

Shirley Chisholm



Who Was Shirley Chisholm?

Shirley Chisholm was an American politician and educator. A politician is a person whose job it is to help to govern a country.

Shirley was the first Black female member of Congress. Congress is part of the government of the USA. It is where laws are passed.

What Was Shirley's Childhood Like?

Shirley was born on 30th November 1924 in New York City. Her father was called Christopher and he was a factory worker. Her mother's name was Ruby and she was a seamstress.

When Shirley was five years old, went to live in Barbados with her grandmother.

Where Did Shirley Study?

Shirley attended Girls' High School in Brooklyn until 1942. After that, she went on to study at Brooklyn College. She graduated from there in 1946 with very high scores.



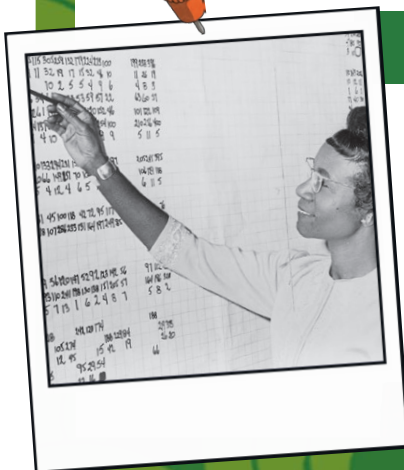
Did You Know...?

Shirley was part of a debate team during her time at Brooklyn College. A debate team discusses a topic and they put forward one point of view.

The team tries to persuade other people to agree with their point of view. Shirley was so good at debating that she won lots of awards.

What Did Shirley Do before Becoming a Politician?

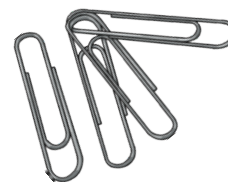
Shirley's worked as a nursery school teacher. She was an expert in early childhood education. She used what she knew to help schools across New York City.



Did You Know...?

Shirley teachers thought that she would be a good politician but Shirley thought that being both female and Black would

stop her from doing this. She thought this because Black people and women were not treated fairly at the time.



What Did Shirley Believe In?

Shirley knew that people in her community were experiencing racial and gender inequality. This means that they were not treated equally because of their race and their gender. Shirley joined lots of groups who tried to make sure that everyone was treated equally.

When Was Shirley Elected to Congress?

Shirley wanted to be a member of Congress. She called herself 'fighting Shirley Chisholm' and she showed told everyone about the things that she believed in.

Shirley was popular among voters. She used the slogan 'Unbought and Unbossed'. Shirley spoke English and Spanish when talking to voters, which is something that other people did not do. Voters supported Shirley and she was chosen for the job in 1968.



Questions

1. In which year was Shirley Chisholm born? Tick one.

- 1924
 1942
 1946
 1968

2. **Shirley knew that people in her community were experiencing racial and gender inequality.** What does this mean? Tick one.

- that there were lots of people in the community
 that lots of people worked together in the community
 that people in the community were not being treated equally
 that everybody was treated fairly in the community

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in during Shirley's life.

- She worked as a nursery school teacher.
 She moved to Barbados.
 She attended Brooklyn College.
 She was chosen for a job in Congress.

4. Draw **three** lines and match each term to what it means.

politician

Congress

debate team

a part of the government of the USA

something which discusses a topic and puts forward one point of view

a person whose job it is to help to govern a country

5. Fill in the missing words.

She used the slogan '_____ and _____'.

6. Look at the section called **What Did Shirley Do before Becoming a Politician?**
Find and copy one word which means 'someone who knows a lot about something'.

7. Use evidence from the text to explain why Shirley's teachers might have thought that she would be a good politician.
