

1 **February 24th, 2020**

In what ways did American men, women, and minorities support the war effort at home?

DO NOW: Why do you think women got so involved in the war effort at home?

2 **American Women in World War II**

A. During World War II, 350,000 women served in the U.S. Armed Forces

A. Women's Air force Service Pilots

B. widespread male enlistment left gaping holes in the industrial labor force.

B. Between 1940 and 1945, female workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

3 **Women in the Armed Forces**

A. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and women's groups, supported the idea of introducing a women's service branch into the Army.

B. 1942, Congress instituted the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, later upgraded to the Women's Army Corps, which had full military status.

C. Its members, known as WACs, worked in more than 200 non-combatant jobs stateside and in every theater of the war.

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D. By 1945, there were more than 100,000 WACs and 6,000 female officers.

E. In the Navy, members of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) held the same status as naval reservists and provided support stateside.

F. The Coast Guard and Marine Corps soon followed suit, though in smaller numbers.

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► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HofnGQwPgqs>

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G. One of the lesser-known roles women played in the war effort was provided by the Women's Air force Service Pilots, or WASPs.

H. These women, each of whom had already obtained their pilot's license prior to service, became the first women to fly American military aircraft.

I. They ferried planes from factories to bases, transporting cargo and participating in simulation strafing and target missions, accumulating more than 60 million miles in flight distances and freeing thousands of male U.S. pilots for active duty in World War II.

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J. More than 1,000 WASPs served, and 38 of them lost their lives during the war.

K. Wasn't until 1977 that the WASPs received full military status.

8 **"Rosie the Riveter"**

A. The aviation industry saw the greatest increase in female workers.

B. More than 310,000 women worked in the U.S. aircraft industry in 1943, representing 65 percent of the industry's total workforce

C. The munitions industry also heavily recruited women workers, as represented by the U.S. government's "Rosie the Riveter" propaganda campaign.

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8 C. The munitions industry also heavily recruited women workers, as represented by the U.S. government's "Rosie the Riveter" propaganda campaign.

A. Based in small part on a real-life munitions worker, but primarily a fictitious character, the strong, bandanna-clad Rosie became one of the most successful recruitment tools in American history, and the most iconic image of working women during World War II.

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D. In movies, newspapers, posters, photographs, articles and even a Norman Rockwell-painted Saturday Evening Post cover, the Rosie the Riveter campaign stressed the patriotic need for women to enter the work force—and they did, in huge numbers.