

Positive Character Traits

It is important for students to learn about and identify positive character traits of the Amazing Americans they will study in “Amazing Firsts”.

honesty	moral and trustworthy
perseverance	to be determined and persistent
generosity	giving to others
determination	having purpose and willpower
kindness	full of compassion
compassionate	sympathetic and concerned for others
intelligent	bright and smart
trustworthy	able to be trusted
thoughtful	caring and kind
self-reliant	able to rely on one’s self in order to succeed
eager	excited, ready, and willing
energetic	full of energy and liveliness
ambitious	having a strong desire to succeed

TERMS TO KNOW

Diversity

- the understanding and appreciating interdependence of humanity, cultures, and the natural environment
- practicing mutual respect for qualities and experiences that are different from our own

Equity

- fairness
- quality of being fair and impartial

Inclusion

- the organized effort in which different groups or individuals having different backgrounds are culturally and socially accepted and welcomed
- all groups are equally treated

Regardless of similarities or differences the person the students will learn about made significant contributions to society. Many of the people we will study did not receive the recognition they deserved for their accomplishments. They may have also faced discrimination and other hardships throughout their lives.

Week 1: Dr. Antonia Novello

Reading Passage: Read the passage below to learn about the amazing accomplishments of **Dr. Antonia Novello**.

A Antonia was born in Puerto Rico in 1944. She was the oldest of three children raised by her mother, a school teacher, after her father died. When Antonia was born, she suffered from a medical condition that caused her a good deal of pain and required surgery. Together, she and her mother would make long and **frequent** trips to the hospital. The experiences that she went through made her think that one day she might want to become a doctor and help others.

B Antonia began college at the University of Puerto Rico where she completed her medical training. She then continued on to the University of Michigan for more training in pediatrics (medicine of children) and then she opened an office to become a **pediatrician**. Antonia had a very big heart and she often worried about the well-being of her patients. She decided that she needed to make a change and look for a different job in medicine where she could help others. Antonia went to work for the National Institute of Health. This is an organization that does medical and behavioral research for the nation. Antonia was responsible for many things at work including advising Congress on organ transplants and warning labels on certain products.

C In 1990, President Bush **appointed** her to be the Surgeon General of the United States. The Surgeon General is the nation's doctor. That person is the spokesperson on matters of public health in the United States. Antonia worked to help women and children in America. She spoke out against tobacco companies and the use of tobacco by young people in the country. Because of her hard work, cigarette machines were **removed** from public buildings and restaurants. **Antonia Novello served our country as the 14th Surgeon General. She was the first woman and first Hispanic American to hold this position.**

Week 1: Dr. Antonia Novello

Vocabulary: Use context clues to write the correct bold-faced vocabulary word from the passage next to its meaning below.

1. chosen or selected: _____
2. taken out: _____
3. children's doctor: _____
4. often: _____

Reading Comprehension: Read each question below then reread the passage on the previous page to locate the correct answer.

1. Describe Antonia's early life. _____

2. What possibly made Antonia want to become a physician? _____

3. What job does the surgeon general perform? _____

4. What causes did Antonia work for while serving as surgeon general?

Figurative Language: Explain the phrase, "she had a very big heart".

Week 1: Dr. Antonia Novello

Reading Comprehension: Think about what each question means and how it makes you feel. Write and discuss your answers.

1. What **amazing first** did **Dr. Novello** accomplish? _____

2. Why are her accomplishments **significant**? _____

3. What is **different** about **Dr. Novello's** life than your life? _____

4. Are there any **similarities** about your life and her life? _____

5. What do you think **motivated** Dr. Novello to work so hard to become successful in her field?

Week 1: Dr. Antonia Novello

6. What **positive character traits** are exhibited by Dr. Novello?

Positive Character Traits: _____

What evidence did you read about in the passage that helps you understand some of those positive character traits? **Explain.**

7. What would be one important question you would ask Dr. Novello if given the opportunity? **Explain.**
