

Episode 5: A Love Story of Academic Proportions – Harry & Leta Stetter Hollingworth

5 Minute History Lesson

Teacher's Guide

The Cumming Center's 5 Minute History Lessons (5MHL) are a series of short films about interesting people and stories from the psychology's history. The 5MHL's use archival documents, photographs, sound recordings, and films housed in the Archives of the History of American Psychology to tell the stories of individual psychologists and psychological research.

The 5MHL Scavenger Hunt activities are meant to be used by instructors to provide a broad understanding of a variety of topics. Scavenger hunts can be done in class (face-to-face or virtual) or assigned as homework projects.

Instructors can determine the depth of the project and should allow 30-45 minutes. The scavenger hunts can simply be completed by students, or they can serve as a jumping off point for more in-depth class discussions. Suggested discussion points are included.

Instructions and answer sheets are found for *Episode 5: A Love Story of Academic Proportions – Harry & Leta Stetter Hollingworth* on the following pages.

Episode 5: A Love Story of Academic Proportions – Harry & Leta Stetter Hollingworth

5 Minute History Lesson

Level: high school students, undergraduate college students

Time: 30-45 minutes

Objectives: By the end of this activity students will:

1. have a general understanding of the life and work of Harry and Leta Stetter Hollingworth
2. have a basic understanding of the obstacles faced by women pursuing a career in psychology in the early 1900s
3. have a basic understanding of how archival materials can be used to tell a story

BEFORE the 5 Minute History Lesson (5MHL) [5 minutes]

Ask your students what they already know about the Harry and Leta Stetter Hollingworth and the early history of applied psychology. Are they familiar with the term *applied psychology*? Make note of their responses for later discussion.

DURING the 5 Minute History Lesson [15-25 minutes]

Link: https://youtu.be/r0c_dEDiAnI

Students should watch the Hollingworth 5MHL without taking notes. Students should watch the Hollingworth 5MHL a second time and simultaneously complete the scavenger hunt.

AFTER the 5 Minute History Lesson [15 minutes]

Initiate a discussion using the following questions or ask your students to answer them in short answer form:

KNOW What is something you learned from the video that you didn't know previously? Why does this stand out to you as interesting?

Episode 5: A Love Story of Academic Proportions – Harry & Leta Stetter Hollingworth
5 Minute History Lesson

DO/APPLY a SKILL Consider Harry Hollingworth’s research on caffeine for the Coca Cola company. Do you think that scientists can do objective, neutral research when working for a large corporation?

FEEL/UNDERSTAND Initiate a discussion about women’s roles during this time. Note that Leta was barred from teaching as a married woman. Discuss how Harry’s support for Leta’s continued education and their relationship as intellectual peers differed from the common view of the time.

1: In what fields of psychology were Harry and Leta Stetter Hollingworth pioneers?

Answer: clinical psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, psychology of women, and gifted education

2: Leta Stetter Hollingworth was a public-school teacher in Nebraska before marrying Harry Hollingworth and moving to New York while he studied psychology. Why couldn’t Leta work as a teacher in New York?

Answer: Married women were barred from teaching in New York City’s public schools.

3: Harry Hollingworth’s caffeine research for Coca-Cola was important for his career in psychology. Why? Also explain why it was important for Leta’s career.

Answer: Established Harry’s reputation in the business community and brought him other financial opportunities. It was important for Leta’s career as the money earned from the research was enough to pay for her to attend graduate school for psychology.

Episode 5: A Love Story of Academic Proportions – Harry & Leta Stetter Hollingworth

5 Minute History Lesson

4: Describe Leta Stetter Hollingworth’s approach to educating gifted students.

A. Leta Stetter Hollingworth supported an “enrichment approach” in which gifted students stayed with their peers but were exposed to an enriched curriculum. This view is widely accepted today in gifted education programs.

5. What happened to the Hollingworth’s in the spring of 1938?

Answer: They travelled to the University of Nebraska to earn honorary Doctor of Law degrees side by side during the commencement ceremonies.