

Mary Wollstonecraft

1759-1797

- ★ Author and Liberal Feminist
- ★ Worked as a schoolteacher and Head Mistress
- ★ Before the women's movement and women's suffrage, Mary Wollstonecraft was a progressive thinker and an outspoken advocate of the

equality of the sexes.

- ★ Author of - History and Moral View of the Origins and Progress of the French Revolution, Vindication of the Rights of Man
- ★ Also wrote Vindication of the Rights of Woman, known as the first great feminist document
- ★ Wollstonecraft preached that intellect will always govern and sought "to persuade women to endeavour to acquire strength, both of mind and body, and to convince them that the soft phrases, susceptibility of heart, delicacy of sentiment, and refinement of taste, are almost synonymous [*sic*] with epithets of weakness."

"How many women thus waste life away the prey of discontent, who might have practised as physicians, regulated a farm, managed a shop, and stood erect, supported by their own industry, instead of hanging their heads surcharged with the dew of sensibility, that consumes the beauty to which it at first gave lustre."

- Mary Wollstonecraft