

# EducationLINK

a weekly supplement for educators

## Women in Science



**March is Women's History Month and to celebrate, we are focusing our weekly Education LINK feature on contributions and accomplishments made by women in various fields. Try the following activities with your students to teach about women in science using the Anchorage Daily News as a textbook.**

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."  
Rachel Carson, Biologist and writer

**Activity:** Look through the Anchorage Daily News to find articles or photos about scientific research, discoveries or breakthroughs by female scientists.

**Activity:** Clip articles and ads concerning products that were unknown 20 years ago. Discuss what scientific discoveries and breakthroughs helped to create those products and which products women created.

**Activity:** Use articles from the Anchorage Daily News to make a "Who's who in Science" bulletin board, focusing specifically on women.

**Activity:** Marie Curie is considered the most famous of all women scientists. She was the only person ever to win two Nobel Prizes. In 1903 her discovery of radioactivity earned her the Nobel Prize in physics. In 1911 she won it for chemistry. Who is the most recent woman to win the Nobel Prize and for what? What would the world have been like if Marie Curie had not done this research?

**Activity:** What women, in the past or present, inspire you and in what way? After making a list of everyone's choices, discuss the character traits that all of these women have in common that make them the powerful people that they are. What is a hero? Is the world in need of more heroes? Find some articles in the Anchorage Daily News that supports your opinion.

**Activity:** Ask your students to imagine that they are responsible for awarding someone the Woman of the Year for the newspaper. What woman has affected the news the most in the past year? Who would they choose and for what reason? How many of these women are involved in the world of science?

**Activity:** In 1971, Stephanie Kwolek invented one of the modern world's most readily recognized and widely used materials: Kevlar®. This is a fiber five

times stronger than steel, but about half the density of fiberglass. Kevlar® is best known to the public as the material from which bulletproof vests are made. What kind of impact has this invention made in the world? What other scientific inventions were created or discovered by women? Look through the Anchorage Daily News to find articles about these inventions. Find products in the newspaper that you feel are important and research who invented these products to see how many were women.

**Activity:** Rachel Carson, biologist and writer, researched the long term health effects of pesticide use and in 1962 published a book which challenged the practices of agricultural scientists and the government, calling for a change in the way humans viewed the natural world. She was constantly attacked for her beliefs, but continued to speak out. Looking through the Anchorage Daily News, find articles or photos of people who are willing to take risks for what they strongly believe in. Discuss this as a class.

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**What kinds of information would you like to see in the Newspapers in Education feature on Thursdays? We'd love to hear from you! To contact the NIE Coordinator, Lisa Mills, call (907) 257-4437, fax (907) 257-4478, or email [lmills@adn.com](mailto:lmills@adn.com).**