

## Eleanor Roosevelt

Little Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to have everything. She lived with her **affluent** parents in an elegant New York City townhouse that was staffed with servants. At her grandmother's country mansion, where she spent many of her summers, she had her own pony. Yet Eleanor was shy and lonely. She felt awkward and plain looking, and tried hard to win the approval of her beautiful but not very affectionate mother. By the time she was 10, both of her parents had died, and she was living with her strict grandmother.



In 1899, when she was nearly 15, Eleanor was sent to a boarding school in England. She began to gain confidence in herself and make friends more easily. After three happy years at the school, she **reluctantly** returned to her grandmother's home. It was time, her grandmother insisted, for Eleanor to be introduced to New York society at parties and teas.

By 1920 Eleanor was the mother of five children and the wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt, a rising politician. In August of that year, women won the right to vote. Eleanor, who had believed that politics was a man's business, soon became an active participant in the League of Women Voters. Eager to join the fight for social reform, she also worked tirelessly for organizations that were trying to end child labor and improve working conditions for women.

Eleanor's public life continued to grow. She helped Franklin campaign for the presidency and, in 1933, became the nation's First Lady. The country was in the grips of the Great Depression, a period of hard times and widespread unemployment that had started in 1929. Eleanor traveled all over the country to view conditions firsthand and reported her findings to Franklin. Particularly concerned about America's youth, she persuaded her husband to set up a special agency to provide job training and work projects for young people. Never afraid to champion unpopular issues, Eleanor became a strong supporter of racial equality. She met with African American leaders and spoke out against segregation and prejudice.

Franklin began his third term as President in 1941. Late in that year the United States entered World War II. Eleanor traveled to England and then to the South Pacific, where she visited American servicemen in their camps and comforted the wounded in hospitals. In 1945, shortly before the end of the war, Franklin died. Eleanor moved out of the White House, but she did not retire from public service. When the United Nations was established in October of that year, she was asked to be a delegate to its General Assembly. She served with the UN until 1953 and played a leading role in writing its Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This remarkable woman, who had once been so timid and shy, continued to stand up courageously for important issues and causes until her death in 1962.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

RCP#27

1. Based on what you read, you can conclude that when Eleanor was a young child she
  - A. was afraid of horses.
  - B. had to help her mother with all of the household chores.
  - C. didn't have very many friends.
  - D. was admired for being very pretty.
2. In the first paragraph, Eleanor's parents are described as being **affluent**. Which of these is the best synonym for *affluent*?
  - A. worried
  - B. wealthy
  - C. timid
  - D. poor
3. Why did her grandmother want Eleanor to return home after her third year at the boarding school in England?
  - A. She wanted her to attend a college in New York.
  - B. She knew that she was unhappy at the school.
  - C. She wanted her to start training for a career as a social worker.
  - D. She wanted her to meet young people in New York's fashionable society.
4. In paragraph two, it says that Eleanor "**reluctantly** returned to her grandmother's home." Which of these is the best antonym for *reluctantly*?
  - A. eagerly
  - B. bravely
  - C. politely
  - D. patiently
5. In what year did Franklin D. Roosevelt begin his first term as the nation's President?
  - A. 1941
  - B. 1933
  - C. 1929
  - D. 1945
6. During her years as First Lady, which of these did Eleanor Roosevelt NOT do?
  - A. meet with African American leaders
  - B. play an important role in writing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - C. convince her husband to set up an agency to help the country's young people
  - D. travel to the South Pacific to help raise the spirits of American servicemen
7. When she was First Lady, with which of these statements would Eleanor Roosevelt most likely have agreed?
  - A. African American children and white children should have separate schools.
  - B. Women should not be involved in politics.
  - C. A First Lady's most important responsibility is to entertain White House guests.
  - D. All people, regardless of race, should be treated with dignity.
8. What is the main reason that Eleanor Roosevelt was so respected and admired?
  - A. She helped her husband campaign for the presidency.
  - B. She belonged to the League of Women Voters.
  - C. She spent her life trying to make the world a better place for others.
  - D. She was the mother of five children.