

Historical Heroes: Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts in 1820. A civil rights leader, she is best known for helping women win the right to vote in the United States.

Susan B. Anthony learned to read and write at the age of three, and was raised in a family that valued education and advocated for civil rights for everyone. In 1826, when she was six years old, her family moved to New York. She went to a boarding school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After she finished school, she became a teacher and used her pay to help support her parents and siblings. While working in New York, Anthony met many abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, and she became involved in the movement to end slavery.

However, her primary cause was the women's suffrage movement. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. Along with other suffragettes (women who fought for the right to vote), she traveled around the country delivering speeches in favor of women's suffrage. In 1872, Anthony was one of the first women ever to vote in a presidential election in the United States. She was arrested for this crime and fined \$100; the arrest brought attention to the suffragist movement and fueled Anthony's commitment to fighting for women's right to vote. Anthony spent her life working for women's rights.

Susan B. Anthony died in 1906. Although she did not live to see it pass, the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was passed in 1920. In 1979, Anthony became the first woman to be depicted on United States currency; her face appeared on the dollar coin to honor her contribution to the suffrage movement. The house in which she was born in Massachusetts is now the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum and is visited by many people every year.

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use text evidence to support your answers.

1. What are some of the causes or movements Susan B. Anthony fought for? Describe one action she took to contribute to one of these causes. *Susan B. Anthony fought for the abolition of slavery and the suffrage movement (or the right for women to vote). One action she took was to found the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. She also gave speeches all over the country in favor of women's right to vote.*
2. What challenge did Anthony face in the fight for women to gain the right to vote, and how did this challenge impact her? *She was arrested and fined in 1872 for voting in an election. The event motivated her to continue the fight for women's right to vote.*
3. Use the line below to create a timeline of Anthony's life. Remember to include years and a brief description of what occurred at each point in the timeline.



4. What are some of the ways that Susan B. Anthony is honored and celebrated?

She was honored when her face was shown on a dollar coin. The home that she grew up in has become a museum to remember her life and contributions to women's right to vote.