

Lesson Plan

Key Basketball Events

Book: *Women in Basketball*

Series: She's Got Game

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students explore how visual elements can illustrate the main points of a text by creating a timeline that shows key events in the history of women's basketball.

Supplies

- *Women in Basketball* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Women in Basketball* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Women in Basketball describes several key events that helped make women's basketball the sport it is today. Have students reread Chapter 2 ("Early Years") and Chapter 3 ("Going for Gold") on their own. Ask them to use the information from these chapters to create a timeline called "Women's Basketball History." The timeline should include 10 entries. Each entry should begin with a date. It should also include a sentence explaining what made that year significant.

Evaluation

Give students 2 points for each timeline entry (1 point for the year and 1 point for the description). Students can include any 10 of the following events:

- 1891 – James Naismith invents basketball.
- 1892 – Senda Berenson introduces basketball to her female students.
- 1904 – Harriet Williams's team is paid to play a basketball game in public.
- 1936 – The All-American Red Heads begin playing against men's teams using men's rules.
- 1938 – Women's basketball courts are divided into two halves.
- 1971 – Female basketball players are allowed to use the whole court.
- 1972 – The United States passes Title IX.
- 1973 – Women begin receiving college basketball scholarships.
- 1976 – Women's basketball becomes an Olympic sport.
- 1977 – The first woman is drafted to an NBA team.
- 1996 – Team USA wins gold in women's basketball at the Olympics.

- 1997 – The Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) is created.
- 2002 – Lisa Leslie becomes the first woman to dunk during a WNBA game.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 5 (RI 5.2, 5.3).