

Additional Activity – Women in Education

Title of Activity	"You can be a teacher or a nurse"
Type of Activity	Multi-grade (9-12) Critical thinking , Comparative Study Journal entry
Suggested Subjects	Social Sciences and Humanities, Communications, English, History, Business Studies

Description of activity	In the 19th century, women could be nurses, teachers or secretaries. Most of the doors to a post-secondary education were closed. compare education that was available to women 100 years ago to now. - which careers could women enter? - how and when did this change? - what are some of the social, economical and political implications of these changes? Here are some resources that may help with initial research Article Rural Teachers in Canada Looking Back: Women's History in Ontario Teacher Federations Women's education grew in the 19th Century as attitudes changed, but challenges remained A Brief History of Women in Higher Education <u>Women as teachers:</u> The following are the rules that teachers were forced to follow at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada. (link: https://vancouver.sun.com/news/staff-blogs/rules-for-teachers-then-and-now) These rules were posted in the handbook for teachers: 1. You will not keep company with married men. 2. You will not marry during the term of the contract. 3. You must be home between the hours of 8 pm and 6 am. 4. You must not loiter downtown in any of the ice cream stores. 5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board. 6. You may not ride in carriage or automobile with any man unless it be your father or your brother. 7. You may not smoke cigarettes. 8. You may not dress in bright colours, and you may not under any circumstances dye your hair. 9. You must wear at least two petticoats, and your dresses may not be shorter than two inches above your ankles. 10. You must keep the school neat and clean, sweep the floor at least once daily and scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water. 11. You must clean the blackboards once a day, and start the fire at 7 am so the room will be warm at 8 am. Women were forced to leave the profession once they chose to get married. What jobs are closed to women in the present day?
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What are the social, emotional, political and economic implications of these changes?

Consolidating learning:

Imagine you are a teacher in the 19th century. Write a **journal entry** about what your day would have looked like. How much free time did you have? Consider writing one entry in the spring/summer months (May or June) and then one in January or February.

What were you thinking as a teacher? Were you content with the restrictions, or were you wishing life was different.

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