

Think Like Phebe W. Sudlow

- Phebe Sudlow began teaching when she was 15 years old. Today, a 15-year-old would be in high school. Discuss why policies have changed for teachers from long ago to today.
- Sudlow fought for equal pay in her positions with Davenport schools. Why do you think she advocated for equal pay?
- Sudlow had a lot of firsts for a woman in her career as an educator. Discuss the qualities that she needed to achieve these goals long ago. Are these same qualities needed today? Why or why not?



Phebe W. Sudlow (1831-1922)

Phebe Sudlow was born in New York and moved to Ohio at four. At 15, she began to teach at the same school that she attended as a student. She moved to rural Scott County, Iowa, when she was in her mid-20s and taught at a local school. She moved to Davenport and was promoted to assistant principal, and then principal of two schools. Sudlow was being paid less than her male colleagues. She argued before the school board for equal pay; she was granted it. In 1874, Sudlow became the first woman in U.S. history to be appointed superintendent of a public school district. She also became the first female president of the Iowa State Teachers Association and first female professor at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Sudlow died in 1922 at the age of 91.

Think Like Harriette Curley Bruce

- Harriette Curley broke the color barrier as a teacher within Des Moines Public Schools. What was her impact on the district?
- Why would a school district hire teachers based on their skills and not based on “color, creed or nationality?”
- After her retirement, Curley stated “I had no misgivings when I took the job ... I can honestly say that I have never had one unpleasant moment at Perkins.” What does this say about the Perkins Elementary School community after their initial protest?



Harriette Curley Bruce (1925-2001)

Harriette Curley graduated from East High School and Drake University, both located in Des Moines. In 1946, she was hired to teach kindergarten at Perkins Elementary, which is part of the Des Moines Public School district. Curley did not receive a warm welcome as the first Black woman to teach in the district. Several parents and community members went to school board meetings to protest her hiring. But as Superintendent N.D. McCombs noted about Curley: "She topped the list of applicants by a wide margin. The board has had a policy, in writing, for years that all boys and girls get the best teachers for the money we can pay. And they are not hired on a basis of color, creed, or nationality." After Curley was hired, other Black women were hired as teachers. Her husband, E. Nevin Bruce, was also hired in Des Moines as the first Black man to teach full time.

Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?



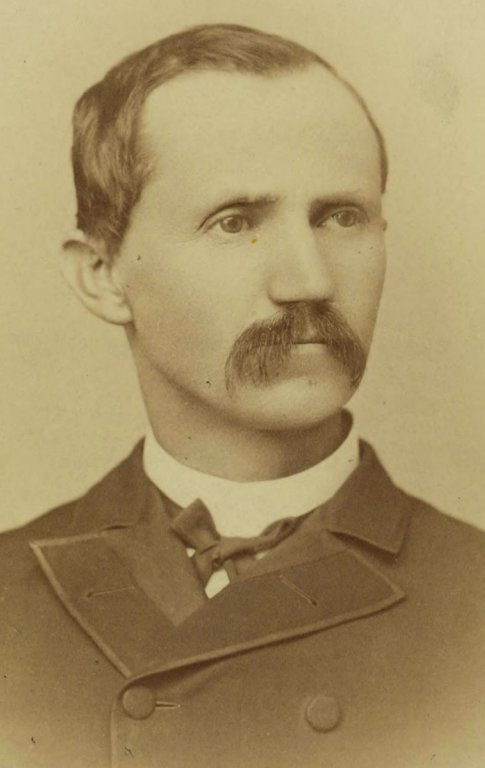
Ira Cook (1821-1902)

Much like how a geographer studies the land, a land surveyor is someone who measures land areas in order to determine boundaries for settlers to purchase. Ira Cook was one of many lowans to receive a contract from the government to be a land surveyor when Iowa territory had to be measured. Cook endured tough conditions, long journeys by foot and wagon and harsh weather from 1849-1853 as he crossed the state measuring the land. He was elected mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1861 and later moved to Washington, D.C., to become Deputy United States Revenue Collector in 1864.

Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the ways people make a living.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.



Voltaire Twombly (1842-1918)

Voltaire P. Twombly was elected Treasurer of Iowa in January 1885. The treasurer officially oversees the state's revenue and finances. He served three terms in the position before stepping down in 1891. Not only was Twombly financially savvy, he also was a war hero. During the Battle of Fort Donelson during the Civil War, he picked up and carried his regiment's national colors after three other members of his regiment were killed or incapacitated by Confederate fire while attempting to secure the flag. Twombly received a Medal of Honor in 1897 for his heroic deeds during the battle.

Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?



Louise Noun (1908-2002)

Louise Frankel Rosenfield Noun spent her life preserving and sharing Iowa history. She was born in Des Moines to Meyer Rosenfield, owner of the Younker's department store, and Rose Frankel Rosenfield, a suffrage-supporting mother. Noun and Mary Louise Smith, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, worked together to found the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Main Library. The archives include important manuscripts and papers which record women's history in Iowa. Louise Noun also authored numerous books and papers regarding feminist history in Iowa.

Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?



George Gallup (1901-1984)

A native of Jefferson, Iowa, and graduate of the University of Iowa, George Gallup invented the now famous Gallup Poll. The Gallup Poll is a method of survey sampling (asking different people the same question for their answers) to help figure out public opinion. Polls are important for elections and helpful for political scientists. The first instance of using the Gallup Poll for politics was the 1932 campaign of Gallup's mother-in-law, Ola Babcock Miller, who successfully ran for Iowa Secretary of State.

Think Like a Journalist

A person who tells others about the story.

- What are the major headlines of this historical topic?
- What people would you want to interview? What questions would you ask?
- What details are needed to tell this particular story to people not from this area?
- Why is it important to share news about what is happening at this time period or this location?



George Mills (1906-2003)

There was not a story developing within the Iowa Capitol's hallways or chambers that George Mills did not cover for *The Des Moines Register* newspaper. Mills covered events and political news at the capitol building from 1943-1971 and later served as a reporter for television station WHO-TV. From 1943 to 1954, Mills was also the Iowa correspondent for *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune* magazines, writing Iowa stories for a national audience.