



## Mini Page Heroes: Sandra Day O'Connor



photo courtesy National Archives

### Mini Fact:

O'Connor was sworn in as a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court by Chief Justice Warren Burger in September 1981.



photo by Steve Petteway, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States

The most recent Supreme Court. Justice Antonin Scalia, first row, second from left, is deceased. As of this writing, the Supreme Court has only eight justices.

What's it like to be the first to do something? Maybe you were the first in your family to learn to tap-dance. Maybe you were the first among your friends to learn to snowboard.

If so, then you're like Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the most important group of judges in the country.



courtesy Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Justice O'Connor was appointed to the court in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan.

### Putting family first

O'Connor did the juggling of career, home and kids that many moms today have to do. She was a full-time mother for a while when her three boys were very young. Then, when she resumed the practice of law, she set priorities, and commitment to family remained at the top of the list.

Today, Justice O'Connor is retired from her Supreme Court job. She retired in 2006.



photo by Steve Petteway, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States

The four women who have served on the U.S. Supreme Court: Sandra Day O'Connor, Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan.

Though history will surely focus on her accomplishments in Washington, D.C., we shouldn't only admire her for her Supreme Court job. She is so much more than that.

Justice O'Connor is a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a citizen, a person and a terrific role model for young women — a hero.

### Breaking through

Justice O'Connor grew up on a cattle ranch in Arizona. She went to Stanford University and received a law degree. But when she first became a lawyer, law firms in San Francisco and Los Angeles rejected her. She was a woman, and the legal world wasn't used to women in the courtroom. It didn't matter how good or smart she was.

But O'Connor persisted, and her persistence paid off. In 1965, she was hired as assistant attorney general for the state of Arizona. Later, she served as a state senator in Arizona and as a trial judge.

Becoming the first woman on the highest court in the land represented acceptance and a step for all women on the road to equal rights.

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Sandra Day O'Connor are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



APPOINT, ARIZONA, CAREER, CONSTITUTION, COURT, DAY, EQUAL, FAMILY, FIRST, HERO, INTERPRET, JUSTICE, LAW, O'CONNOR, REAGAN, RIGHTS, SANDRA, STANFORD, SUPREME, WOMAN.

R E A G A N R I G H T S L C S  
T E R P R E T N I Y L I M A F  
S R M L O O T C A P W C K O U  
T E I E E L N S T N I O P P A  
A E W O R C A N R R O T M C V  
N R A Y R P I U O I U Z S A R  
F A L S A E U T Q C F O I U N  
O C F T G D H S S E O B C R K  
R H C O N S T I T U T I O N A  
D C D X A R D N A S J S G B Q

## Cook's Corner

### Banana Roll-Up

#### You'll need:

- 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 1 whole-wheat tortilla
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 medium banana

#### What to do:

1. Spread peanut butter on tortilla.
2. Drizzle honey on top.
3. Place banana at one end of tortilla and roll into a cylinder. (The banana will straighten out as you roll.)
4. Cut into slices. Makes 1 roll-up.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. without hair (4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. "hi" in Hawaiian (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. what you cut paper with (8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. plant that grows on rocks (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. where you sleep (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. cook in an oven (4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. time off from school (8) \_\_\_\_\_

BA	VA	TION	BA
ROOM	LD	SS	ISS
SC	ORS	ALO	MO
HA	CA	BED	KE

Answers: bald, aloha, scissors, moss, bedroom, bake, vacation.

## Mini Jokes



Larry: What is a good name for a female lawyer?  
Lisa: Sue!

## Eco Note



Go green at school! Buy recycled paper, and use both sides of each sheet. Ask drivers of cars and buses not to idle in parking lots and driveways. Talk to your principal about using energy-efficient lightbulbs.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Dennis Denenberg, former teacher, principal, superintendent and university professor, and Lorraine Roscoe, a champion of heroes of every kind, for help with this issue.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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