"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?
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.
Works Cited


