



Analyzing a Passage: Rosie the Riveter

Read the passage about Rosie the Riveter, then answer the questions on the next page.

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 were opening up. There was a huge demand for labor, and it was up to the 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 the band 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 Rosie the Riveter figure, that poster is now most commonly associated with her.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer the questions below after reading the passage about Rosie the Riveter.

1. What do you think were some of the challenges that women faced on the job when they entered a workforce that was traditionally dominated by men?

2. What are some of the benefits that women experienced from being included in the workforce?

3. What do you think were some of the drawbacks that women experienced when they went from managing their households and caring for their children to working outside of the home full time as well?
