4th Grade Lesson Plan
Dr. Mary Edwards Walker
Women’s History Month
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: 
Grade: 4th

Date: 
Lesson: Dr. Mary Walker, Women’s History Month

OBJECTIVES: CCSSELA
RI 4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI 4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

STRATEGIES:
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- Think/Pair/Share
- Collaboration
- Discussion Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

MATERIALS:
Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of reading sheet Dr. Mary Edwards Walker-Medal of Honor Recipient; copies of Matching Timeline Dr. Mary Edwards Walker worksheet; copies of the Details and Summary of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker worksheet; copies of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Word Search Puzzle; copies of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Coloring Page

Engage: Hook the students
Think/Pair/Share Activity - Explain to students that women did not have many of the rights men had in the United States in the 1800s—women could not vote, they could not own property, there were even limits on the clothing they could wear in public.
Play the YouTube Video Mary Walker: A Life Well Lived
https://youtu.be/MDfb1SS4gEc
T/P/S Question: What do you think about Mary E. Walker being arrested for wearing pants? What does it say about her that she continued to wear pants anyway?

Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.
Play the YouTube Read Aloud Video: Mary Walker Wears The Pants, Author-Cheryl Harness, Illustrator-Carlo Molinari
https://youtu.be/KD6mS2lfc_4
Handout the reading sheet Dr. Mary Edwards Walker-Medal of Honor Recipient. Students may read silently or aloud. Handout copies of Matching Timeline Dr. Mary Edwards Walker worksheet. Students will complete the timeline. Handout copies of the Details and Summary of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker worksheet. Student will complete the Details and Summary worksheet. Handout copies of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Word Search Puzzle. Students will complete the word search puzzle. Handout copies of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Coloring Page. Students will color the coloring page.

Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.
Medal of Honor equal rights reinstated credentials suffragette Jimmy Carter Prisoner of War rescinded Andrew Johnson

Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.
Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Evaluate: assessment.
Teachers will choose which activities to use as formal assessments.

Enrichment/Service-Learning Project
Students will brainstorm a way to serve their local community in honor of Women’s History Month. See a list of potential projects on the last page.

Remember-Honor-Teach
Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Medal of Honor Recipient

Out of over 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, only one was a woman, and her medal was actually rescinded just before she died. Her name was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker.

Walker was born on November 26, 1832, in Oswego, New York, to abolitionist parents. Her parents encouraged her to pursue an education. Mary taught school in order to pay for Medical School. In 1855, Mary graduated as a medical doctor from Syracuse Medical College, she was the second woman in the United States to graduate from medical school.

Walker went into private practice for a few years, but people were not used to women being doctors, and she closed down her practice. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, she wanted to join the Army as a surgeon. Mary was not allowed to join the Army because she was a woman. She didn't want to serve as a nurse, because she was a doctor, so she chose to volunteer for the Union Army.

Walker worked for free at the temporary hospital set up at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. She also organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded who came to visit them at local hospitals.

In 1862, Walker moved to Virginia, to treat the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. In 1863, her medical credentials were finally accepted. Mary moved to Tennessee, where she was appointed as a War Department surgeon. Her position was paid, and it was the equivalent of a lieutenant or captain.

Walker was captured in April 1864 by the South and held as a prisoner of war for about four months. She and other Union doctors were eventually exchanged in a prisoner-of-war swap for Confederate medical officers. According to the National Library of Medicine, sources say Walker had been captured intentionally so she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support that claim. Not long after being released by the Confederates, Walker returned to work as a doctor. She was assigned as the medical director at a hospital for women prisoners in Kentucky.

Aside from her wartime efforts, Walker was also an outspoken advocate for equal rights for women. She testified before Congress several times promoting a woman’s right to vote. Mary also promoted a woman’s choice to wear clothing that enabled better mobility and greater comfort. Throughout her life, Walker preferred wearing pants to petticoats. Before and during her time in the army she modified her attire to what was known as the "Bloomer costume." It was a dress-and-trouser combination that had gone out of favor long before the war began, but she didn’t care -- she wore it anyway. Walker eventually switched to wearing men's clothes and was even arrested for impersonating a man several times. In her defense, she argued that she was given special permission by the government to dress that way.

In November 1865, having left government service for good, Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson, even though she was a civilian who had never been a commissioned officer in military service. Because Mary was a civilian, her Medal of Honor was rescinded in 1917, along with the medals of 910 others. Walker refused to return the medal, though, and continued to wear it until she died in 1919. Sixty years later, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter reinstated her Medal of Honor, thanks to efforts made by her family.
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Name______________________________

Matching Timeline Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

1. 1832 _____
2. 1855 _____
3. 1861 _____
4. 1862 _____
5. 1863 _____
6. 1864 _____
7. 1865 _____
8. 1917 _____
9. 1919 _____
10. 1977 _____

a. Walker’s medical credentials were accepted.
c. Mary E. Walker died at the age of 86.
d. Mary E. Walker was the second woman to graduate from medical school in the U.S.
e. Walker’s Medal of Honor was rescinded.
f. Mary E. Walker was born in Oswego, New York.
g. Walker moved to Virginia to treat the war wounded.
h. The Civil War started in the United States.
i. Walker was captured by the Confederate Army and held as a Prisoner of War.
j. Mary E. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Remember-Honor-Teach
# Wreaths Across America
## Lesson Plan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher:</th>
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### Answer Key

Name ____________________________

**Matching Timeline Dr. Mary Edwards Walker**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>f. Walker’s medical credentials were accepted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>d. President Jimmy Carter reinstated Walker’s Medal of Honor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>h. The Civil War started in the United States.</td>
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<td>1862</td>
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<td>1865</td>
<td>j. Mary E. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor.</td>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>e. Walker’s Medal of Honor was rescinded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>c. Mary E. Walker died at the age of 86.</td>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
### Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

#### 3 Important Details About Dr. Mary E. Walker

1. 
2. 
3. 

#### Summarize the Life of Dr. Mary E. Walker

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Remember-Honor-Teach
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**Wreaths Across America**
**Lesson Plan**

**Teacher:**

**Date:**

**Grade:** 4

**Lesson:** Dr. Mary Walker, Women’s History Month

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**Answer Key**

**Name ______________________________**

**Word Search Puzzle Dr. Mary Edwards Walker**

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Q P W E R S R E M O O L B
T R S U F F R A G E T T E
J I M M Y C A R T E R Y U
I S O P A S D F G H J K R
N O S N H O J W E R D N A
L N Z S W Q X E D C R F W
V E Q U A L R I G H T S L
T R G N B A Y H N U J M I
I O K I O R O T C O D L V
P F Q O A M Z W S X R F I
V W Y N H Y N U J M O L C
Q A A Z W S X E D C R F Z
Y R O N O H F O L A D E M
A B O L I T I O N I S T K
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>equal rights</th>
<th>doctor</th>
<th>Union</th>
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<tr>
<td>abolitionist</td>
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<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
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<td>Medal of Honor</td>
<td>bloomers</td>
<td>Andrew Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>prisoner of war</td>
<td>suffragette</td>
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Name _____________________________

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

Remember-Honor-Teach
Grades K-5 Action Plans

1. Draw pictures or make cards for servicemen and women overseas or veterans at a local VA Hospital or VA Home. Operation Gratitude sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.

2. Make cards for Senior citizens in your community for the various holidays. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting local nursing homes, senior centers and VA Homes to determine the procedure they have for community involvement, the numbers of residents, etc.
   * setting up a calendar as a reminder to your child letting them know when certain holidays are coming.
   * providing materials: crayons, paper, coloring sheets for younger students
   * setting up a time for delivery of the cards to the facility, or help your child mail the cards at the Post Office.

3. Decorate placemats to be used for Senior citizens during the holidays with a special note or picture! Many agencies deliver meals to Seniors who have mobility problems and are on a fixed income. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting local agencies that provide meals for Seniors, coordinate with the agency to provide placemats for an upcoming holiday
   * talking with your child’s teacher to see if this could be a classroom project
   * provide materials,

4. Donate gently used or new stuffed animals to a local fire department or police station to give to children in emergencies.

5. During your birthday month, donate cake mix, frosting, candles, and an age-appropriate toy in a box. Donate items to a local food pantry or school social worker for families in need of a birthday cake. Let your child decorate the bag/box with a birthday message. Parents can help their children by:
   * contacting a local food bank or their child’s school to arrange a drop-off point
   * purchasing the items to donate
   * taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

6. Collect school supplies, coloring books/crayons or games to donate to local homeless shelters or local children’s hospitals.
   * contacting a local food bank or their children’s hospital to arrange a drop-off point
   * purchasing the items to donate
   * taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

7. Make a no-sew fleece blanket for a child in need with Project Linus, or a Veteran in need with Soldiers’ Angels. Parents can help their children by:
   * log on to the Project Linus or Soldiers’ Angels to check out the specifications for the blankets,
   * help their child purchase materials
   * help their child make the blanket if necessary
   * take their child to ship or deliver the blanket

Remember-Honor-Teach