

3.15 Women who had the biggest impact on history

Source: <https://www.historyextra.com/100-women/100-women-results/>

Instructions: In 2018, *History Extra*, the official website for *BBC History Magazine* and *BBC World Histories Magazine*, conducted a poll of readers to discover which women they believed had the biggest impact on world history. Voters were asked to choose ten women from a list of 100 figures people selected by a panel of 10 experts from different fields. In this poll, the top ten finishers had a decidedly British slant. Examine the list below of the top 50 choices and compose your own list of the ten women who had the biggest impact on history. You are not restricted to women nominated by the British experts.

1. Marie Curie (1867-1934), Nobel Prize winner scientist	28. Isabella of Castile, 1451-1504 Queen of Castile
2. Rosa Parks (1913-2005), American Civil Rights activist	29. Catherine of Siena, 1347-80 Philosopher, theologian, Catholic saint
3. Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928, British Suffragette	30. Wangari Maathai, 1940-2011 Environmental activist
4. Ada Lovelace (1815-1852), Mathematician	31. Virginia Woolf, 1882-1941 British modernist novelist
5. Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958), Scientist	32. Simone de Beauvoir, 1908-86 Writer and philosopher
6. Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013), Prime Minister	33. Grace Hopper, 1906-92 Mathematician and Computer scientist
7. Angela Burdett-Coutts (1814-1906), 19th century social reformer	34. Frida Kahlo, 1907-54 Mexican artist
8. Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), writer and philosopher	35. Theodora, c497-548 Empress of Byzantium
9. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), pioneering nurse	36. Hypatia, c355-415 Ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician
10. Marie Stopes (1880-1958), scientist, writer, social reformer	37. Eleanor Rathbone, 1872-1946 Member of Parliament and philanthropist
11. Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204), British Queen	38. Sacagawea, 1788-1812 Shoshone interpreter
12. Virgin Mary, religious figure	39. Nellie Bly, 1864-1922 Pioneering journalist
13. Jane Austen (1775-1817), writer	40. Lise Meitner, 1878-1968 Jewish-Austrian physicist
14. Boudicca (c. 30-61 AD), Celtic Queen	41. Catherine de' Medici, 1519-89 Italian-born queen of France
15. Princess Diana (1961-1997)	42. Isabella Bird, 1831-1904 Explorer and writer
16. Amelia Earhart (1897-1937), pilot and adventurer	43. Bessie Coleman, 1892-1926 African American aviator
17. Queen Victoria (1819-1901)	44. Aphra Behn, 1640-89 British playwright and poet
18. Josephine Butler (1828-1906), social reformer	45. Coco Chanel, 1883-1971 French fashion designer
19. Mary Seacole (1805-1881), pioneering nurse	46. Artemisia Gentileschi, 1593-1652/53 Italian Baroque painter
20. Mother Teresa (1910-1997), religious figure	47. Zora Neale Hurston, 1891-1960 African-American author
21. Mary Shelley (1797-1851), writer	48. Katharine Graham, 1917-2001 Washington Post publisher
22. Catherine the Great, 1729-96 Empress of Russia	49. Indira Gandhi, 1917-84 Indian prime minister
23. Vera Atkins, 1908-2000 British intelligence officer	50. Gabriela Mistral, 1889-1957 Chilean poet-diplomat
24. Cleopatra, 69 BC-30 BC Egyptian pharaoh	
25. Elizabeth Fry, 1780-1845 Social reformer	
26. Mary Anning, 1799-1847 Paleontologist	
27. Joan of Arc, 1412-31 Martyr and military leader	