

**"Lifting as we climb, onward and upward
we go, struggling and striving and hoping
that the buds and blossoms of our desires
will burst into glorious fruition ere long"**

— MARY CHURCH TERRELL, "WHAT ROLE IS THE EDUCATED NEGRO WOMAN TO PLAY IN THE
UPLIFTING OF HER RACE?", 1902

*WHAT DOES THIS QUOTE MEAN TO YOU AND HOW CAN IT BE
APPLIED TO TODAY?*

A circular botanical illustration wreath surrounds a central white circle. The wreath includes various plants: a large red leaf, a green leaf with a white flower, a fern frond, a cluster of yellow flowers, a large green leaf, a red leaf, a purple flower, a green leaf with a white flower, and a fern frond. A horizontal line with a small green leaf in the center is positioned below the main title.

Mary Church Terrell





"Lifting as we
climb."

-Mary Church Terrell



Agenda

Biography

Suffragist Movement

Civil Rights

Vocabulary

Call to Action

Works Cited



Biography

- Mary Church Terrell was an African-American activist who worked for racial equality and women's **suffrage** in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- Her parents, Robert Reed Church and Louisa Ayres Church, valued education and worked to send Mary to college at Oberlin College, where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
- She spent two years teaching at the collegiate level until she moved to Washington D.C, in 1887, where she taught at the M Street Colored High School





Biography

- Her friend, Thomas Moss, was **lynched** in Memphis because his business was in competition with a white-owned business.
 - She joined anti-lynching campaigns.
- She believed that racial inequality could be ended through education, work, and community activism.





Biography

- She was quoted as saying, "Lifting as we climb," and it became the motto of the National Association of Colored Women, the group she helped found in 1896.
- While President of NACW, Mary worked with both black and white organizations to give speeches, and she participated in picketing and rallies to promote women's rights.





Biography

- In 1909, she was one of the founding members of the NAACP.
- After the 19th Amendment, Terrell focused on Civil Rights
- Throughout her life, she fought for equal rights, including segregation, when she was 86 years old.
 - With her help, the Supreme Court ruled in 1953 that segregated eating facilities were unconstitutional. It was a breakthrough in the fight for equality.





Mary Church Terrell Video

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mary-church-terrell>



What was the Suffrage Movement?

- Seeking to gain women the federal right to vote in the United States
- Formally began in the mid-19th century and continued until the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920.
- Women who fought for the movement were called "suffragists." They sometimes experienced harassment or jail time for their activism.
- Suffragettes held rallies, lectured, wrote letters to Congress, and "practiced civil disobedience."

What was the Civil Rights Movement?

- Nonviolent social campaign from 1954-1968
- Sought to make racial segregation unconstitutional.
- Brought about the end of **Jim Crow laws** as well as the passage of major civil rights legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Vocabulary

- Suffrage: The right to vote in political elections.
- Lynching: to murder (as by hanging) by mob action without legal approval or permission.
- 19th Amendment: Removed sex as a barrier from voting in the U.S.
- Segregation: the action of setting someone apart from others
- Jim Crow: a term to refer to a series of state and local laws that enforced racial segregation primarily in the U.S. South



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