

Printable Badges

for

Voices from Africa: Colonized Women Talk Back Lessons

This Lesson Plan is available through
the Center for African Studies at Howard University.

cfas.howard.edu/voices-colonized-women

I rose to power in the 16th century Kongo Kingdom (now Angola).

I converted to Christianity, allied with the Portuguese, and seized the throne. I fought the Portuguese when they tried to expand their control of my country.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



QUEEN NZINGA

In 1922, we organized to free Kenyan activist Harry Thuku, jailed by the British.

When our men failed to take action, I told them to take my dress and give me their trousers. I led the charge of ululating women against the prison doors. The soldiers killed me and 27 others.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



MARY NYANJIRU

In 1929, my neighbors and I “sat”
on a tax collector sent by the British.

Igbo women in Nigeria always
shamed men by sitting on them
and singing insulting songs
when they failed to respect women
and their work. When the British
proceeded with their tax,
we attacked British court buildings.
The soldiers killed 50 of us.

Our revolt is called
the Aba Women’s War.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



NWANYERUWA OJIM

I spoke out and sang
songs against apartheid.

The South African apartheid
government banned me
and refused to let me
return to South Africa
for thirty years.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



MIRIAM MAKEBA

I joined the Mozambique
Liberation Front and cared for
children orphaned by the war.

I married FRELIMO leader
Samora Michel but died when
I was only 25.

Today my birthday is
celebrated as Mozambican
Women's Day.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



JOSINA MACHEL

I joined the Mozambique
Liberation Front resisting
Portuguese colonizers.

I have been the 1st lady of
two countries, Mozambique
and South Africa.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



GRACA MACHEL

I was wrongfully enslaved in
the Gold Coast.

I escaped to British-controlled
territory and in 1876 I brought
my case against my former
master to a British colonial
court. I lost my case
but I was heard.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



ABINA MANSAH

In 1954, I helped organize
South African women's
opposition to oppressive
government policies.

I was tried for high treason
and jailed. My husband
and all my children were
also imprisoned.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



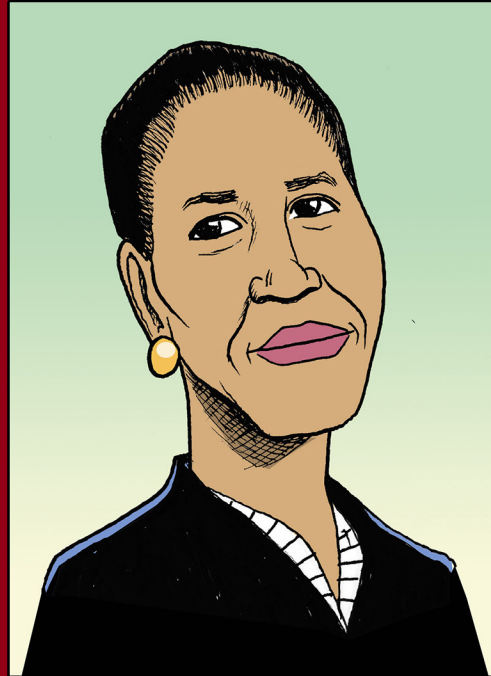
ALBERTINA SISULU

I was a leader of a group that
protested against pass laws
for African women.

My friend and I led a historic
march in which more than
20,000 women demonstrated
in 1956.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



LILIAN NGOYI

On 9 August 1956 in South Africa,
thousands of us – Blacks, Indians,
Coloreds, Whites, – staged a march
on the Union Buildings of Pretoria
to protest against the abusive passes
the Apartheid government was forcing
African women to carry.

There were over 20,000 of us
– some carrying young children on
our backs, some wearing traditional
dresses and saris, and some in
domestic work uniforms – taking part
in the resistance against apartheid.

INFO SOURCE: sahistory.org.za
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu

**WOMEN'S MARCH
ON PRETORIA**

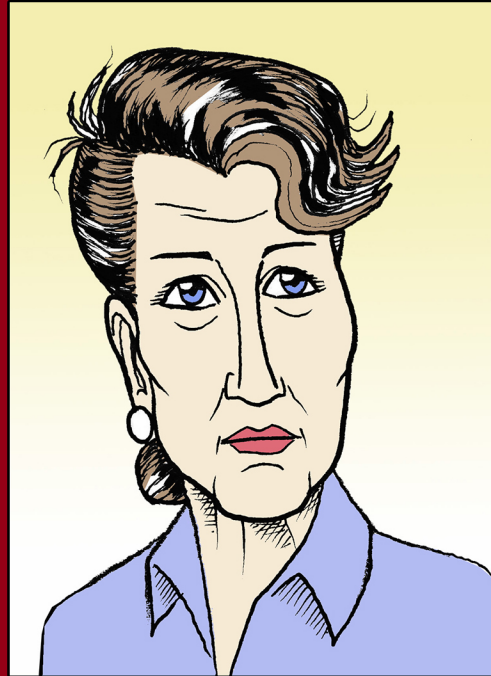
I was born in England in 1905 into a white privileged life, but I questioned the treatment of Black people in my adopted country of South Africa.

Side by side with my best friend Lilian, we led a historic march in which more than 20,000 women demonstrated against injustice in 1956. Before I died I asked to be buried near Lilian. Side by side we lie in the Avalon Cemetery in Soweto, South Africa.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



HELEH JOSEPH

I was born into an activist Jewish family in South Africa.

I joined the anti-apartheid struggle. I was arrested and jailed. I left South Africa but in 1982, I was killed by a letter bomb sent by South African government agents.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



RUTH FIRST

My father was the editor
of *Indian Views*,
an anti-colonialist newspaper.

I protested social injustice in
South Africa using Gandhi's
nonviolent methods.

In 1952, I was imprisoned
without a trial for six months
and banned for five years.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



FATIMA MEER

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu

In 1913, I demonstrated
against government laws that
forced Black South African
women to carry
passes.

As we marched, we shouted,
“We have done with pleading;
we now demand!”

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



CHARLOTTE MAXEKE

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu

In 1900, I led a 6th month
siege against the British.

I was commander-in-chief of
the combined Asante forces
and had my own army.

The British exiled me to the
Seychelle Islands far from
Ghana. I died there in 1921.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



YAA ASANTEWAA



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu

I was born in Egypt in 1879. When
Egyptian women left harems all over
Egypt to protest British rule,
I stepped forward to organize the
protests.

In 1923 I founded the Egyptian
Feminist Union. We focused on
various issues, including women's
suffrage and education.

That year I also removed my veil in
public, shocking many. Yet within the
decade, most woman in Egypt had
removed their veils as well.

INFO SOURCE: Bois, Danuta. *distinguishedwomen.com*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



HUDA SHA'ARAWI



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu

I was born in 1935 in French-ruled Algeria. When I was growing up, all children were instructed to say every morning, "France is our mother." I refused and instead would shout "Algeria Is Our Mother!" Of course, I was punished for this.

As I grew, I continued to protest French control of my country. In 1957 I was tried for bombing French soldiers and sentenced to the guillotine. Public outcry saved me. I am still alive and still protesting injustice.

INFO SOURCE: Husn, Ma'n Abul. *alshindagah.com*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



DJAMILA BOUIRED

In Nigeria in 1946 our women's union began to organize against the British particularly the taxation of market women.

Fifty of us died charging British courts buildings.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**ABEOKUTA
WOMEN'S UNION**

**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu

I was a Shona spiritual leader
living in colonial Rhodesia.

When the British imposed
taxes on us, we rebelled. In
the 1890s I led the resistance.
The British hanged me.

Today places all over
Zimbabwe are named for me.

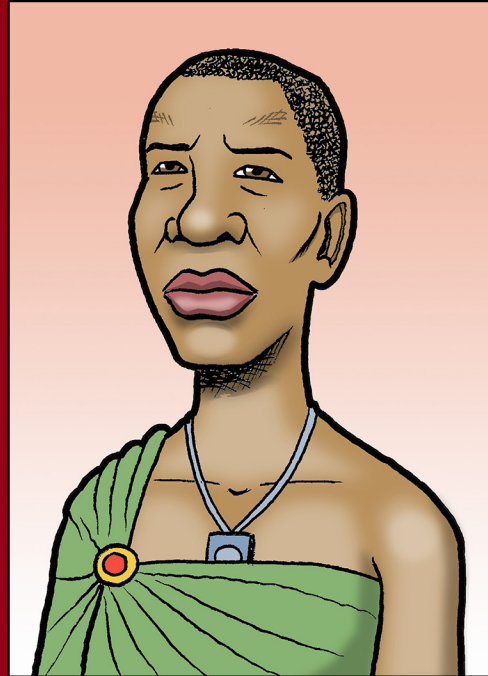
INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



NEHANDA NYAKASIKANA

I began wearing Yoruba dress
and speaking Yoruba in public
to demonstrate my nationalism
and opposition to British
colonialism.

I traveled to England in 1947
to protest a British crafted
constitution.

INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. *Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women*. Scarecrow, 2005

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



OLUFUNMILAYO RANSOME-KUTI

In 1952 when I was 20
years old, I became a spy
for the Mau Mau fighters
who had camped in
the forests of Kenya.

I still have the dreadlocks
I had when I opposed the British
Imperial Army. I'll cut my locks
when the fruits of independence
are enjoyed by the people who
sacrificed most.

INFO SOURCE: museumofbritishcolonialism.org,
Mail & Guardian

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



MUTHONI WA KIRIMA

In 1949 five hundred of us
marched on Grand Bassam
prison in Ivory Coast to protest
the incarceration of our
husbands and brothers by
French colonialists.

We were stopped and beaten
by French soldiers. This statue
honors our protest.

INFO SOURCE: en.unesco.org/womeninafrica

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**WOMEN'S MARCH
ON GRAND BASSAM**

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu

I was born in Wollo, Ethiopia
in a Christian and Muslim
family.

I facilitated the downfall of Italy
at the Battle of Adwa in 1896.

I commanded my own
battalion at the frontline,
motivating men not to retreat.

INFO SOURCE: afrolegends.com

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



EMPRESS TAYTU

I was born in 1689 into a wealthy
Christian family in the Kongo
Kingdom (now Angola). My vision of
Catholicism was Kongo-centered.

I recognized the pope's authority but
opposed corrupt European
missionaries who were
unsympathetic to the needs of
Kongolese Catholics.

I was declared a heretic and burned
at the stake on the orders of
Catholic monks.

INFO SOURCE: : www.metmuseum.org

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson

 **CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
cfas.howard.edu



DONA BEATRIZ

I provided food & supplies
for our Kikuyu men fighting
the British in Kenya.

*INFO SOURCE: Shelton, Kathleen. Historical Dictionary
of Sub-Saharan Women. Scarecrow, 2005*
ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



MAU MAU SUPPORTER

I became aware of the racism in South
Africa and the injustices of apartheid
when I was a young girl. My awareness
grew as I grew. In 1958 I married Nelson
Mandela, a man who was a well-known
anti-apartheid activist. Three years after
our marriage, the apartheid government
imprisoned Nelson. During his 27 years
in prison, I became an anti-apartheid
leader in my own right. The apartheid
government relentlessly persecuted me
but I continued to speak out.

After apartheid ended I led the African
National Congress' Women's League
and served as a Member of Parliament
from 1994 to 2003.

ARTWORK: Mark Robinson



**CENTER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES**
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

cfas.howard.edu



WINNIE MANDELA