Eleanor Roosevelt was a champion for human rights who helped make the world a better place. To be a “champion” of something means to bring attention to the problem and find ways to fix it. Eleanor Roosevelt was the niece of a President, the wife of a President, and a powerful person in world politics.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York on October 11, 1884. Her uncle was Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States from 1901 until 1909. Eleanor’s parents both died when she was very young.

After her parents’ deaths, Eleanor went to live with her grandmother. Her grandmother sent Eleanor to a boarding school in England. A “boarding school” is a school where the students live at the school instead of living at home. After graduating school, Eleanor returned to New York and began...
working with organizations that helped the local community. A “community” is the area in which you live.

When she was 21 years old, Eleanor married Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Franklin was Eleanor’s distant cousin. This means that they were related, but not very closely. Together, Eleanor and Franklin had six children. During World War I, Eleanor volunteered with the Red Cross in Navy hospitals. To “volunteer” means to work without being paid.

Franklin Roosevelt was a rising political star. This means that he was becoming a very important person in politics and government. However, in 1921, he became very sick with a disease called polio. The disease didn’t affect his mind, but it did affect his body. Soon, he would need to be in a wheelchair and need a lot of help. Eleanor became very involved in Franklin’s political career.

Franklin was elected President of the United States in 1933. He was President until his death in 1945. While he was President, Eleanor was the First Lady of the United States. Unlike the First Ladies who were before her, Eleanor decided to use her position as First Lady to raise awareness of problems in the country. She talked to the news media and went around the country talking about human rights, child and women’s issues, and racial discrimination. “Racial discrimination” is when a person is treated badly because their skin is a different color from other people’s. Eleanor
also went around the world to visit United States soldiers during World War II. This helped remind them of home and keep them positive.

After Franklin died, Eleanor continued to be active in politics. From 1945 until 1953, she served as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. This means that Eleanor worked with leaders from other countries to make the world a better place. One of the ways that she did this was to help write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document says that every person in the world should have freedom, justice, and peace in their lives. Eleanor would later say that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the thing she was most proud of.

Eleanor died on November 7, 1962. She had a long career of helping other people. She made sure that she used her powerful position to speak for the people in the world who didn’t have any power. This is something that she is still admired and remembered for today.
Eleanor Roosevelt Worksheet – Exercises

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Eleanor become so involved in Franklin’s political career?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

2. What issues were important to Eleanor as First Lady?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

3. As a delegate to the United Nations, what did Eleanor help write?
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence “Her uncle was Theodore Roosevelt.”

   Negative: Her uncle was not Theodore Roosevelt
   Yes/No Question: Was her uncle Theodore Roosevelt?
   WH-Question: Who was her uncle?
   Tag Question: Her uncle was Theodore Roosevelt, wasn’t he?
1. Eleanor Roosevelt was a champion for human rights.

   Negative: ___________________________________________________

   Yes/No Question: ______________________________________________

   WH-Question: __________________________________________________

   Tag Question: __________________________________________________

2. Eleanor became very involved in Franklin’s political career.

   Negative: ______________________________________________________

   Yes/No Question: ______________________________________________

   WH-Question: __________________________________________________

   Tag Question: __________________________________________________

3. From 1945 until 1953, she served in the United Nations.

   Negative: ______________________________________________________

   Yes/No Question: ______________________________________________

   WH-Question: __________________________________________________

   Tag Question: __________________________________________________
C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was _________ powerful person in world politics.
   a) a                     b) an                     c) the

2. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born _________ New York.
   a) in                     b) at                     c) by

3. Eleanor and Franklin _________ six children.
   a) have                  b) had                   c) have had

4. Eleanor raised awareness of problems in _________ country.
   a) a                     b) an                     c) the

5. Eleanor continued _________ active in politics.
   a) to be                  b) be                     c) to being

6. _________ helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
   a) Her                    b) She                    c) Hers

   a) in                     b) at                     c) on

8. She had a long career of helping _________ people.
   a) another                b) the other               c) other
Eleanor Roosevelt Worksheet – Answers

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Eleanor become so involved in Franklin’s political career?
   Eleanor became involved in Franklin’s political career because he got sick with polio.

2. What issues were important to Eleanor as First Lady?
   Human rights, child and women’s issues, and racial discrimination were important issues to Eleanor as First Lady.

3. As a delegate to the United Nations, what did Eleanor help write?
   As a delegate to the United Nations, Eleanor helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence “Her uncle was Theodore Roosevelt.”

   Negative: Her uncle was not Theodore Roosevelt

   Yes/No Question: Was her uncle Theodore Roosevelt?

   WH-Question: Who was her uncle?

   Tag Question: Her uncle was Theodore Roosevelt, wasn’t he?
1. **Eleanor Roosevelt** was a champion for human rights.

**Negative:** Eleanor Roosevelt was not a champion for human rights.

**Yes/No Question:** Was Eleanor Roosevelt a champion for human rights?

**WH-Question:** Who was a champion for human rights?

**Tag Question:** Eleanor Roosevelt was a champion for human rights, wasn’t she?

2. Eleanor became very involved in Franklin’s political career.

**Negative:** Eleanor didn’t become very involved in Franklin’s political career.

**Yes/No Question:** Did Eleanor become very involved in Franklin’s political career?

**WH-Question:** In whose political career did Eleanor become very involved?

**Tag Question:** Eleanor became very involved in Franklin’s political career, didn’t she?

3. From 1945 until 1953, she served in the United Nations.
Negative: From 1945 until 1953, she didn’t serve in the United Nations.

Yes/No Question: From 1945 until 1953, did she serve in the United Nations?

WH-Question: When did she serve in the United Nations?

Tag Question: From 1945 until 1953, she served in the United Nations, didn’t she?
C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was a powerful person in world politics.
   a) a  b) an  c) the

2. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York.
   a) in  b) at  c) by

3. Eleanor and Franklin had six children.
   a) have  b) had  c) have had

4. Eleanor raised awareness of problems in the country.
   a) a  b) an  c) the

5. Eleanor continued to be active in politics.
   a) to be  b) be  c) to being

6. She helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
   a) Her  b) She  c) Hers

   a) in  b) at  c) on

8. She had a long career of helping other people.
   a) another  b) the other  c) other

Click here for additional books and resources by Really Learn English.