatan. Smith had to lie down on a big, flat rock. The Chief's men picked up huge sticks and wanted to kill Smith. Suddenly Pocahontas ran to Smith and put her head on his. The men could not hit Pocahontas because she was the Chief's daughter. Pocahontas helped Smith to stand up. Chief Powhatan said that he and Smith were now friends, because Pocahontas had saved Smith's life.

The English built a **fort** in Virginia. Pocahontas often visited the fort. She took food and clothes for the English and they gave her tools for her people. Unfortunately, the Native Americans and the English were not friends for long. They began to fight and Pocahontas was not allowed to visit the fort so often.

In 1613, Pocahontas met an Englishman called John Rolfe. They fell in love and decided to marry. Their marriage helped to bring **peace** between the English and Chief Powhatan's people. Pocahontas changed her name to Rebecca and she had a son called Thomas.

In 1616, Pocahontas and her family travelled to England. She met the King of England and many other important people. She also met her old friend, John Smith. Pocahontas became famous in England and people were kind to her. Everyone heard the story of how she saved John Smith's life and helped the English and the Native Americans to become friends.

The Rolfe family stayed in England for seven months. When it was time to return to Virginia, Pocahontas became ill and could not make the long journey back to America. Pocahontas died in England in March 1617. She was only twenty-two years old.



Vocabulary

3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

- 1 fort (noun) a strong building that was made to protect a place
- 2 _____ (noun) the opposite of a friend – someone who hates you
- 3 _____ (noun) something that really happened
- 4 _____ (noun) stories that somebody writes that are not true
- 5 _____ (adjective) unusual and surprising in a good way
- 6 _____ (adjective) fun and childlike
- 7 _____ (noun) a name that your friends and family sometimes call you instead of your real name
- 8 _____ (noun) small groups of people who have the same language or customs
- 9 _____ (noun) the leader or ruler of a tribe
- 10 _____ (noun) a time when there is no fighting between people or countries

Reading comprehension

4 Number the events in the correct order.

- Pocahontas met the King of England. _____
- Pocahontas was given the nickname Pocahontas. _____
- Pocahontas married the Englishman John Rolfe. _____
- Pocahontas was born in about 1595. 1
- Pocahontas died in England in 1617. _____
- Pocahontas saved John Smith's life. _____
- Pocahontas went to England. _____
- Chief Powhatan's men met John Smith. _____

5 Write *True* or *False*.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 Pocahontas was a Native American girl. | <u>True</u> |
| 2 Chief Powhatan was the chief of one Native American tribe. | _____ |
| 3 John Smith was an Englishman. | _____ |
| 4 Chief Powhatan said that John Smith was his enemy. | _____ |
| 5 The people in the fort gave Pocahontas food and clothes. | _____ |
| 6 Pocahontas married an Englishman called Thomas. | _____ |
| 7 Pocahontas met lots of important people in England. | _____ |
| 8 The cartoon film about Pocahontas tells the true story of her life. | _____ |

6 Answer the questions.

- When was the cartoon film *Pocahontas* made? In 1995.
- What was Pocahontas's real name?
- What does the word *pocahontas* mean?
- Why did Chief Powhatan and John Smith become friends?
- Were Chief Powhatan's people and the Englishmen friends for long?
- Who did Pocahontas meet in 1613?
- What was Pocahontas's new name?
- How old was Pocahontas when she died?

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- Did any parts of the text surprise you? Why?
- Do you think Pocahontas was brave? Why or why not?
- Why do you think we know about more remarkable men than women from the past?

Helen Keller

Helen Keller was born in Alabama, USA on June 27th 1880. When she was a baby, Helen was very ill and her illness left her deaf and blind. Helen's friend, Martha, helped Helen to create a sign language. By the time she was seven, Helen could use more than sixty signs to talk to her family.

In 1886, the Kellers met an amazing teacher called Anne Sullivan. They asked her to teach Helen. Anne used her finger to 'write' words on Helen's hand. The first word Helen learnt was 'water'. Anne spelt the word on Helen's hand while she ran water over Helen's other hand. Soon she was able to go to school, then university. Later, Helen became a famous speaker and writer. She worked hard to make life better for people with disabilities.



When you write the story of someone's life, use time linkers such as:

when, by the time, later, soon, then, finally

When she was a baby, Helen was very ill.

By the time she was seven, Helen could use more than sixty signs to talk to her family.

Can you find more examples?

7 Read and circle the best time linkers.

¹ *Then / When* Amy was eight, she decided to learn the violin. ² *Later / By the time* she was ten, she could play very well. ³ *When / Soon* she was invited to play in the school concert. She practised every day. *By the time / Finally*, the day of the concert arrived. Amy played beautifully and everyone clapped.

8 Write the life story of Florence Nightingale. Use these notes. Remember to use time linkers.

Name

Florence Nightingale

Born

12th May 1820, in Florence (Italy)

Education

was taught by her father

Interests

helping and caring for sick people

Work

1849 – travelled to Europe to study European hospitals

1850 – travelled to Egypt to study nursing

1853 – was in charge of a women's hospital in London

1854 – went to Turkey and improved conditions in hospitals

Nickname

'The Lady of The Lamp', because she worked all day and all night.