Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1190

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: In “Ronald Reagan’s Proclamation of Women’s History Month, 1987,” students read the original text of Ronald Reagan’s 1987 Proclamation establishing Women’s History Month. Citing accomplishments across a variety of areas, including the federal government, business, and in private homes, President Reagan provides substantiation for the establishment and celebration of the month in honor of women.

1. Which of the following occupations held by women does Ronald Reagan not mention in his proclamation?
   A. ambassadors
   B. institution founders
   C. wartime pilots
   D. hospital surgeons

2. Which paragraph recognizes the role of women within families?
   A. paragraph 1
   B. paragraph 2
   C. paragraph 3
   D. paragraph 4

3. Read this sentence from the passage: “Those achievements span the wide range of human endeavor.”
   Which statement is closest to the meaning of this sentence from the passage?
   A. Women’s accomplishments extend far back into history.
   B. The accomplishments of women extend over many areas.
   C. Women have made very deep impacts in all they do.
   D. Women’s accomplishments will affect humans far into the future.

4. Read the sentence:
   “Women have forged a place for themselves in public life, serving on the Supreme Court, in the Congress, and in Cabinet posts; becoming Ambassadors; and holding Federal Executive posts that affect the lives of every citizen.”
   What definition of the word “post” reflects the meaning of the word as used in this sentence?
   A. post (noun): an assigned position, usually an appointed public office
   B. post (noun): a support in the framework of a structure
   C. post (verb): to put forward or present for consideration by the public
   D. post (noun): the physical place of employment
5. What is Ronald Reagan’s proclamation mostly about?

A the establishment of Women’s History Month to honor the achievements of American women
B Senate Joint Resolution 20 designating that the month of March would be Women’s History Month
C the role of women as the heart of the family and thus most American communities
D the struggle of women to establish themselves in business and other professions

6. How should Women’s History Month be celebrated, according to Ronald Reagan?

Suggested answer: According to Ronald Reagan, Women’s History Month should be celebrated with “appropriate observances to honor the achievements of American women.”

7. Read the sentence: “They have not been attained without the quiet courage and sacrifice of millions of women, some famed, most not.”

What does Ronald Reagan mean when he states “some famed, most not”?

Suggested answer: Ronald Reagan means that some of the millions of women who have had courage and sacrificed have been recognized for their efforts and achieved a status of fame. However, he also means that most of these millions of women have not been recognized for their courage and sacrifice and are not known to most people.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Women have held many posts in the federal government, __________ at the Supreme Court, in Congress, and in the Cabinet.

A obviously
B above all
C including
D except for

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The Congress authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation of Women’s History Month so that the achievements of American women would be celebrated.

What? the Congress

(did) What? authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation of Women’s History Month

Why? so that the achievements of American women would be celebrated

10. Vocabulary Word: embrace (verb): to accept, include, or hold close.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.