

# Rosie the Riveter

**Directions:** Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. Underline text evidence in the passage to support your answer.

Although you may not be familiar with Rosie the Riveter, you'll certainly recognize her face. Rosie is an iconic figure in U.S. history. She was a fictional character, created during WWII as an ad campaign to encourage women to take on jobs that were usually done by men. With most men *drafted* to fight in the war, many factories, shipyards and other labor-intensive jobs opened up. There was a huge demand for labor, and it was up to women to step up, take the jobs that men once had, and keep the country's major industries running. Most of these factories actually produced ammunition and other weapons for the war. Today, Rosie is still a symbol of female empowerment.

The actual name "Rosie the Riveter" was first used in a song written in 1942 by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb.

*All the day long,  
Whether rain or shine  
She's part of the assembly line.  
She's making history  
Working for victory  
Rosie the Riveter*



The "Rosie" in the song was inspired by a real-life woman named Rosalind P. Walter, who worked as a riveter at an aircraft factory. This song was later made popular by American bandleader Kay Kyser. The poster that you may recognize was an ad poster for the war, made by J. Howard Miller in 1942. Although he did not intend for his illustration to represent the fictional Rosie the Riveter figure, that poster is now most commonly associated with her.

1. Something that is *iconic* is described as widely known, receiving great respect and admiration. Why is Rosie the Riveter described as "an iconic figure in U.S. history"?

She was a fictional character, created during WWII as an ad campaign to encourage women to take on jobs that were usually done by men.

2. A *draft* is a system used by the military. It was a requirement for all men over the age of 18 to enlist in the military during a time of war. How did the draft affect the rest of the country during WWII?

The draft resulted in many factories, shipyards, and other labor-intensive jobs going unfilled. There was a huge demand for people to do these jobs, so the women had to step up and take the jobs that the men once had. It was up to them to keep the country running.

3. Name two places in which women worked during WWII.

1. factories

2. shipyards

4. What does the Rosie the Riveter figure represent?

The Rosie the Riveter figure represents female empowerment, and a symbol that women are able to do the same jobs that men can do.