

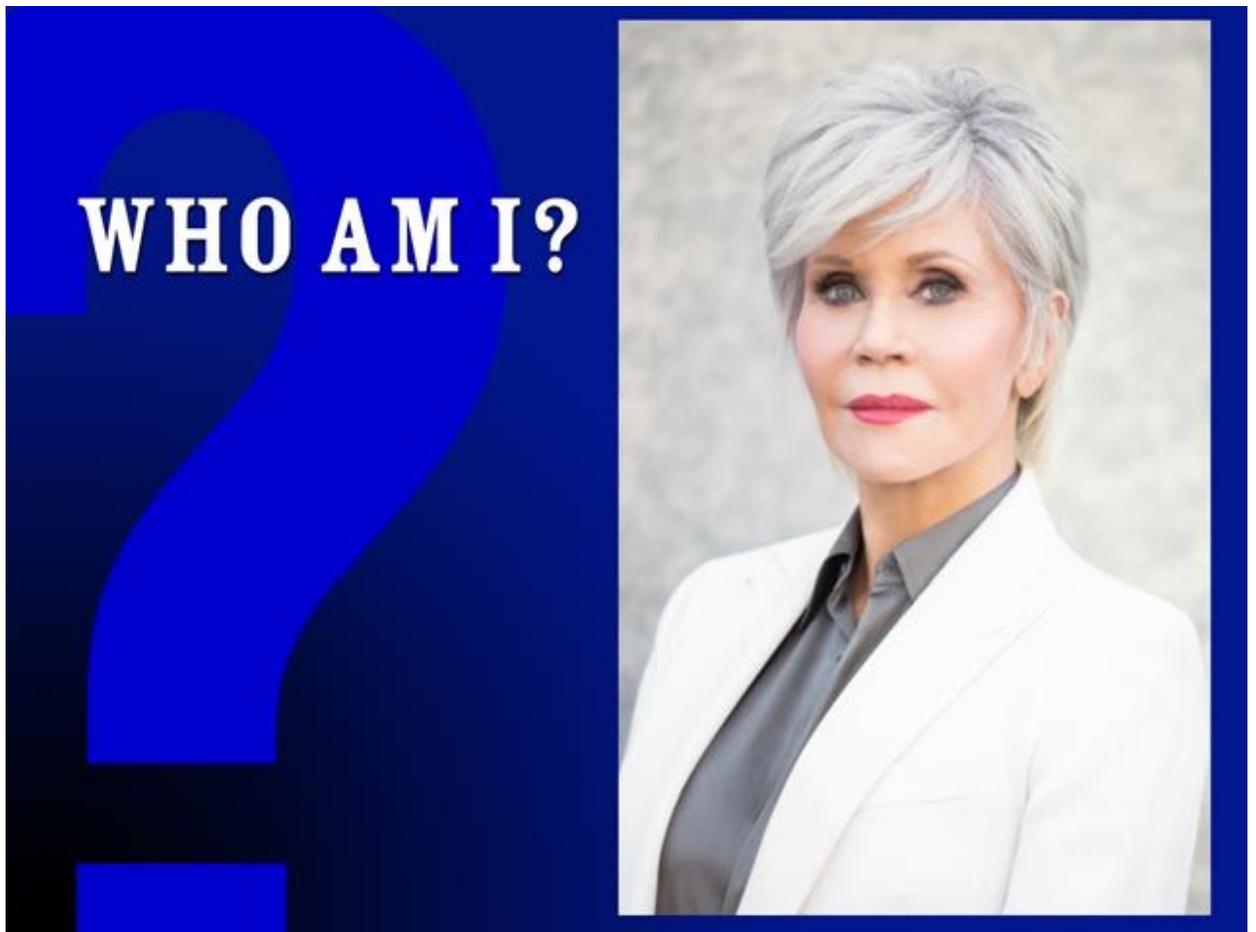
Who Am I?

I grew up in one of the most famous show business families in the U.S. My father was an award-winning film actor, and my younger brother was a director and actor. I was a model before gaining roles on Broadway and in films.

I soon became one of the world's best known actresses. I won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1971 and again in 1978. I have continued to work in Hollywood, recently starring in the popular Netflix show "Grace and Frankie." For decades, I have been a committed anti-war activist, as well as speaking up for women's rights and Native American causes.

At the end of 2019, I became upset by the lack of political action on climate change. I started a protest movement in Washington, D.C., vowing to get arrested every week to bring attention to this problem. I have just published a new book titled, "What Can I Do?: My Path from Climate Despair to Action."

Who am I?



(Jane Fonda.)

Constitution Day is September 17th

Robert Byrd represented West Virginia in the U.S. Senate from 1959 until he died in 2010 at the age of 92. He was famous for his knowledge of U.S. history, particularly when it had to do with the Constitution. Senator Byrd carried a copy of the Constitution with him on the Senate floor, waving it in the air and quoting from it if he thought another senator was flouting its rules. As he grew older, Sen. Byrd became more concerned that many citizens did not understand the U.S. Constitution. In fact, polls often show that Americans know more about what's on television than they know about the rules and laws of their own country. Sen. Byrd believed that Americans would be better citizens if they knew more about the Constitution. In 2004, Byrd helped pass legislation declaring September 17th as Constitution Day. He chose this date because the Constitution was signed on September 17th, 1787. This law requires every public school to spend time teaching about this document during the week of September 17th.

Despite this law, many Americans are still not well informed about the Constitution and its rules. In recent surveys, 37 percent could not name any of the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment. And just 39 percent could name all three branches of the federal government.

Constitution Day

We the People
Article I

“Our ideals of freedom, set forth and realized in our Constitution, are our greatest export to the world.”

Senator Robert Byrd
(D-WV)

In recent surveys:

- 37 percent of Americans did not know any rights guaranteed by the First Amendment
- Only 39 percent could name all three branches of government

What year was the Declaration of Independence signed? (Answer: 1776.) The next year, colonial representatives met to write up rules for the new country, assuming they would win the Revolutionary War. These rules were called the Articles of Confederation. These articles emphasized the autonomy of each state. But disagreements sprang up about taxes, currency, and defense. And with a weak federal government, there was no central power to mediate disputes between states. In the summer of 1787, four

years after the end of the Revolutionary War, delegates came together in Philadelphia to write a new document. Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and other Founding Fathers attended the meeting, which is depicted in this painting. The chairman of the meeting was George Washington. Some delegates pushed for a stronger central government, while others feared that would mean the death of democracy. Bitter battles were also fought over slavery and whether to include a list of individual freedoms. In the end, the Constitution set up a strong federal government — but with a clear separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
— *Preamble to the Constitution*



Some of the rights under the Bill of Rights:

- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech
- freedom of the press
- right to a fair, speedy and public trial
- no cruel and unusual punishment



We the People

This Week In History: New Zealand Women Win The Right to Vote

New Zealand is an island country in the Pacific Ocean Near Australia. During this week in 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant suffrage to all its women. In other words the right to vote. This was a major victory in the long battle for women's rights. The first major convention for women's suffrage in the U.S. took place in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. Some of the women's suffrage pioneers in the U.S. were Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and many more. Wyoming, which was then a U.S. territory, gave women voting rights starting in 1869. Things were different in New Zealand. By the late 1870s, this country's lawmakers had already put forth several laws to grant suffrage to women. When these measures failed, women outside the government pulled together to campaign for voting rights. The third and final petition in 1893 had 32,000 signatures; this was almost one-fourth of all the women in the country at the time.

On September 8th, 1893, Parliament finally passed a law that granted women the right to vote. Several lawmakers went to Lord Glasgow, New Zealand's governor, asking him not to sign the law. When they heard this, women's suffrage activists fought back by cutting their hair short and wearing white camellias, a sweet-smelling flower, grown in eastern and southern Asia. They also sent white camellias to supporters in Parliament to wear in their buttonholes. In response, opponents sent their members red camellias. Seeing all the white camellias being worn around the country, Lord Glasgow signed the law on September 19, 1893, allowing women to vote in the election that November. After this historic law was signed, other nations around the world followed suit. Canada's parliament granted women's suffrage in 1918. The next year, U.S. lawmakers did the same by passing the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This amendment had to be ratified, or approved, by 36 states. Once this finally happened, 100 years ago on August 18, 1920, all U.S. women were guaranteed the constitutional right to vote.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
September 19, 1893:
New Zealand women win right to vote

Australia
New Zealand

Kate Sheppard

New Zealand suffrage supporter
(with short hair and white camellia)