



2. WRITING A DIARY

Learning Objectives

- To draw on reading and research;
- To adopt, create and sustain a role;
- To identify an audience and purpose of writing and select an appropriate form;
- To learn conventions of different types of writing and use the first person.

Resources

- The Biographies in the STEM Sisters Gallery
- The Scientific Terms in Education Zone
- A note-book or a sketch pad which can be put together from scraps of paper

Introduction

1. Choose one of the featured women and as well as familiarising yourself with their story try and research a little into the historical period in which they lived. Use some of the images in the STEM Sisters gallery as well as other books or websites to get an idea of what kind of clothes they wore, where they lived, and/or the equipment they worked with.
2. Decide if your diary is written every day as a daily record or just when you have snatches of time. Does it record your every thought or just incidents and events which are of particular interest?

MAIN TASKS

1. Write up to 10 entries into your diary. Think about:
 - a. What you are writing, how you are feeling and who you are writing for i.e. is it for you as a means of expressing your feelings and recording information about your experiences, findings, every day events, or are you perhaps thinking someone might want to read it in the future to look back on and see what your experiences are?
 - b. Where you are when you're writing? Is this diary secret because you're not able to share your work with anyone?
 - c. When in the day you are doing it e.g. is it snatched between working, looking after children, wifely duties or do you have lots of time perhaps in your dressing room on film set (e.g. Hedy Lamarr)?
2. Given the above, think about the language you use:
 - a. Is it in note form because of time?
 - b. Does it use every space on the paper because this has to be kept secret?
 - c. Does it express emotion or is it a very matter of fact recording of events?

3. Using your own researched knowledge of events in your woman's life, can you map the diary entries it to specific historical events e.g. a finding, a meeting? Does knowing when you are writing, impact on the urgency, excitement and style of what and how you write?

Extension Activity

Illustrate your diary. Think about the type of art that was created in the historical period your woman lived and also about their own lives. Choose whether to use pencil sketches, cartoons, water colours or maybe scientific diagrams and/or mathematical equations (don't worry about accuracy for the later – enjoy being creative!).

Share and display your work.