Women in Science

1786 I found it [sc. a comet] with a magnifier of about 30, with a field of about 1½ degree.

2014 The fact that, as a tiny embryo, you had a yolk sac, even a small, un-yolky one, reveals something about your ancestry and the links between embryology and evolution.

1931 It is recommended that the use of the term curie can be extended to include the equilibrium quantity of any decay product of radium.

1786 The object in the center is like a star out of focus...and I suspect it to be a comet.

1860 Feverishness is generally supposed to be a symptom of fever—in nine cases out of ten it is a symptom of bedding.

1861 Miller talked to him of XXX’s new Pterodactyl of Lyme.

1829 I announced the discovery of the radiferous salts of barium being volatile.

1820 Prof. Alice Roberts (Born 1973)

1859 True nursing ignores infection, except to prevent it.

1931 It is recommended that the use of the term curie can be extended to include the equilibrium quantity of any decay product of radium.

1848 Caroline Herschel (1750-1848)

1829 It would also be difficult to conceive of the radiferous salts of barium being volatile.

1910 Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

1861 A dirty carpet infects the sick room.

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This resource is designed to be a fun introduction to using OED features, and to start exciting conversations about women in science. Students will complete tasks in groups and will contribute in class discussions beneficial to their studies in science, English, and history, with the option of including homework/extension work.

ICE BREAKER/OPENING QUESTION

Ask the class to name as many scientists as they can. See how many of these are male, and how many are female. Ask specifically if they know any female scientists.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Task: in small groups, try to match the names and pictures of the scientists with the OED entries they are cited in and/or the words they are associated with (without looking online). Then as a class, use the OED’s advanced search function on the smart board to check if they were right.

Optional: Each group to research further information about their chosen scientist to present to the rest of the class. Quotations from the OED, as well as information from other sources, can be used to make a poster to be displayed in class.

DISCUSSION

Who are these scientists? What have they achieved? Florence Nightingale has more than 100 citations, so a session on her alone could be done, too.

EXTENSION/HOME TASK

Write a few sentences about a famous person. Which OED entries could they be cited in, and which books, films, songs, etc. could their quotes be taken from?

Curriculum objectives/topics for this resource:

- **Science**: Evolution and inheritance (how living things have changed over time, fossils, dinosaurs, adaptation and environment)
- **History**: A local history study
- **English**: Understand the meaning of new words
- **English**: Use dictionaries to check spelling and meaning of words
- **English**: Use a thesaurus