



UNLADYLIKE2020

Do-It-Yourself Screening Kit: Lillian Moller Gilbreth

*Bring the story of this trailblazing inventor and industrial engineer—
the first woman elected to the National Academy of Engineering—
to your community.*



ABOUT THE SERIES

UNLADYLIKE2020 is an innovative multimedia series featuring diverse and little-known American heroines from the early years of feminism, and the women who now follow in their footsteps. Presenting history in a bold new way, the rich biographies of 26 women who broke barriers in male-dominated fields 100 years ago, such as science, business, politics, journalism, sports, and the arts, are brought back to life through rare archival imagery, captivating original artwork and animation, and interviews with historians, descendants, and accomplished women of today who reflect on the influence of these pioneers.

Narrated by Julianna Margulies (ER, The Good Wife, Billions) and Lorraine Toussaint (Selma, Orange is the New Black, The Glorias), the series features 26 ten-to-twelve-minute animated documentary films released digitally on PBS's flagship biography series American Masters, along with a television hour on PBS showcasing the stories of trailblazers in politics and civil rights, plus a resource-rich interactive website, a grades 6 through 12 U.S. history curriculum on PBS LearningMedia, and a nationwide community engagement and screening initiative staged in partnership with public television stations and community organizations.

Although the series was timed to honor the 100th anniversary of the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment giving women suffrage, this content is evergreen, and merits screening and discussion anytime! This kit aims to give you all the tools you need to bring Lillian Moller Gilbreth's inspiring journey to your community.

“The workers must understand that they add to the perfectness of the entire establishment. Scientific management is built on the recognition of the individual, with all the idiosyncrasies that distinguish a person.”

—LILLIAN MOLLER
GILBRETH



Julianna Margulies
Narrator



Lorraine Toussaint
Narrator

ABOUT LILLIAN MOLLER GILBRETH



Lillian Moller Gilbreth (1878-1972), one of the first female industrial engineers, worked with her husband Frank to invent 'time and motion study,' analyzing ways to make industrial processes, office tasks, and housework more efficient, reduce human error, and enhance the safety and satisfaction of workers. After Frank died, Gilbreth reinvented her career as a solo consultant, and became the first female engineering professor at Purdue University. Among other inventions, she transformed the design of kitchens and numerous kitchen appliances. In 1965, Gilbreth was the first woman elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She was also a proponent of eugenics, an ideology supporting a racial hierarchy and the dominance of white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Gilbreth and her husband raised 12 children — immortalized in the 1948 fictionalized memoir "Cheaper By The Dozen" — believing that white educated families should reproduce to keep America 'pure.'

"There's a recent study that showed that of all people that are recognized as inventors, only 12% were women."

—LISA SEACAT DELUCA

WHO IS INTERVIEWED?



Julie Des Jardins, professor of history at Baruch College and author of *Lillian Gilbreth: Redefining Domesticity*.



Evelynn Hammonds, Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University.



Lisa Seacat DeLuca, IBM Director & Distinguished Engineer, and IBM's most prolific female inventor.

EVENT/PROGRAMMING IDEAS



Bring a female engineer as a guest speaker. Have a conversation about new career opportunities that may exist in STEM fields.



Have local teachers and researchers make a presentation about the new frontiers of STEM research.



Take a picture of something that was invented by Lillian Gilbreth for use in the home. Discuss how this appliance makes tasks more efficient.



Have the audience break into small groups and conduct their own impromptu time/motion study to see how long it takes people to complete some basic function.



Have individuals or small groups come up with one idea that would make a task at home or at work more efficient.



Discuss what coding is, the opportunities and skills it provides, and learn how to code for free. Some websites include: [Code](#), [Codecademy](#), and [Vidcode](#).

DISCUSSION PROMPTS



Why is it important to know about and celebrate Lillian Moller Gilbreth's accomplishments as an industrial engineer and woman in STEM? Do you think that she is a trailblazer? If so, why?



Do you think it's important to encourage women to pursue careers in STEM? If so, why?



How did Lillian Gilbreth challenge gender norms?



How did Lillian Gilbreth revolutionize the industry of scientific management? What do you think motivated her work?



Why was it important during the era of the industrial revolution to create greater efficiencies?



Although Lillian Gilbreth was a prominent engineer, she also had her flaws. How did her adherence to eugenics shape her life, and why is it important to recognize this aspect of her story?

RESOURCE/READING LIST

-  PBS LearningMedia UNLADYLIKE2020 Lillian Gilbreth Teaching Resource
<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ull20-lillian-gilbreth/unladylike-2020-video/>
-  Frank and Lillian Gilbreth Bring Order to Providence: The Introduction of Scientific Management at the New England Butt Company, *The Rhode Island Historical Society Volume 55, Number 2, 1912-13* (page 25) by Jane Lancaster.
http://www.rihs.org/assets/files/publications/1997_May.pdf
-  National Academy of Engineering, Lillian Moller Gilbreth
<https://www.nae.edu/189406/LILLIAN-MOLLER-GILBRETH-18781972>
-  National Women's History Museum, Lillian Moller Gilbreth
<https://www.womenshistory.org/lillian-moller-gilbreth>

"She changed the way Americans work. She's the first industrial engineer who really brings to bear human psychology in the workplace."

—EVELYNN HAMMONDS

PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUR EVENT

Please visit <https://unladylike2020.com/host-an-event/> to view a full list of promotional resources for your event, such as a social media toolkit, press release, audience evaluation form, and more.

UNLADYLIKE2020 is a production of Unladylike Productions, LLC in association with THIRTEEN's *American Masters*. Executive Producers for UNLADYLIKE2020 are Charlotte Mangin and Sandra Rattley. Executive Producer for *American Masters* is Michael Kantor.

This screening kit was written by Mariana Surillo, UNLADYLIKE2020 Associate Producer, and Alice Quinlan, UNLADYLIKE2020 Impact Operations Producer.

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