



Women of the Empire State: 25 New York Women You Should Know

By Deborah Bruss and Others
Illustrated by Lisa Greenleaf

RL 5.5 – ages 9 and up
Interest level: grades 5 and above
(136 pages)

Being “first” means breaking barriers. Students will learn how these New York women overcame challenges and became leaders in medicine, journalism, science, and the arts.

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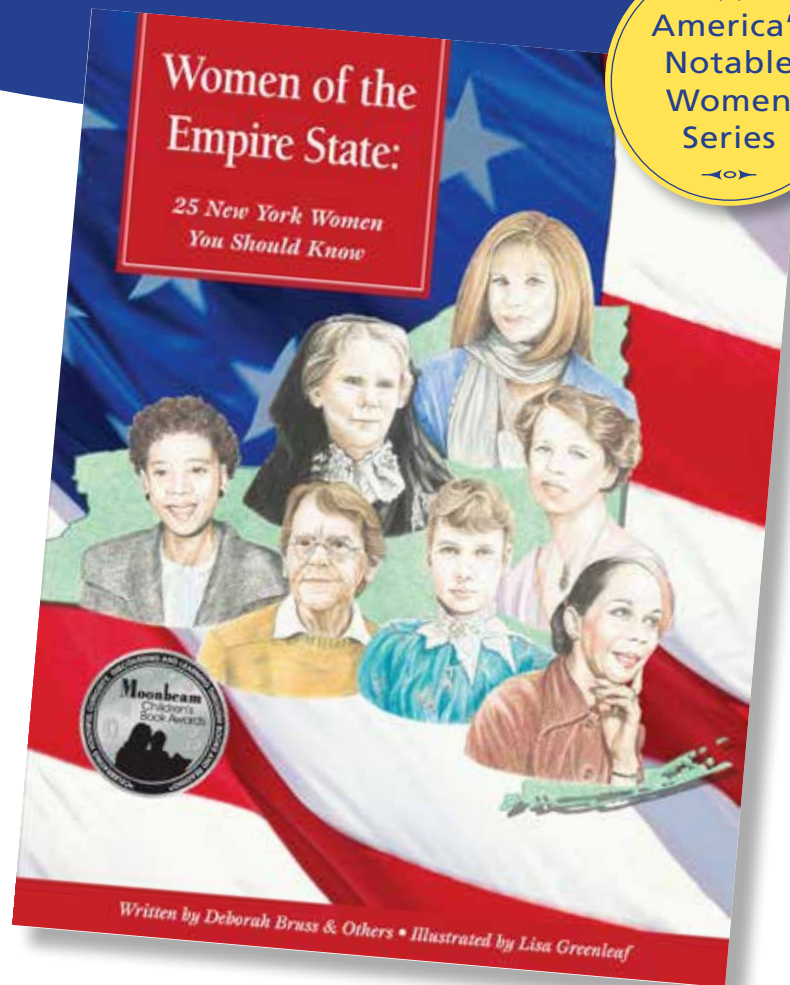
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Featuring 25 New York Women

Louise Bethune: *Architect*

Elizabeth Blackwell: *America's First Woman Doctor*

Nellie Bly: *Daring Journalist*

Mary (Molly) Brant: *Native American Leader*

Rachel Fuller Brown: *Fungus Fighter*

Shirley Chisholm: *First African American Congresswoman*

Janet Collins: *Star Dancer*

Dorothy Creole: *Colonial Slave*

Gertrude Ederle: *Champion Swimmer*

Althea Gibson: *African American Tennis Champion*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: *Supreme Court Justice*

Martha Graham: *Dancer and Choreographer*

Grace Hartigan: *Influential Painter and Educator*

Malvina Hoffman: *Gifted Sculptor*

Grace Hopper: *Rear Admiral, Computer Scientist*

Belva Ann Lockwood: *Lawyer, Activist, and Presidential Candidate*

Clare Boothe Luce: *Playwright, Politician, and Ambassador*

Barbara McClintock: *Pioneer in Science*

Frances Perkins: *Secretary of Labor*

Harriet Quimby: *America's First Woman Pilot*

Emily Roebling: *Building the Brooklyn Bridge*

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt: *First Lady of the United States*

Susan McKinney Steward: *African American Doctor*

Barbra Streisand: *Superstar*

Mary E. Walker: *Civil War Doctor*

Tidbits from the Women of Empire State: New York



Elizabeth Blackwell's parents were abolitionists in England and the United States. It is thought that her family hid runaway slaves.



In Washington, **Belva Ann Lockwood** worked hard for a bill that would give women the same pay as men.



Louise Bethune supported the Architects' Licensing Bill in New York. The bill enforced tests for architects to be licensed. It took 25 years for the bill to pass.



Nellie Bly was one of the first reporters to go "behind the scenes." It was called *Stunt Journalism*. She worked in a sweatshop and wrote about it. Workers got one bathroom break in ten hours. Nellie almost got fired for asking for water.

The news of **Harriet Quimby's** English Channel flight was pushed to the back pages of world newspapers. The Titanic sank that very weekend and overshadowed Harriet's amazing accomplishment.



Anna Eleanor Roosevelt supported the Social Security Act. It was passed in 1935. It gave aid to the elderly. In 1939, it was amended to give aid to widows and orphans, too.



Malvina Hoffman's Siamese cat, Kiki, traveled with her to Europe many times. Kiki had a mini passport, which officials stamped. Kiki posed for Malvina. When he was sick, he lay still while she gave him injections.



When **Martha Graham** went to New York, she had her first opportunities to choreograph. She had never heard that word until she came to New York. "At Denishawn," she said, "we just made up dances."

Barbara McClintock sometimes slept with her corn plants to keep hungry raccoons away.



After the Channel swim, **Gertude "Trudy" Ederle** was very popular in America and Europe. She was the first woman to receive a ticker-tape parade in New York City. She received so many marriage proposals that a song was written for her — *Tell Me, Trudy, Who Is Going To Be The Lucky One?*



Grace Hopper lived by the saying, "It's easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission."



Barbra Streisand said, "I think nothing is impossible. I think you can be whatever you want to be... I don't accept the word 'no' easily. I've always been fighting it my whole life."