

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 252 446

SO 016 070

AUTHOR Morgan, Bette, Comp.
TITLE Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial 1884-1984. Eleanor Roosevelt Curriculum Kit, K-6.
INSTITUTION National Women's History Project, Santa Rosa, CA.
PUB DATE 83
NOTE 18p.; Photographs may not reproduce well.
AVAILABLE FROM National Women's History Project, P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 (\$4.50).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051)

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Biographies; Elementary Education; *Females; Language Arts; Learning Activities; Resource Materials; *United States History; Units of Study; Womens Studies
IDENTIFIERS *Roosevelt (Eleanor)

ABSTRACT

This study unit is designed to assist elementary students in discovering Eleanor Roosevelt's contributions to U.S. history and to the world. The unit begins with a brief biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, followed by biography study questions. Learning activities are then suggested. Students are asked to make costumes and portray her at different ages and stages of her life. An advocate for world peace, she worked hard for that issue. Students are asked to explore various issues that people are working hard for today. A third activity involves students in designing a postage stamp or a poster honoring Eleanor Roosevelt. A coloring page is provided. A language arts activity asks students to find the meaning of words and to use the words to complete sentences. A crossword puzzle and a word scramble are provided. The unit concludes with two listings of further resources about Eleanor Roosevelt. Also included for teacher use is a chronology of events in her life. (RM)

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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

★ **Centennial 1884-1984** ★

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT CURRICULUM KIT K - 6

National Women's History Project

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Dear Educator,

October 11, 1984 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth. This study unit is designed to assist elementary students in discovering Eleanor Roosevelt's contributions to our country and to the world. If you would like further information about scheduled special events please contact: Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial Observance Committee of Friends and Admirers, 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 4055, New York City, NY 10017, or phone (212) 775-7361.

The following chronology has been developed to provide you with useful background information of events in the life of Eleanor Roosevelt:

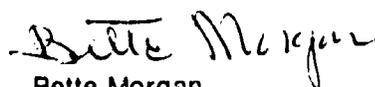
October 11, 1884 — Anna Eleanor Roosevelt born in New York City.

- 1899** — Attends Allenswood, a girls' boarding school near London. She later said that these were some of the happiest years of her life, commenting, "Whatever I have become since had its seeds in those three years . . ."
- 1902** — Becomes involved in settlement house work and joins the National Consumer's League concerned with worker safety.
- 1905** — Marries Franklin Delano Roosevelt (and so her last name does not change). Becomes the mother of six children: Anna, born 1906; James, 1907; Franklin 1909 (died at age 7 months); Elliott, 1910; Franklin Jr., 1914; and John in 1916.
- 1922** — Joins the Women's Trade Union League to work for the maximum hour rule and minimum wage laws for women.
- 1928** — Assists in the successful campaign of her husband, Franklin Roosevelt, for governor of New York; is instrumental in getting Frances Perkins (who later becomes the U.S. Secretary of Labor) appointed as New York State industrial commissioner.
- 1932** — Campaigns for Franklin Roosevelt for President of the United States. She holds regular press conferences with only women reporters allowed to attend, believing this will help women reporters keep their jobs during the Depression and possibly open up more jobs. These press conferences provide a forum for transmitting the concerns of women. Mary McLeod Bethune is one of the many women whom she introduces to the press.
- 1936** — Begins writing "My Day," her own column in daily newspapers across the country, as well as giving lectures and speaking on the radio on issues involving the poor and disadvantaged, using much of the information she gathers on her fact finding trips for President Roosevelt.
- 1939** — Resigns her membership with the Daughters of the American Revolution organization when they refuse to allow Marian Anderson, a Black opera singer, to perform in the D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Eleanor arranges for Anderson to perform instead on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. She speaks out against lynching of Blacks and argues to eliminate discrimination in the armed forces and defense plants.
- 1945** — Becomes a widow upon the death of President Roosevelt. President Truman appoints her to the United Nations.
- 1948** — Receives a standing ovation when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights passes the General Assembly of the United Nations. She served as chair of the committee that drafted the Declaration.
- 1953** — Resigns from United Nations post when Eisenhower becomes President, giving her last U.N. speech on the international rights of women. Works for the American Association for the United Nations to gather public support for international cooperation. Travels throughout the world.
- 1961** — President Kennedy appoints her Chair of the first national Commission on the Status of Women.
- 1962** — Testifies for the Commission on the Status of Women at a Congressional hearing on behalf of equal pay laws for women. In November, dies at her home in New York City.

All pages of this curriculum kit can be duplicated for classroom use.

The accompanying biography was prepared for young readers who can draw their own illustrations within each frame. The coloring page may be used as a cover for each reader's book on Eleanor Roosevelt.

Sincerely,



Bette Morgan
National Women's History Project

Biography by Nancy Aldinger Nakai ★ Coloring page by Mary Crawford ★ Poster by Feminist Horizons, 965 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104 ★ Kit compiled by Bette Morgan ★ Published by National Women's History Project, P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. 1983

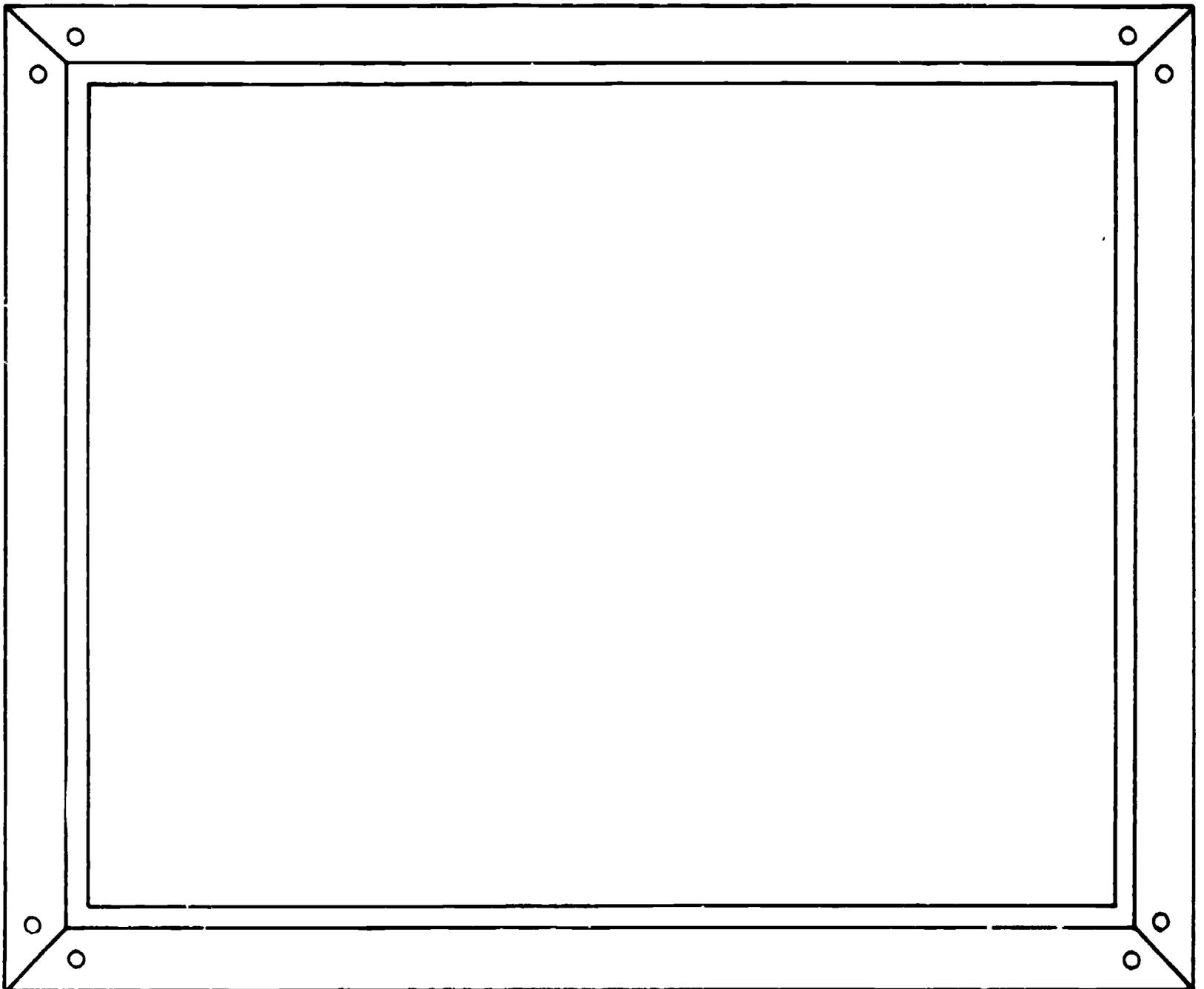
★ ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BIOGRAPHY ★

by Nancy Aldinger Nakai



Life did not start out happily for Eleanor Roosevelt. For one thing, people were always using words like "plain" and "awkward" to describe her. She was always being told how she didn't look like her pretty mother. Even worse, she had to wear a steel brace around her chest for two long years because of a spine problem. Eleanor was a somber girl. But she had good reason to be sad. When she was eight years old, her mother died. The next year her brother, Elliott, died. The year after that her beloved father died. Except for her other brother, baby Hall, Eleanor's only family was a grandmother who was very strict, and some busy aunts and uncles. She was a lonely girl, and had few playmates nearby to have fun with. So Eleanor was often alone.

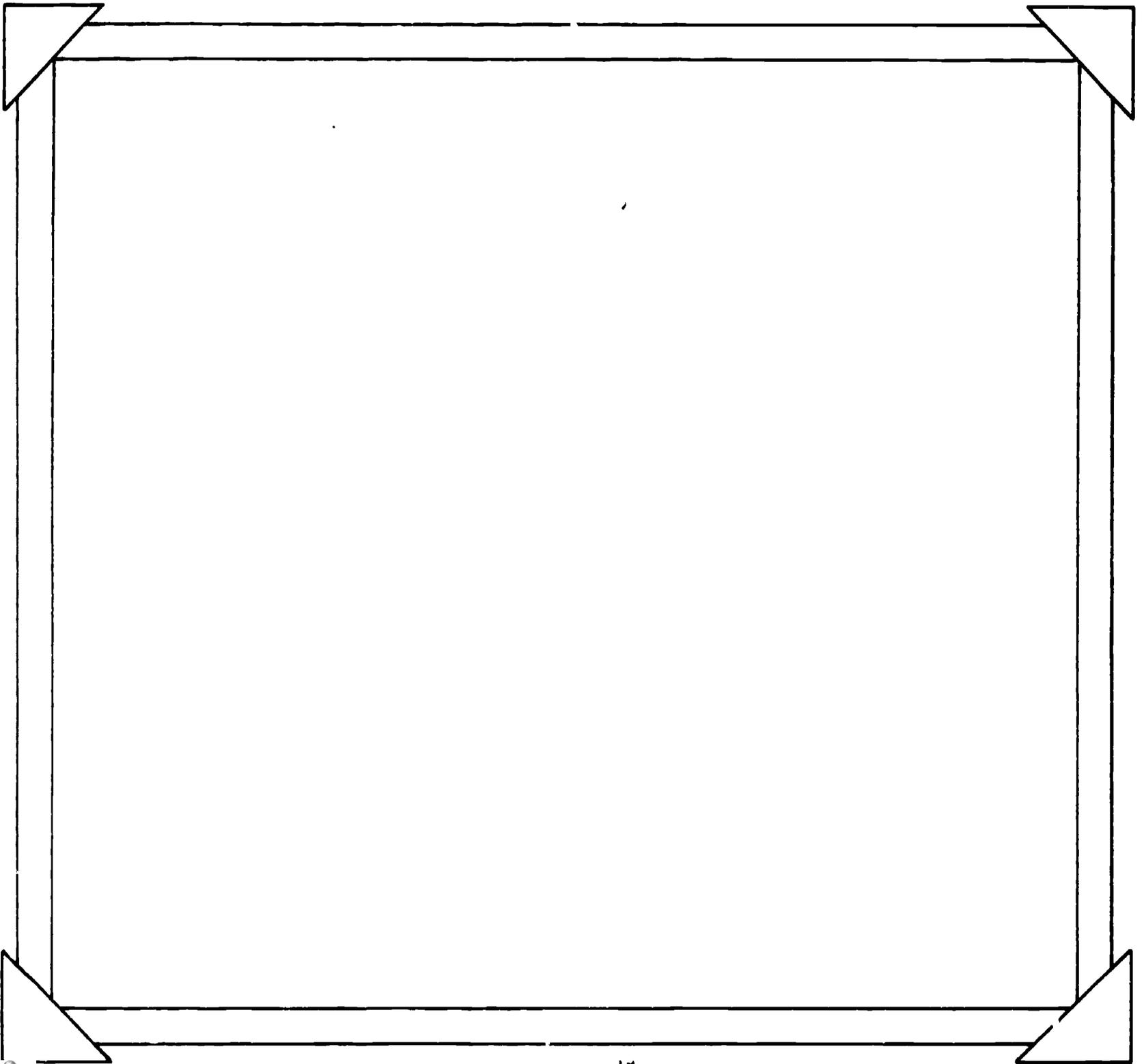
When Eleanor was around 18 years old, she met a distant cousin called Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They liked each other, and within a few years they were married. By the time Franklin, or F.D.R. as people called him, had begun a career in politics, Eleanor was a busy mother with many children to care for. But life was to change for her. During this time, one of the children, a baby boy, was to die from heart trouble. Later, her husband was stricken with a disease called polio, which made it very hard for Franklin to use his legs. Many of their friends said that Franklin should retire and stay at home. But Eleanor helped to convince Franklin to continue his political career. To aid him, she "became his legs." She travelled to places where he could not go because he was too tired, or because his special walking crutches could not take him there. She made speeches for him, and met with important people. She made all of the efforts to keep the name of Roosevelt from being forgotten. In a few years, FDR was elected governor of New York state. Soon after, he was elected President of the United States.



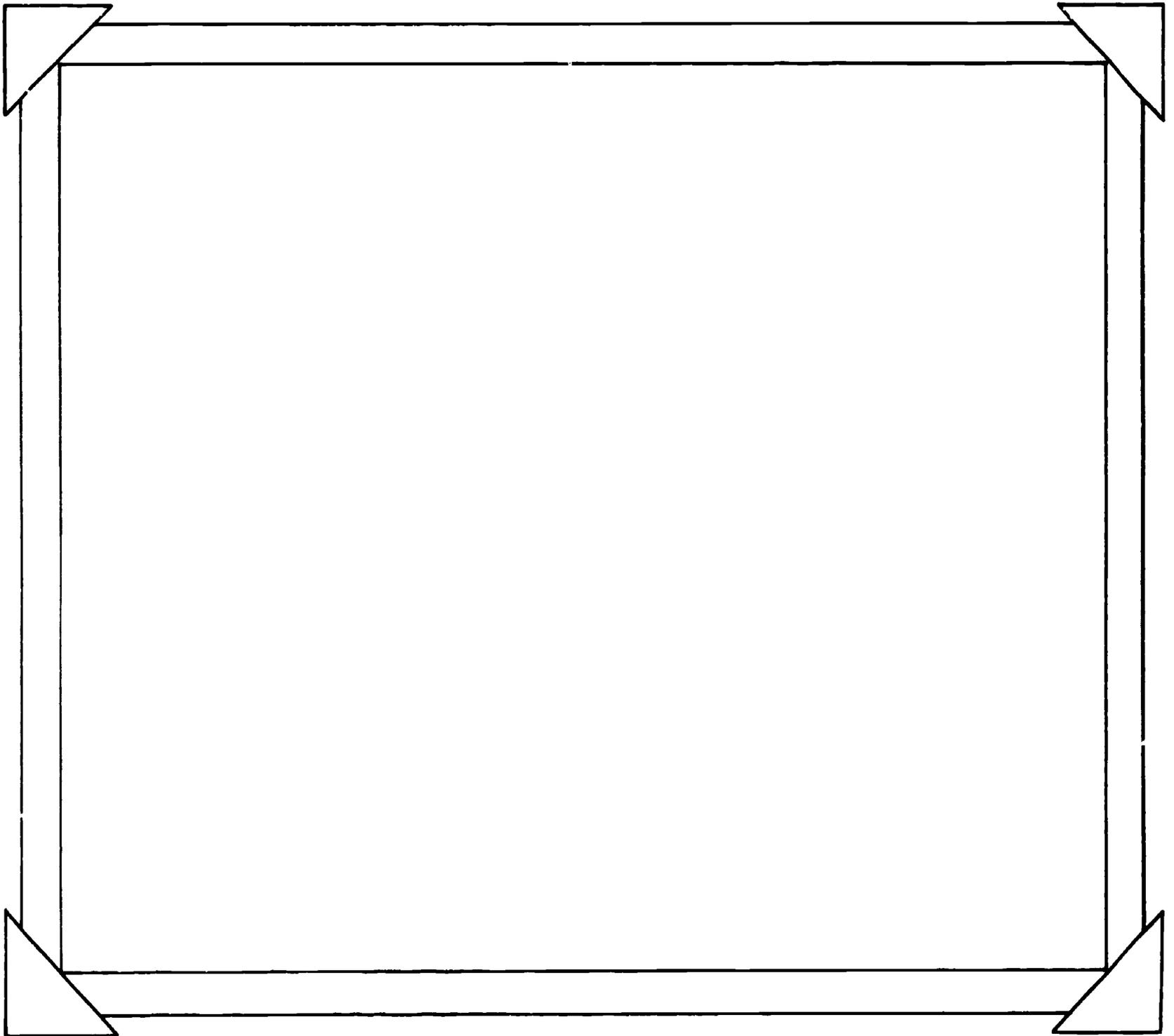
At the time Franklin became President, America was in the middle of very bad times called the "Great Depression." Many people were out of work; even more people were out of hope. They looked to the President to help them. For the next twelve years, "First Lady" Eleanor travelled across the country, visiting schools, hospitals, prisons or any place that people needed help. Eleanor would then report back to the President what she had seen and what she thought needed to be done. Eleanor spoke out in favor of women's rights and minority rights, especially for black people.

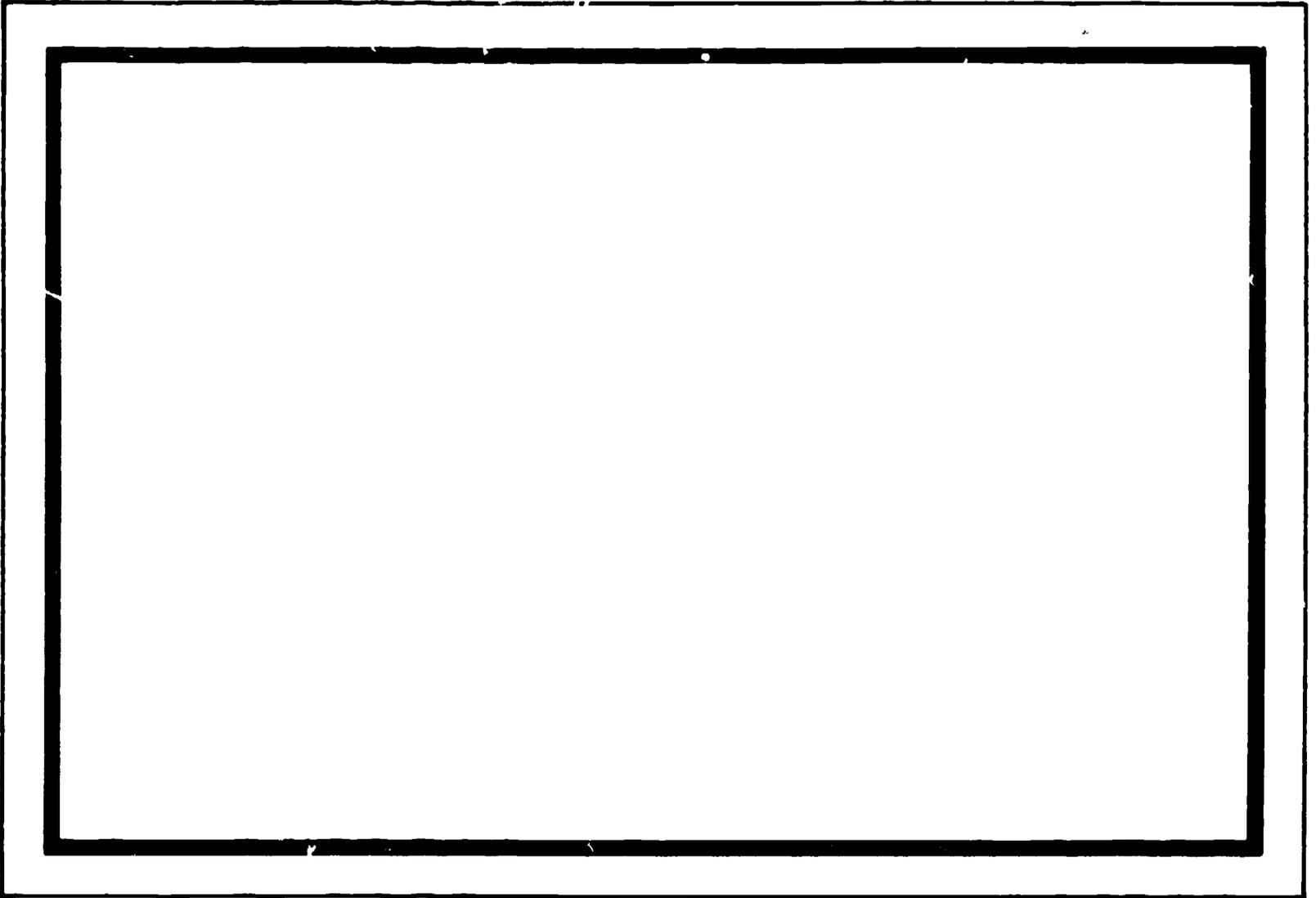
She supported these issues when they were not popular. She became known as a person who stood up for the "underdog." Because of this she was often made fun of in the nation's newspapers. Some newspapers were unfair and cruel, attacking her personal looks instead of the issues. They called her "big mouth", which teased her large smile and teeth; they called her ugly, and joked about her clothes and her voice. But these things did not stop her. During the Second World War, Eleanor travelled thousands of miles, to Europe and the South Pacific area, and visited Allied troops. She met with world leaders such as Winston Churchill and the King of Norway. Always she reported back to the President on what she saw and what needed to be done. Eleanor also assisted in efforts to help refugees from the war-torn areas, especially children, flee to safer places.

After the death of Franklin in 1945, Eleanor felt that her work might be finished. But she was wrong. Within six months, President Truman appointed her special delegate to the United Nations, then meeting for the very first time. She served as a delegate for six years, until she was almost 68 years old. Her years in service at the UN were busy with work for freedom and justice for all peoples. She was in charge of the group which wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Magna Charta for all humankind. Eleanor was awarded the first United Nations Human Rights Prize. During this time she also had her own radio show. She also had a television program, where she interviewed the important persons of the day. She was involved in many charities. She wrote three books, a daily newspaper column, and a monthly column for a women's magazine.



Eleanor Roosevelt had become the most famous woman in the world. She was always being asked to give lectures and speeches. She was invited to visit countries all over the world; she was America's best ambassador. "Send Eleanor Roosevelt," they would say. She was voted America's "Most Admired Woman" for decades. When she was at home, she welcomed a steady stream of world dignitaries—kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers. But mostly, she loved the visits of school children. She loved to show them around her house and tell them what famous people had stayed there and what important decisions had been made in which room.





In 1962, when Eleanor Roosevelt died, millions of people all over the world were saddened by the news of her death. Eleanor had come a long way from the shy, lonely girl she had once been. For she had won the hearts of the people of the world.

The 100th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday will be on October 11, 1984. On this day the Post Office will issue a special stamp like the one shown here. People all over the country will take time to honor all the wonderful things Eleanor Roosevelt accomplished to help the people of this country and the world.



★ BIOGRAPHY STUDY QUESTIONS ★

1. Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Think about her life when she was growing up and what this statement might have meant to her as a young girl.
2. Before the Roosevelts, most wives of U.S. Presidents primarily entertained diplomats and important visitors in the White House. Eleanor Roosevelt was very different and was often written about in the newspapers because of her activities. What kind of work did she do?
3. Do some research to find the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that Eleanor Roosevelt helped to write when she was in the United Nations. What sentences in the Declaration mean the most to you? Why?
4. Pretending that you are Eleanor Roosevelt, conduct a television interview program of a person important in the world today. Who will you interview? What will you talk about? Plan your questions carefully. Working with another student, present your "TV show" for your class.

★ ACTIVITIES ★

I. Living Biography Activity

Children can portray Eleanor Roosevelt at different ages and stages of her life. Costumes can be clothes from home or paper body tracings colored to make a costume and then taped or pinned to the students' shoulders. If all the children stand together at the conclusion, they will represent Eleanor Roosevelt as she lived her life from youth to old age.

Suggested portrayals:

1. Eleanor Roosevelt as a young girl:
 - Handicapped because of the steel brace she had to wear
 - Liked to play, but considered clumsy
 - Goes away to school in England, discovers exercise and learns to dance
2. Eleanor as the "First Lady":
 - Does settlement housework when first married, teaching history & exercise
 - Husband disabled by polio. She travels for him on fact finding trips to mines and factories, and visits wounded soldiers during World War II.
 - Establishes her own press corps; only women reporters are allowed to attend her press conferences
 - Serves as a reporter, writing her own columns and conducting radio and television programs.
3. Eleanor before her last speech at the United Nations:
 - Last speech was on women's rights all over the world and the need for women as leaders and policy makers.
 - Her thoughts as she looks back over her years of public service.

II. How-To-Change-Things Activity

Eleanor Roosevelt felt strongly about the importance of world peace and worked hard for that issue. Consider this quote from a broadcast she did for Voice of America radio on November 11, 1951: "For it isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Have the children explore the following:

1. What is an "issue"? What issues are people working for today?
2. What issues are important in your home town? Check your local newspapers, TV news, and radio news programs.
3. Watch the national news shows on TV, look at national magazines like **Time** or **Newsweek**. What are the issues they are presenting? Are they the same as or different from your home town issues?
4. What issues do you think you might be interested in working on? How will you do this?

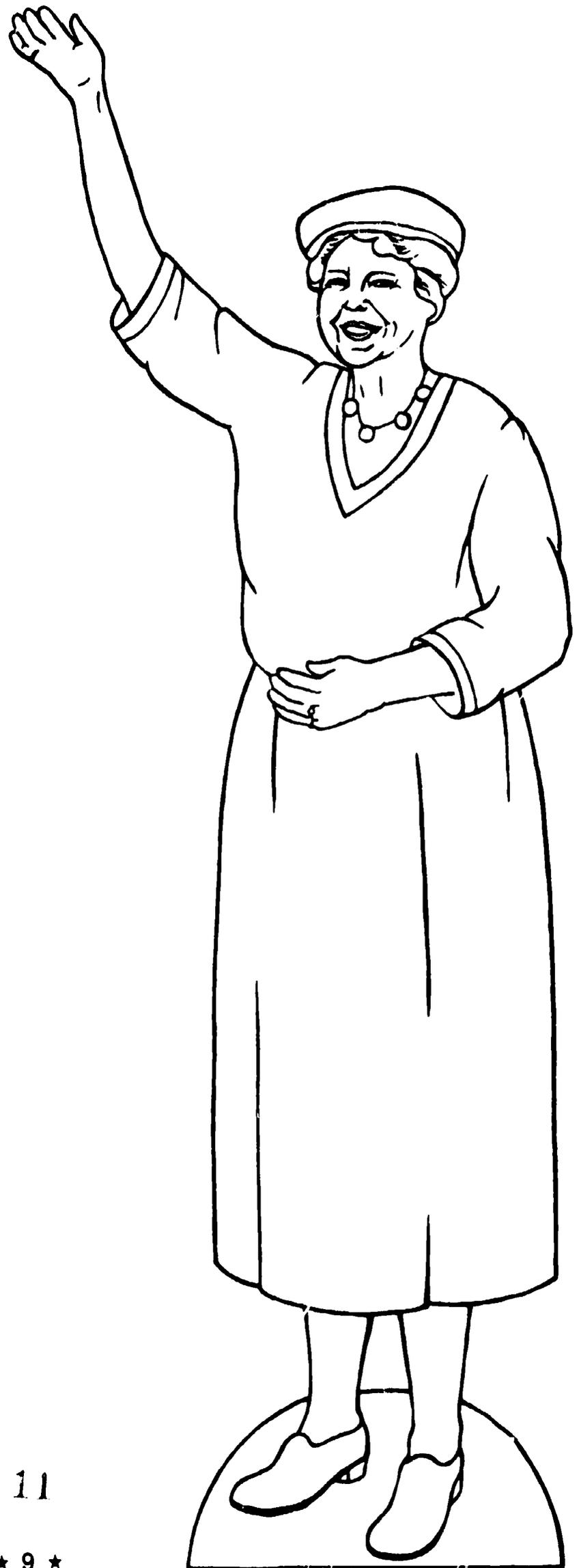
III. Design a postage stamp or poster honoring the Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial. A special stamp honoring Eleanor Roosevelt will be issued by the Post Office from Hyde Park, New York on October 11, 1984.



**THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
of Human Rights**

emblem of the United Nations

Eleanor Roosevelt served as the United States' representative to the United Nations from 1945 to 1953. She was awarded the first United Nations' Human Rights Prize after her death.



★ LANGUAGE ARTS ★

Find the meaning of these words. Use each one in a sentence.

plain	disease	underdog
lonely	ambassador	delegate
awkward	woman	universal
war-torn	political	declaration
brace	career	United Nations
refugee	depression	interview
spine	rights	charity
somber	issues	lectures
column	busy	dignitaries

Use the words above to complete these sentences.

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was a -- -- -- -- child, who had to wear a -- -- -- -- because of her -- -- -- -- .
2. She was the "First Lady" when the United States was in an economic -- -- -- -- .
3. Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to help -- -- -- -- from -- -- -- -- areas.
4. She wrote a daily newspaper -- -- -- -- .
5. She stood up for the -- -- -- -- .
6. She gave most of the money she made as a journalist to -- -- -- -- .
7. Eleanor Roosevelt frequently gave -- -- -- -- in favor of human -- -- -- -- .
8. She served as a -- -- -- -- to the -- -- -- -- .
9. She was our -- -- -- -- to the world.
10. Eleanor Roosevelt became the most famous -- -- -- -- in the world.
11. She was in charge of the group which wrote the -- -- -- -- .
12. Her -- -- -- -- lasted over 60 years.
13. She entertained -- -- -- -- from all over the world.
14. She worked on many -- -- -- -- , particularly those concerning children.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

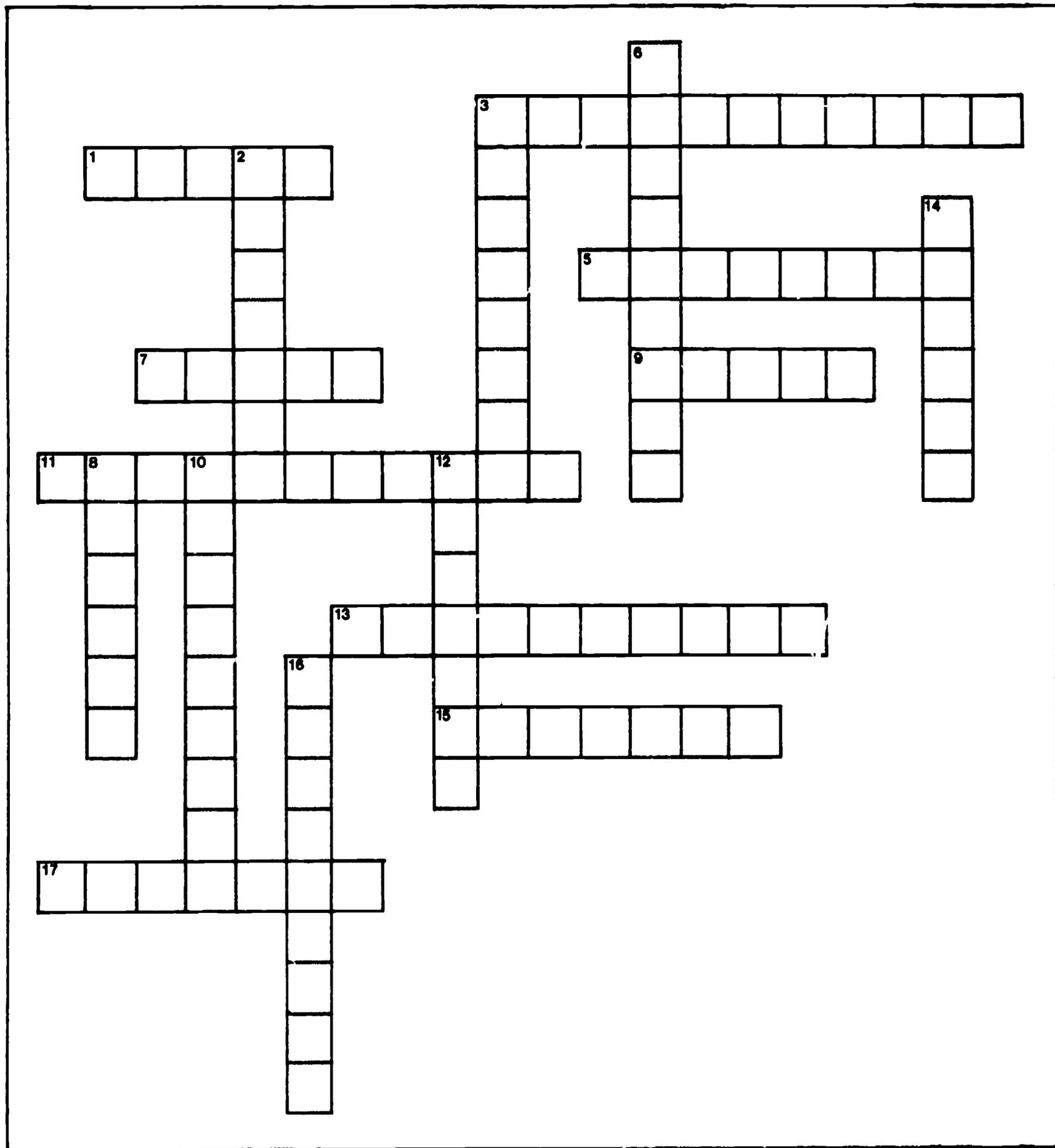
ACROSS

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was the most famous — — — — — in the world.
3. She knew many important — — — — — .
5. She frequently gave — — — — — and speeches.
7. When she was a little girl, Eleanor Roosevelt wore a steel — — — — — .
9. For two years when she was a little girl, Eleanor Roosevelt had problems with her — — — — — .
11. She was raised by her — — — — — because her parents died.
13. Eleanor Roosevelt was America's best — — — — — .
15. She travelled to many — — — — — throughout the world.
17. She gave money to — — — — — .

DOWN

2. Some people thought Eleanor Roosevelt was — — — — — .
3. She was the United States' — — — — — to the United Nations.
6. She helped write the — — — — — Declaration of Human Rights.
8. Eleanor Roosevelt helped Mary McLeod Bethune work for civil — — — — — for Black people in this country.
10. She wrote a daily — — — — — column.
12. She travelled and spoke for her — — — — — because he was unable to walk.
14. Eleanor Roosevelt supported — — — — — even when they were not popular.
16. She helped her husband with his — — — — — career.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★



★ WORD SCRAMBLE ★

Find the words in the list hidden in the puzzle. Some of the words go across and some of the words go down.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. plain | 8. refugee |
| 2. Eleanor | 9. war-torn |
| 3. political | 10. disease |
| 4. career | 11. issue |
| 5. depression | 12. universal |
| 6. dignitaries | 13. somber |
| 7. lecture | 14. rights |

A	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	P	P	E
R	I	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	A	L	O	L	W
D	G	D	F	S	A	Y	M	O	L	D	L	A	A
I	N	E	L	E	C	T	U	R	E	O	I	I	R
S	I	A	M	A	T	T	W	I	L	D	T	N	T
E	T	W	R	E	E	H	U	G	B	C	I	I	O
A	A	P	W	T	N	D	R	H	O	A	C	I	R
S	R	E	F	U	G	E	E	T	S	R	A	S	N
E	I	S	M	P	O	I	C	S	D	E	L	S	D
I	E	S	O	M	B	E	R	Y	E	E	O	U	L
I	S	E	L	E	A	N	O	R	S	R	V	E	Q

★ ANSWER SHEET ★

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. lonely, brace, spine.
2. depression
3. refugees, war-torn
4. column
5. underdog
6. charity
7. lectures, rights
8. delegate, United Nations
9. ambassador
10. woman
11. Universal Declaration
12. career
13. dignitaries
14. political issues

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | Across | Down |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. woman | 2. awkward |
| 3. dignitaries | 3. delegate |
| 5. lectures | 6. Universal |
| 7. brace | 8. rights |
| 9. spine | 10. newspaper |
| 11. grandmother | 12. husband |
| 13. ambassador | 14. issues |
| 15. nations | 16. political |
| 17. charity | |

WORD SCRAMBLE

A	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	P	P	E
R	I	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	A	L	O	L	W
D	G	D	F	S	A	Y	M	O	L	D	L	A	A
I	N	E	L	E	C	T	U	R	E	O	I	I	R
S	I	A	M	A	T	T	W	I	L	D	T	N	T
E	T	W	R	E	E	H	U	G	B	C	I	I	O
A	A	P	W	T	N	D	R	H	O	A	C	I	R
S	R	E	F	U	G	E	E	T	S	R	A	S	N
E	I	S	M	P	O	I	C	S	D	E	L	S	D
I	E	S	O	M	B	E	R	Y	E	E	O	U	L
I	S	E	L	E	A	N	O	R	S	R	V	E	Q

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ABOUT** ★

★ **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Blassingame, Wyatt. **Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. Putnam 1964. (grades 2-4)

Crisp, clear, easy-to-read text is a faithful and warm but not sentimental account of the life of the great humanitarian. It captures the essence of Roosevelt and serves well as an introduction to her life for young readers.

Davidson, Margaret. **Story of Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. with photographs. Four Winds, 1969. (grades 4-6)

Outstanding biography is accurate and well-written though very informal. The author brings Roosevelt to life, clearly stating her many accomplishments and capturing her personality.

Gilbert, Miriam. **Shy Girl: The Story of Eleanor Roosevelt**. Doubleday, 1965. (grades 5-9)

A very readable, sympathetic account of Eleanor Roosevelt's unhappy childhood. Written at a very easy reading level, it should appeal to older less able readers, and may well spark their imagination to read a more complete biography of her.

Goodsell, Jane. **Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. Crowell, 1970. (grades 1-3)

Simple, but worthwhile biography is a stirring, thoughtful examination of Eleanor Roosevelt as youngster, wife, mother and great humanitarian.

Graves, Charles. **Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady of the Land**. Illus. Garrard, 1965. (grades 2-5)

Good account of Eleanor Roosevelt is immensely readable but does not place sufficient emphasis on her role as an individual, although it does cite her accomplishments.

Johnson, Ann Donegan. **The Value of Carling: The Story of Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. Value Communications, 1977. (grades K-3)

Overly fictionalized, excessively adulatory biography does convey Eleanor Roosevelt's accomplishments and humanitarian values. While it may be appealing to pre-school youngsters, it seems a little too gushy. A full-page factual biographical profile follows the colorful picture-book story, and this is a well-balanced account. This portion of the book will be of interest to older readers and adults.

Richards, Kenneth. **Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. Childr. 's Press, 1968 (grades 6-up)

Very fine black and white photographs and illustrations compose the major part of this study of Eleanor Roosevelt. The text is also substantial, warm, dramatic, and informative.

Roosevelt, Eleanor. **The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt**. Harper, 1961 (grades 9-up)

One volume personal narrative consists of material selected from three volumes of memoirs of Eleanor Roosevelt. A final chapter which she added for this book tells of her activities through the 1960 elections. An outstanding book, it provides many warm, intimate glimpses of Roosevelt's life.

Whitney, Sharon. **Eleanor Roosevelt**. Illus. with photographs. Watts, 1982. (grades 7-up)

Intelligently written, serious, well-rounded biography of Eleanor Roosevelt is a personal as well as historical biography.

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★ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ★

The following resources can be purchased from the National Women's History Resource Service, P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, (707) 526-5974. Catalog available upon request.

- Brin, Ruth F. **Contributions of Women: Social Reform.** Dillon Press 1980. (grades 7-12)
Lots of information of Eleanor Roosevelt's life, from youth to her service with the United Nations. Illustrated.
- Collins, Jean E. **She Was There: Stories of Pioneering Women Journalists.** Messner Press 1980. (grades 6-10)
Includes story on Eleanor Roosevelt as well as some of the women in her press corps. Illustrated.
- Conta, Marcia Maher. **Women for Human Rights.** Raintree Publishers 1979. (grades 4-7)
Good description of Eleanor Roosevelt as "First Lady" and delegate to the United Nations.
- Stallone, Carol N., ed. **National Women's Hall of Fame Coloring Book.** (grades 6-9)
Includes a line drawing of Eleanor Roosevelt, as well as many other women, all of whom are included in the Hall of Fame.
- Stallone, Carol N. **Faces and Phases of Women.** National Women's Hall of Fame 1983. (grades 6-9)
Includes brief biography and sketch of Eleanor Roosevelt. (Poster available from National Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 335, Seneca Falls, NY 13148)
- Melaine Victoria Press. **Women from History Post Card Set #2, 20th Century Women.**
Includes a card featuring Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart.
- Folkways Records. **But the Women Rose . . . Volume 2.**
This record includes the words of Eleanor Roosevelt and many other women important in U.S. History.