A Scientific Spotlight on...

International Women’s Day

Elizabeth Blackwell
Elizabeth Blackwell was born in 1821 in Bristol, England. When she was young, one of her friends died from uterine cancer. This friend had said that she might have experienced less pain and suffering if she had had a female doctor caring for her. However, it was very uncommon for women to go to university in the 19th century, let alone become doctors. Blackwell often faced discrimination and male classmates were regularly unkind to her.

Despite this, Blackwell was determined to pursue a career in medicine, and she was accepted into the Geneva Medical College in New York. When she graduated in 1849, she became the first female medical doctor in the United States.

Elizabeth Blackwell was one of the first doctors to notice that good hygiene prevents the spread of diseases in hospitals, such as typhus, which she wrote her thesis on. She called for better hygiene in hospitals and homes.

After medical school, Blackwell trained in maternity wards in London and Paris and was an advocate for women’s rights, particularly pushing for equal opportunities for female doctors.

In 1868, she founded the Women’s Medical College of the New York Infirmary, and then in 1874 the London School of Medicine for Women where she became a professor of gynaecology.

Blackwell’s sister, Emily, also went on to become a doctor. Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell both treated the poor and taught female medical students and nurses. Because of Elizabeth, it became possible for women to become doctors.
Code Breaker!

Examples:
Elizabeth = 8-7-15-2-3-8-20-1
Blackwell = 5-7-3-9-10-22-8-7-7
Women’s Day = 22-30-25-8-13 ’ 55 ’ 11-3-31

Task:
Use the example to work out the codes below

Q1) 6 8 25 15 13 15 55 25 =
Q2) 22 30 25 8 13 =
Q3) 8 16 18 3 7 15 20 31 =

Use the space below to work out which numbers represent each letter, the letter A has been done for you.

Note: Not all the letters are used in this code!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A = 3</th>
<th>F =</th>
<th>K =</th>
<th>P =</th>
<th>U =</th>
<th>Z =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Challenge: Come up with your own code to break and give it to someone to complete!
Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below

Across
2. Which medical college did Elizabeth go to?
5. The activist group who fought for ‘Votes for women’
9. Another name for a doctor
10. In which decade did international women’s day start?

Down
1. The surname of the first woman to receive a medical degree in the US.
3. Date of international women’s day in March
4. Where was Elizabeth born?
6. How many Nobel prizes have been awarded to women?
7. Which movement fights for women’s rights and equality of the sexes?
8. In 1918 how old did women have to be to vote?