

Dr. Mary E. Phelps Video - Discussion:

1. Dr. Mary Phelps is described as a trailblazer. What is a trailblazer? In what ways do you think she fits that description.
2. Mary Phelps was not born in Newburgh. Do you remember where she said she was born? How did she get to Newburgh?
3. Mary spoke of seeing many interesting things on her boat journey down the Ohio River to Newburgh. She mentioned seeing islands in the river, for instance. What other things did she mention? Find the Ohio River on a United States map. Try locating 3 places along the Ohio River...Pittsburgh, PA, Louisville, KY and either Newburgh or Evansville, IN.
4. As a young child Mary found the riverfront in Newburgh a very busy and exciting place. Many steamboats stopped in Newburgh. They brought barrels and crates filled with goods to buy. Farmers and merchants of Newburgh also brought their goods to the boats to be shipped to other towns on the Ohio River. What would be something a farmer would bring to sell to people living in other towns down the river?
5. How did the mail reach Newburgh?
6. What did Mary enjoy doing all by herself along the river?
7. Something rather sad happened to Mary when she was young. Do you remember what that was? Sometimes sad things develop into good things. A good thing did happen to Mary after she was orphaned. What was that?
8. Did Mary have a brother or sister?
9. As Mary grew up she learned to be a very talented musician. What instrument did she play? How did she use her talent?
10. Besides loving and teaching music (piano), Mary also wanted to help other people in another way. Was she able to do that? How?

11. After school to become a medical doctor, Mary came back to Newburgh to practice being a doctor. She did not stay long. Why? What did she do about this situation?
12. How did Mary reach Colorado? Did she ride a horse there? Did she take a stagecoach ride or a boat? A new way of travel allowed her to reach Colorado quickly. What was that means of travel called?
13. Along the way to Colorado Mary saw vast plains filled with thousands of bison. Describe a bison or draw a picture of one or many bison. Is a prairie similar to a plain?
14. What mountains surrounded the place Mary moved to...Canon City, Colorado?
15. Locate Colorado and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado on a US map.
16. Mary mentions farms and orchards in Canon City. What is an orchard. What would possibly grow in an orchard?
17. Mary was a doctor for 18 years in an unusual place in Canon City. What was this unusual place called?
18. Sometimes Dr. Phelps was paid for her services without receiving usual money. What was she given as payment? Would you like receiving this kind of money? Where did Dr. Phelps whisper where she hid that money?
19. Did you like Dr. Phelps home in Newburgh? Have you seen it before? What did she grow in her backyard? Where did she see her patients? Draw a picture of her home as you remember it.
20. Dr. Phelps was a very generous person. She gave money to help build an infirmary for the Thornton Home...a place for old retired missionaries. Dr. Phelps also worked in the infirmary. What work would a doctor do in an infirmary? What do we have today that is like an infirmary..a place where doctors and nurses work?
21. Dr. Phelps wanted women to be able to vote in our presidential elections. In 1920 (over 100 years ago!) women finally gained the right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed. The video shows a mannequin dressed as a 'suffragette'. She is wearing a dress with a ribbon across it. And she is holding flowers. Many women dressed like this and walked in parades and in groups to show the government they were serious about this right to vote. Draw your own picture of a 'suffragette', or make a sign she might carry in a parade.

Write a word or even a sentence that describes Dr. Mary Phelps or tells of her life

D

Orphan

C

T

Ohio River Traveler

Rode Railroad

Musician

A

R

Y

P

Helped Prisoners

E

Loved to Fish

P

Suffragette