

## The Young Scientists Series — Book 8: Women of Discovery

### List of Resources

1. Understanding What We Read
2. Learning Sentence Structures
3. Responding to Text
4. Close Reading Skills
5. Book Reflection
6. Answer Key

### Internet Resources

- Merit Ptah Tomb  
<http://www.ancient-origins.net/merit-ptah>
- Photo of Sophie Germain  
<https://web.math.rochester.edu/people/faculty/doug/UGpages/sophie.html>
- Paintings by Maria Merian  
<http://www.botanicalartandartists.com/about-maria-sibylla-merian.html>

### 1. Reading for Understanding (The First Woman Doctor in History)

This activity is set based on the latest comprehension format. It serves as a practice for their comprehension open-ended skills.

### 2. Learning Sentence Structures

You may start this activity by discussing life for women in the past. Then, get your students to imagine that they are Sophie Germain from the story “The Girl Who Had to Hide Behind a Man’s Name”. Using “If” conditional sentences, get them to create 4 sentences to state what they would do if they were her living at that time.

### 3. Responding to Text

Refer to the text “The Girl Who Found Her Sisters on the Other Side of the World”. Students are to state why Harriett Noyes was special and what her contributions were.

### 4. Close Reading Skills

In this exercise, students will practice their close reading skills. You may want to encourage them to look for contextual clues in the text.

### 5. Book Reflection

In this exercise, students are to write a reflection of the story they like the best.

In this activity read the story “The First Woman Doctor in History” and answer the following questions.

1. Where did Merit Ptah live in? [1m]

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2. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is **true** or **false**, then, give a reason why you think so. [2m]

Sentence	True/False	Reason
i) Merit Ptah was named after the goddess.		
ii) We know that Merit Ptah was a doctor through letters written by her son.		

3. What can we learn about Merit’s existence as a doctor?

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4. What evidence is there to show that Merit Ptah is important in modern times?

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5. Which three-word phrase on page 9 tells us that women should have important jobs?

# Learning Sentence Structures

We have read about several extraordinary women in this book. Imagine you were as good in mathematics as Sophie Germain, what would you do at that time?

Complete the sentences to let us know what you would invent.

Example:

If I **were** like Sophie Germain, I **would** not hide behind a man's name.

Remember because this is an imaginary situation, you would need to use the verb "**were**" and the modal "**would**"

1. If

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2. If

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3. If

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4. If

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Fill in the blanks with a suitable word.

If you agree that girls dislike bugs, then you are wrong. Maria Merian developed an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in insects since she was 13. She studied bugs and would paint (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Born in Germany, Maria learnt (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to paint from her stepfather. Since then, she used her skills to paint bugs and published books with her paintings. Travelling (4) \_\_\_\_\_ jungles to jungles, she (5) \_\_\_\_\_ several giant bugs and made paintings of them. Till today, she is still remembered for her discoveries. The next time you surf the internet, you might want to google some of her extraordinary paintings!

