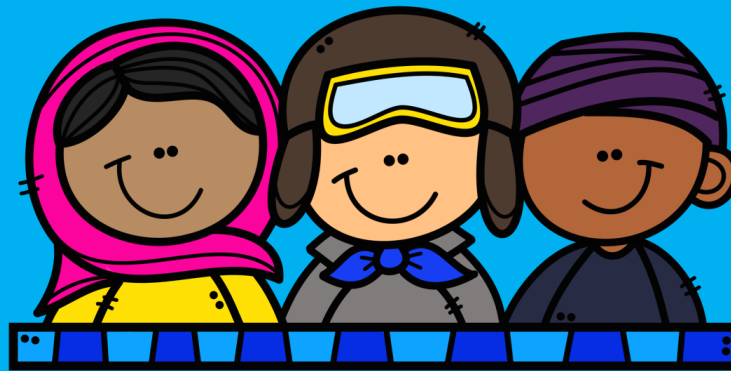


# CELEBRATING

## HERstory:



## MAGGIE L. WALKER

# HERstory:



"I WAS NOT  
BORN WITH  
SILVER SPOON  
IN MY MOUTH,  
BUT A  
LAUNDRY  
BASKET  
PRACTICALLY  
ON MY HEAD."

-MAGGIE L.  
WALKER

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# MAGGIE L. WALKER

## Before She became Maggie L. Walker

Maggie Mitchell was born in Richmond, Virginia. She grew up in the South after the Civil War. Her mother and step-father were former slaves who had their freedom. They had few economic opportunities. All African-Americans were freed after the war ended. However, there were laws prohibiting them from being hired for well-paying jobs. Instead, many African-Americans in the South at this time were very poor.



Maggie's stepfather William, died, when Maggie was young. Maggie and her mother, Elizabeth were forced to take on many different jobs. They worked as cooks, babysitters and delivery women just to name a few. It was hard growing up in poverty and working multiple jobs. Maggie graduated from school and became a teacher.

## Community Care-Giver

Maggie married Armistead Walker and had two sons. Despite having her own family to care for, Maggie understood the African-American community in Richmond needed her help. She joined a group called the Order of St. Luke. This organization tried to help people in Richmond who needed food, money and jobs. The problem was, this club was almost bankrupt, and couldn't give money to people in need however, Maggie would soon fix that.

She started a newspaper to reach out into the community and ask for help for those in need. She also opened a store to give African-Americans jobs and place to buy things they needed at a lower price.



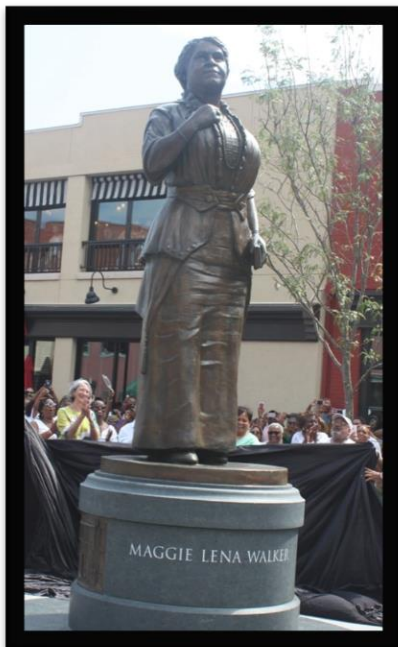
Maggie's home in  
Richmond, Va.

# MAGGIE L. WALKER

## Her Greatest Accomplishment

During Maggie's life, black Americans were not treated fairly. They did not have the same rights as white Americans did. This became a huge problem for poor African-Americans as they could not get loans from the bank. That meant many could not start their own businesses or buy their own homes.

Maggie realized that her community needed a bank that would give out these loans to help her neighbors build a better life. In 1903, she opened the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. She was the first African-American woman to be a bank president. She worked day and night to ensure that the people of Richmond were taken care of.



## Why We Remember HER-Story

Maggie Walker had a lot of reasons to give up: poverty, unequal treatment because of the color of her skin, being a woman with a family to care for. It would have been perfectly normal for her to focus on her family and her own problems. Women were not expected to be leaders back then. She showed her community that there was a way to a better life and she showed the world that women can do anything they put their mind to do.

# MAGGIE L. WALKER

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which section answers the question, "Where did Maggie L. Walker live?"
  - a. Her Greatest Accomplishment
  - b. Why we remember Her-story
  - c. Before she became Maggie L. Walker
  - d. Community Care-Giver
  
2. Which of the following can the reader infer from the section, "Her Greatest Accomplishment."
  - a. Maggie probably was treated unfairly because she was African American.
  - b. Maggie probably enjoyed working in a bank.
  - c. Maggie probably didn't help many people in her community.
  - d. Maggie probably earned a lot of money from her job as bank president.
  
3. What is the main idea of the article?
  - a. Maggie L. Walker was an African-American woman who lived in Virginia.
  - b. Maggie L Walker opened a bank.
  - c. Maggie L. Walker cared for her community by creating a newspaper, bank and store for her neighbors.
  - d. Maggie L. Walker had a challenging life.

# MAGGIE L. WALKER

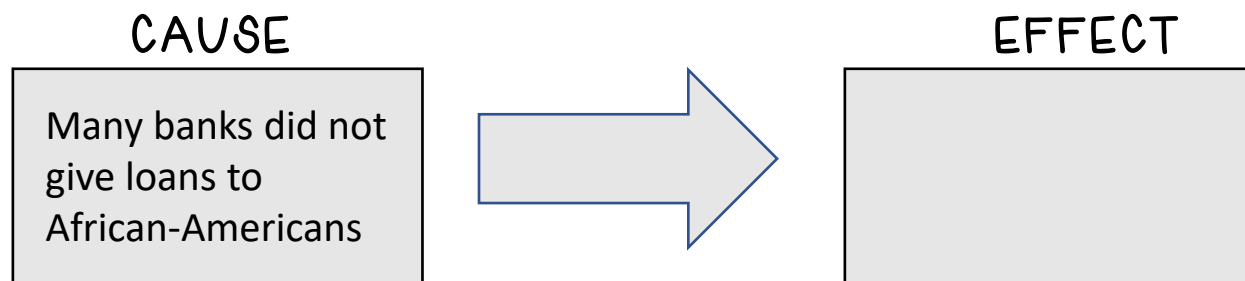
NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does "prohibiting" mean in the sentence below"

"While all African-Americans were freed after the Civil War, there were laws prohibiting them from being hired for jobs that make a lot of money."

- a. Creating
- b. Encouraging
- c. Slowing
- d. Stopping

5. Fill in the cause and effect graphic organizer below:



Which of the following would complete this graphic?

- a. Maggie created a newspaper to help find jobs for people.
- b. Maggie opened a store to create more jobs.
- c. Maggie joined the Order of St. Luke.
- d. Maggie opened a bank that would treat all customers fairly.



# MAGGIE L. WALKER

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

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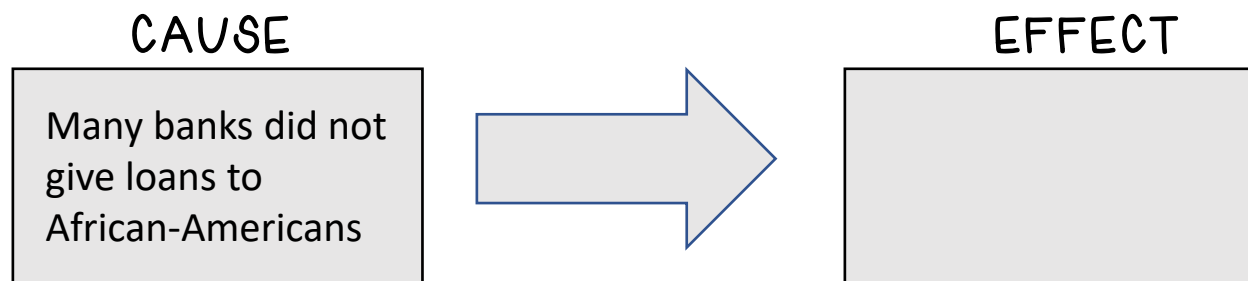
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# DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE MAGGIE'S  
EARLY LIFE?

2. WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE BACK THEN FOR AN  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN?

3. WHY DO YOU THINK MAGGIE CARED SO  
MUCH FOR HER COMMUNITY?

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD  
REMEMBER MOST ABOUT MAGGIE L. WALKER?

5. WHAT LESSON CAN WE LEARN FROM HER  
AMAZING LIFE?

# LEARN MORE



TOUR MAGGIE'S HOME



CHECK OUT HER CARS!



WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT  
MAGGIE



PHOTOS OF HER LIFE



# REFERENCES:

Information about Maggie's life from:  
<https://www.nps.gov/mawa/index.htm>

Photographs from WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
VIA:

<https://www.nps.gov/mawa/index.htm>

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalpark  
service/35403023113](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalpark<br/>service/35403023113)