

To What Extent Was the Women's Movement a Success?

Directions: Read the 22 facts about women in modern America. Then complete the chart and answer the questions.

FACT	SUCCESS? (Y, N, ?)	IMPORTANCE? (High, Medium, Low)
1. In the 1950s, newspaper want ads often listed available jobs by gender of the desired worker – for example, a company looking for a secretary might request that only women apply.		
2. The percentage of women working outside the home increased from 35% in 1960 to 58% in 1992.		
3. In the 1950s, bars sometimes refused to serve women. This is not true today.		
4. In the 1950s, there were very few female police officers, firefighters, TV anchors, or construction workers. This is not true today.		
5. In the 1950s, women were about 7% of all doctors and 4% of all lawyers. In the early 1990s, women were over 20% of all lawyers and doctors.		
6. In the 1950s, approximately 25% of college students were women. Today approximately 58% of college students are women.		
7. By the 1970s, almost all colleges provided courses in women's studies or women's history.		
8. In the 1950s, women were sometimes paid less for performing the same jobs as men. This is now illegal.		
9. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in <i>Roe v. Wade</i> that women had the right to an abortion in the first trimester of their pregnancy. The number of abortions doubled in less than a decade.		
10. In 1960, the pill became available over the counter. By 1970, 12 million women were taking the pill.		
11. In 1968, a group of women protested the Miss America Pageant by crowning a sheep Miss America and burning items such as high heeled shoes, bras, and hair curlers. The Miss America Pageant continues to this day.		
12. Few people in America today call themselves feminists.		
13. There has never been a female president.		

14. A woman (Geraldine Ferraro) was the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate in 1984.		
15. There have been 2 female supreme court justices.		
16. The divorce rate has approximately doubled since the 1970s.		
17. In 1972, President Nixon vetoed a bill establishing a national network of child care centers. No such network exists today.		
18. In 1950, women's life expectancy was 71 years and men's was 66. In 1980, women's life expectancy was 78 years and men's was 70.		
19. From 1960 to 1980, the percentage of married women who worked rose from 32% to 51%.		
20. In recent decades, a growing number of women have participated in collegiate and professional sports (such as the WNBA).		
21. In 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which stated that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on the basis of sex."		
22. The ERA was not formally incorporated into the constitution because it failed to receive the ratification of $\frac{3}{4}$ of states.		

1. What appear to have been the biggest successes of the women's rights movement?

2. What appear to have been the biggest failures?

3. Overall, on a 1-10 scale, how successful was the women's rights movement?