



# ICONIC WOMEN IN LEGAL HISTORY

## Viewing Guide for Betty Friedan

### About the Iconic Women in Legal History Project

Iconic Women In Legal History is designed to educate school students about iconic women in our nation’s legal history who have promoted and protected civil rights, fought for equality, and ultimately shaped our present culture. Today women enjoy equal legal access to health care, education, civic participation, and economic justice as a result of generations of advocacy on behalf of women.

The project focuses on telling the stories of iconic women who are often overlooked or left out of mainstream textbooks, featuring videos and interviews with historians, legal scholars, relatives, and even the iconic women themselves.

### Setting the Stage

1. Name some iconic women who have influenced you? Why do they stand are they so important to you?
2. What women do you remember reading about in history classes at school? Why did those women “make the cut”?
3. Do you feel like some women get overlooked by history? Why or why not?

### Specific Discussion Questions – Betty Friedan

1. Why was Betty Friedan “iconic”?
2. What was the impact of the Feminine Mystique?
3. Why do you think the founding of the National Organization for Women was so important?
4. What experiences shaped her life?
5. How did Betty Friedan affect the legal system?
6. What is liberal feminism? Does it still exist today?
7. Does the Feminine Mystique still influence society today?
8. What are some of the lessons you learned from hearing her story?

### Additional Resources Available on this Iconic Woman

- *Feminine Mystique* By: Betty Friedan
- *“It Changed My Life”: Writings on the Women’s Movement* By: Betty Friedan
- <https://www.pbs.org/fmc/interviews/friedan.htm>
- *Betty Friedan and the Making of “The Feminine Mystique”: The American Left, the Cold Ward, and Modern Feminism* By: Daniel Horowitz