

### 3.14 Where are the women?



Queen Isabella I (1451 – 1504)



Queen Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603)

The year 2000 was celebrated as the start of a new millennium. Celebrations generated a number of lists of the most influential people in history. One popular list, “The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History” (<https://www.biographyonline.net/people/100-most-influential.html>) included 98 men and two women, Queen Isabella I of Spain (#65) and Queen Elizabeth I (#94). Another list, which focused only on the millennium that stretched from 1,000 AD to 2,000 AD (<http://www.dlmark.net/hundlife.htm>) included ten women, Mary Wollstonecraft (#26), Florence Nightingale (#41), Joan of Arc (#54), Jane Addams (#66), Simone de Beauvoir (#72), Marie Curie (#75), Susan B. Anthony (#83), Helen Keller (#85), Queen Elizabeth I (#84), and Catherine de Medicis (#97).

#### Questions

1. Why do so few women appear on these lists and in world history books?
  - a. The history books are essentially accurate. For whatever reason, women have made fewer major contributions.
  - b. The history books and historical research were primarily done by men and they have undervalued and underreported contributions made by women.
  - c. Women have made fewer major historical contributions because the patriarchal nature of most human societies has given them far fewer opportunities to learn and contribute.
  - d. The historians focus on the wrong topics. They primarily examine areas where men dominated.
  - e. In eras that depended on strength for work and war, men dominated because they are bigger and stronger.
  - f. Men made more intellectual and artistic contributions because on the average they are more intelligent and more artistic.
  - g. Another answer \_\_\_\_\_
2. What women would you add to these lists? Why?

