

## A New Kind of First Lady



photo courtesy FDR Presidential Library and Museum

### Mini Fact:

Eleanor taught at a school for girls until her husband became president.

You have probably heard of Franklin D. Roosevelt, our 32nd president. His wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, was as famous as he was. In fact, President Harry Truman called her “the first lady of the world.”

Eleanor set an example for first ladies who followed. No other first lady had been so interested and outspoken on so many causes. She became one of the most-admired women in the world.

### An unhappy early life

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1884. Her family was well-to-do. Her mother died when she was 8. Her father, who was a brother to the 26th president,



Eleanor in a school portrait.

Theodore Roosevelt, died when she was almost 10. She was brought up by a strict grandmother. Eleanor had a very unhappy childhood.

Eleanor went away to school in England when she was 15 years old. She had a great teacher, Marie

Souvestre, who believed in her and helped her gain self-confidence.

### Meeting her mate

Eleanor met and fell in love with a distant cousin, Franklin D. Roosevelt. They were married when she was 21 years old. Her uncle, Theodore Roosevelt, who was president at the time, gave the bride away.

Franklin’s mother, Sarah, at first did not approve of the marriage and often tried to run the couple’s life. Franklin became interested in politics. Eleanor supported his interest.

### Entering political life

Franklin was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 1920, running alongside James M. Cox. However, the Republicans won the election, and Franklin and Eleanor returned to their lives in New York.

In 1921, Franklin became ill with **polio**, a disease that causes muscle weakness, making it difficult for people to move. (Today, most kids get a vaccination so that they will not get polio.) Eleanor did not have hope that he would walk again, but she believed he could still be an important political figure.

Franklin became governor of New York in 1929. Eleanor helped him in his campaign and in office, giving speeches and filling in for him when he was too ill or too busy.

### A new sort of first lady

When Franklin was elected president in 1932, Eleanor helped in many ways. She traveled to other countries and talked not only to leaders, but to regular people.

She shocked many people by traveling so much. She went everywhere, from fancy receptions to city slums, from political meetings to war zones.



Eleanor visits soldiers during World War II.

### Beyond first lady

Eleanor Roosevelt worked for equality for women and minorities. She tried to help poor people and improve their living conditions. Just after her husband’s election, she went to Puerto Rico to see what homes were like there.

Eleanor was a first lady longer than any other woman. Her husband was elected to four terms as president; they served in the White House from 1933 to 1945. (Presidents are limited to two terms now.)

She was a journalist, and for many years she wrote a newspaper column called “My Day.” She appeared on TV, had a regular radio show and made many speeches. She was a very active member of the Democratic Party.



Eleanor gives a press conference at the U.N.

After her husband’s death, Eleanor still had a great deal of influence. She was appointed one of the delegates to the United Nations. She served as the chairperson of a committee that wrote the International Declaration of Human Rights, setting out the rights of all people. It was adopted in 1948.

Eleanor died in 1962 at her home in New York City. She was 78 years old.

## Resources



### At the library:

- “Eleanor Roosevelt, Fighter for Justice: Her Impact on the Civil Rights Movement, the White House and the World” by Ilene Cooper
- “When You Grow Up to Vote” by Eleanor Roosevelt

## Try 'n' Find

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



CAMPAIGN,  
DEMOCRATIC, ELEANOR,  
EXAMPLE, FIRST,  
FRANKLIN, GOVERNOR,  
JOURNALIST, LADY,  
NATIONS, NOMINEE,  
OUTSPOKEN, POLIO,  
ROOSEVELT, THEODORE,  
TRAVEL, UNITED, WIFE.

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

## Cook's Corner

### Easy Chicken Casserole

#### You'll need:

- 3 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 1 (10.5-ounce) can low-fat and low-sodium cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10.5-ounce) can low-fat and low-sodium cream of celery soup

- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, diced
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1/2 cup chopped almonds



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

#### What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients except almonds in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. Pour into a greased 9-by-13-inch casserole dish.
3. Sprinkle almond pieces evenly on top.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Serves 6.

## 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. what a tree is made of (4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. striped animal (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. area under a house (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. female child (8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. faithful (5) \_\_\_\_\_
6. sound when you have a cold (5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. where sick people get help (8) \_\_\_\_\_

AL	CEL	GH	TAL
UGH	WO	PI	LAR
ZEB	HOS	LOY	DA
TER	COU	RA	OD

Answers: wood, zebra, cellar, daughter, loyal, cough, hospital.

## Mini Jokes



**Emily:** What type of clothing does a house wear?  
**Edward:** An address!

## Eco Note



A **terrarium** (tuh-RARE-ee-um) is like an aquarium, but for plants instead of fish. It has its own mini-climate. The container has just a small opening or sometimes even a lid, which makes it like a greenhouse. Sunlight enters through the glass and warms the air, soil and plants, and the glass holds the warmth in, just as our atmosphere does for Earth. Get instructions to make your own terrarium here: [go.nasa.gov/2SVDXie](http://go.nasa.gov/2SVDXie)

adapted from [climatekids.nasa.gov](http://climatekids.nasa.gov)

## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the first lady, Melania Trump, to find out what projects she’s working on.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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