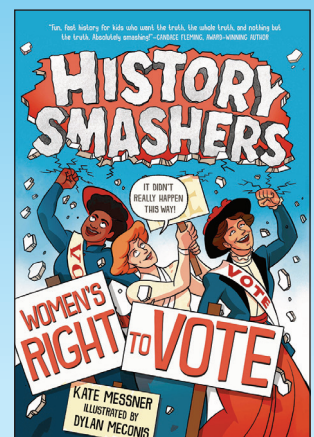
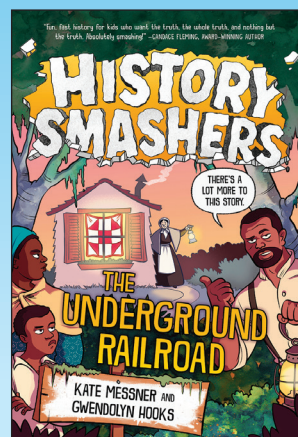
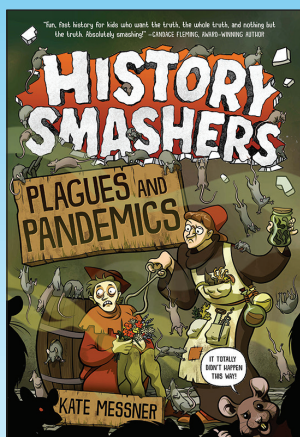
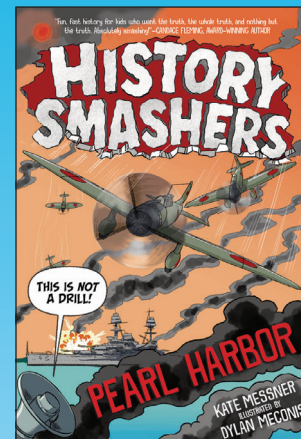
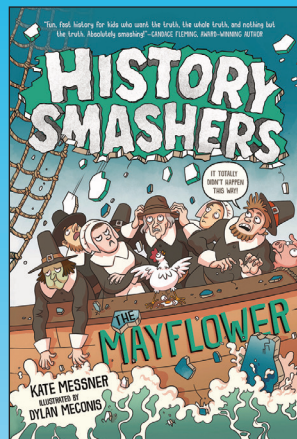
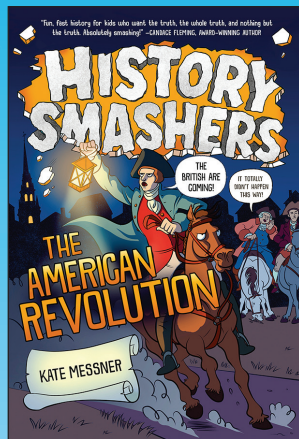


# SERIES EDUCATORS' BROCHURE

# HISTORY SMASHERS

Smash the myths we've been taught about history!

**T**hrough illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, acclaimed author and former educator Kate Messner smashes misconceptions by exploring little-known details of famous moments in history.



★ **“Critical, respectful, engaging: EXEMPLARY HISTORY FOR CHILDREN.”**

—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

# Praise for History Smashers!

## What Educators are Saying!

"I literally cannot keep History Smashers on my shelves! My fourth graders are obsessed!"

—Lisa Berner, elementary school library media specialist  
(South Colonie, NY)

"I know I can trust the detail and depth of Kate's research to support my goal to relay an inclusive, accurate portrayal of history."

—Melissa Guerrette, fifth grade teacher (Oxford, ME)

"This series is going to be a HUGE hit!"

—Sierra D, NetGalley reviewer and educator

"The book details so much and almost feels like a primer for a high school level class."

—Chris C, NetGalley reviewer and educator

Read  
Kate Messner's  
reflection on her  
journey from teaching  
to writing, and hear  
how that led to the  
History Smashers  
series!

## More Praise for History Smashers!

"The book's format may be a good match for those with shorter attention spans, and permits it to be gratifyingly capacious in what it covers."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Well-researched, entertaining, and **packed with facts.**"

—*Booklist*

"A history book for middle-graders that should be on everyone's (child and adult) to-read list."

—*Shelf Awareness*

"Informative and fun, **eye-opening and entertaining.**"

—Chris Barton, award-winning author

"Kate Messner serves up **fun, fast history** for kids who want the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

**Absolutely smashing!**

—Candace Fleming, award-winning author

"Messner and Meconis provide a **timely perspective** on an important part of American history."

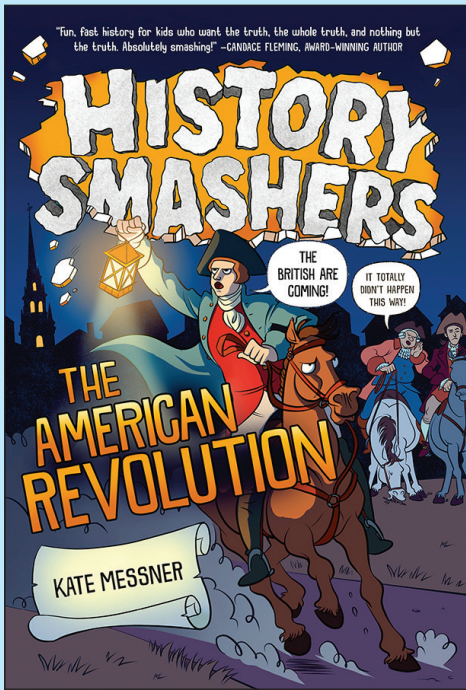
—*School Library Journal*

## About the Author

**Kate Messner** is passionately curious and writes books that encourage kids to wonder, too. Her titles include award-winning and popular picture books, like *Over and Under the Snow* and *Dr. Fauci: How a Boy from Brooklyn Became America's Doctor*; novels, like *Breakout* and *Chirp*; the Fergus and Zeke easy reader series, the popular Ranger in Time chapter books, and works of nonfiction with a focus

on nature and history. Before becoming a full-time writer, Kate was a TV journalist and a middle school English teacher. She lives on Lake Champlain with her family and is trying to summit all forty-six Adirondack High Peaks in between book deadlines. Visit [katemessner.com](http://katemessner.com) and Facebook: Kate Messner for more information, and follow her on Twitter at [@katemessner](https://twitter.com/katemessner).





### **History Smashers: The American Revolution**

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Justin Greenwood

PB: 978-0-593-12046-0

## **History Smashers: The American Revolution**

Uncover the hidden truth behind the Revolutionary War with a fun mix of sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels.

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere rode through Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, shouting, “The British are coming!” to start the American Revolution. Right? WRONG! Paul Revere made it to Lexington, but before he could complete his mission, he was captured!

The truth is, dozens of patriots rode around warning people about the redcoats’ plans that night. It was actually a man named Samuel Prescott who succeeded, alerting townspeople in Lexington and then moving on to Concord. But the Revolutionary War didn’t officially start for more than a year after Prescott’s ride. No joke.

Learn even more about our revolutionary history with *History Smashers: The American Revolution!*



### **Social Studies**

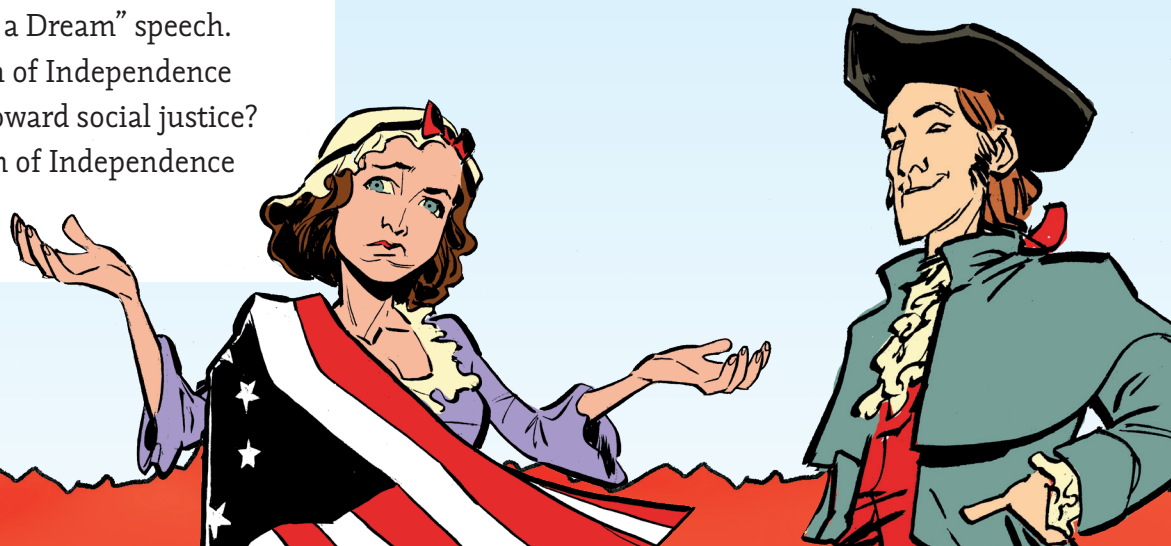
Introduce the stories of marginalized people who have been left out of traditional history. Pair with lessons on the Revolutionary War, colonialism, the Constitution, slavery, and civil rights.

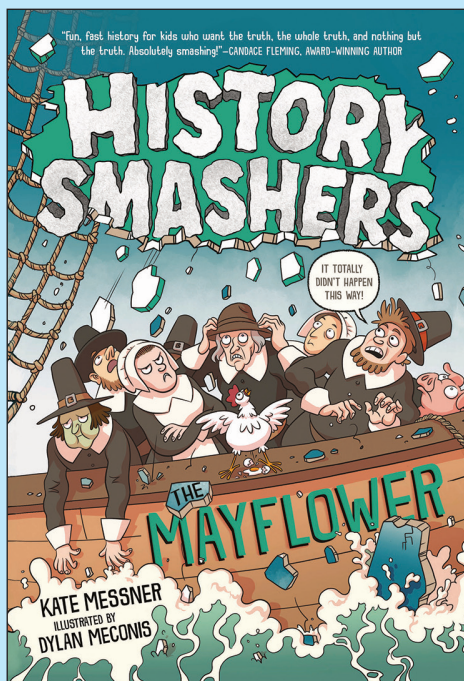
### **For the Classroom Bookshelf**

Recommend *History Smashers: The American Revolution* to students who love historical fiction or are interested in Colonial history. Make this title available to students who have outgrown Magic Tree House Fact Trackers and are ready for more challenging nonfiction reads!

### **Social Justice**

After reading Messner’s analysis of the Declaration of Independence, read Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. How can the Declaration of Independence inspire people to work toward social justice? How was the Declaration of Independence flawed?





### History Smashers: The Mayflower

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis  
PB: 978-0-593-12031-6

## History Smashers: The Mayflower

Through illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, acclaimed author Kate Messner smashes history by exploring the little-known details behind the legends of the *Mayflower* and the first Thanksgiving.

In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock and made friends with Wampanoag people who gave them corn. *Right?* WRONG! It was months before the Pilgrims met any Wampanoag people, and nobody gave anybody corn that day.

Did you know that the pilgrims didn't go straight from England to Plymouth? No, they made a stop along the way—and almost stayed forever! Did you know there was a second ship, called the *Speedwell*, that was too leaky to make the trip? No joke. And just wait until you learn the truth about Plymouth Rock.

Take an intersectional approach to learning even more about our history!



### Social Studies

Introduce the stories of marginalized people who have been left out of traditional history. Pair with lessons on colonialism, Native Americans, Thanksgiving, and religion.

### Social Justice



Have a conversation about the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact on attitudes of colonizers. Discuss the effects of colonialism on Native Americans and encourage students to do further research on colonialism's lasting impact on Native American communities.

### English Language Arts

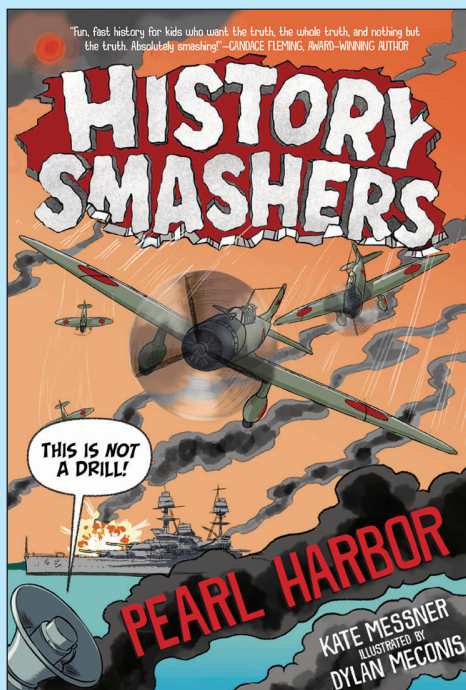
After reading, invite students to write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the *Mayflower's* passengers.

### For the Classroom Bookshelf

Recommend *History Smashers: The Mayflower* to students who love historical fiction or are interested in Colonial history. Make this title available to students in November for Thanksgiving.







### History Smashers: Pearl Harbor

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis

PB: 978-0-593-12037-8

## History Smashers: Pearl Harbor

Uncover the hidden truth behind the infamous Pearl Harbor attack with sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels in *History Smashers: Pearl Harbor*.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a completely unpredictable attack on the US Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. *Right?* Well, that's not quite the real deal. Some military experts *had* suggested that Pearl Harbor was a likely target. There were other warning signs, too, but nobody paid much attention. From the first wave of the Japanese bombers to the United States' internment of thousands of Japanese Americans, acclaimed author Kate Messner smashes history by exploring the little-known truths behind the attack on Pearl Harbor and its aftermath.

### Social Studies

Introduce the stories of marginalized people who have been left out of traditional history. Pair this title with units on World War II, the Constitution, social justice and activism, civics, and immigration.

### Social Justice

While reading, have a conversation about racism and prejudice. You might compare more recent government policies—like the travel ban (Executive Order 13769)—with the internment of people of Japanese descent.

### English Language Arts

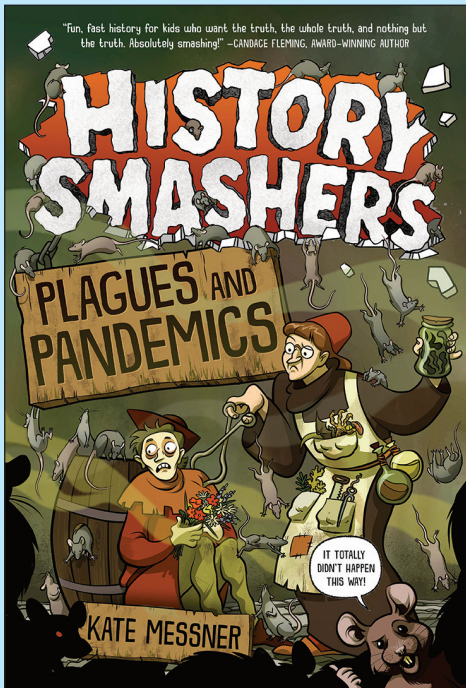
Spend some time with the visual media in *Pearl Harbor* and on the [National Parks Service website](#). Invite students to write a diary entry or a letter to another student reflecting on the human impact of war and internment camps.

### Social Emotional Learning

Ask students: What is a national identity? What is a cultural identity? What is a civic identity? How do students relate to each of these terms? As a class, brainstorm actions students can take to develop a healthy civic identity and discuss how this can contribute to a sense of belonging.

### For the Classroom Bookshelf

Recommend *History Smashers: Pearl Harbor* to students who love historical fiction or are interested in World Wars. Make *Pearl Harbor* available to students during AAPI Heritage Month in May.



### History Smashers: Plagues and Pandemics

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Falyann Koch

PB: 978-0-593-12040-8

## History Smashers: Plagues and Pandemics

*History Smashers: Plagues and Pandemics* uncovers the hidden truth about history's pandemics—from the Black Death to COVID-19. As students live through history, they can read about the pandemics that came before.

With a mix of sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels, acclaimed author Kate Messner delivers the whole truth about diseases like the bubonic plague, cholera, smallpox, tuberculosis, polio, influenza, and COVID-19. Importantly, *Plagues and Pandemics* uncovers the stories of marginalized people who may have been left out of traditional history.

### STEAM

Prepare future scientists by informing them about the past and draw students into science with human stories. Pair this title with science units on bacteria and viruses, body systems, cells and organisms, the scientific method, and scientific discoveries.

### Social Emotional Learning

Kids tend to worry more when they're left in the dark. Discuss the details of pandemics, and COVID-19 specifically, to avoid confusion and to smash the myths that circulate. Start a science-based discussion that will open up a conversation about COVID-19—what's happened and where we are going.

### Social Studies

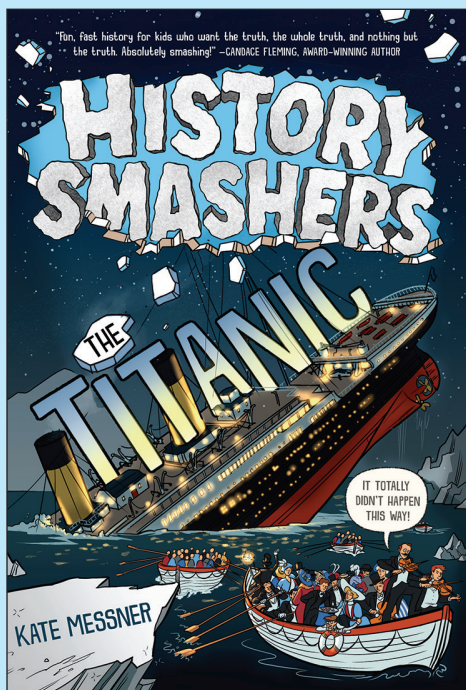
Prioritize the relevance of COVID-19 to motivate students. Pair with social studies units on globalization, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and scientific revolution, and community and identity.

### For the Classroom Bookshelf

Recommend to science enthusiasts, lovers of historical fiction, and students who loved Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales.







### History Smashers: The Titanic

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Matt Aytch Taylor  
PB: 978-0-593-12043-9

## History Smashers: The Titanic

Uncover the hidden truth behind the sinking of the *Titanic* with sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels in *History Smashers: The Titanic*.

On April 15, 1912, an “unsinkable” ship called the *Titanic* unexpectedly hit an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic. *Right?* Wrong! Nobody was really talking about the *Titanic* being unsinkable until after it sank.

The truth is, four different ships wired the *Titanic* to report icebergs and field ice in the area. But the *Titanic* never slowed down. In fact, when the *Californian* warned that it was trapped in ice, the *Titanic*’s wireless operator was so busy sending outgoing messages that he replied, “Shut up!” No joke.

Read *History Smashers: The Titanic* to demolish everything you thought you knew about this part of history.



### Social Studies

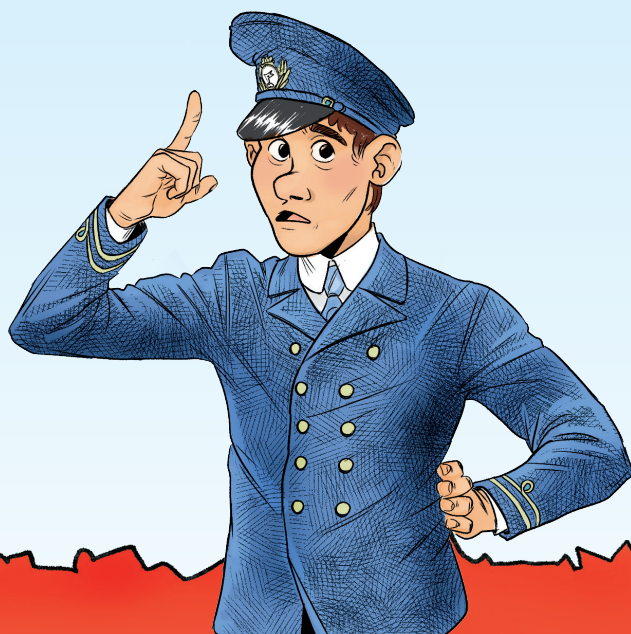
Pair *History Smashers: The Titanic* with lessons on immigration, technology, and historical disasters.

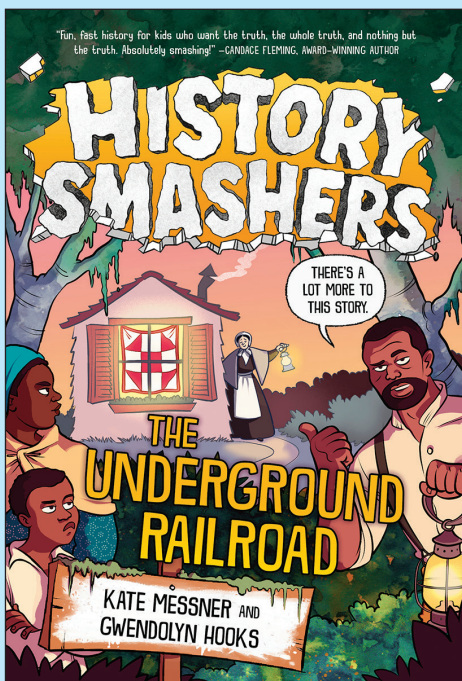
### For the Classroom Bookshelf

Recommend this title to students who love historical fiction and to fans of the *I Survived!* series. Be sure to share it with students who have outgrown *Magic Tree House Fact Trackers* and are ready for more challenging nonfiction reads!

### English Language Arts

Point out that newspaper reporting about the *Titanic* was spotty. After reading, invite students to craft their own myth-smashing articles about the *Titanic* sinking.





**History Smashers: The Underground Railroad**  
 Kate Messner and Gwendolyn Hooks;  
 Illustrated by Damon Smyth  
 PB: 978-0-593-42893-1

## ***History Smashers: The Underground Railroad***

Myths! Lies! Secrets! Uncover the hidden truth about the Underground Railroad and Black Americans' struggle for freedom. Perfect for fans of *I Survived!* and *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*.

Before the Civil War, there was a crack team of abolitionists who used quilts and signal lanterns to guide enslaved people to freedom. RIGHT? WRONG! The truth is, the Underground Railroad wasn't very organized, and most freedom seekers were on their own.

With a mix of sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels, acclaimed author Kate Messner and coauthor and Brown Bookshelf contributor Gwendolyn Hooks deliver the whole truth about the Underground Railroad.

Discover the nonfiction series that smashes everything you thought you knew about history!

### **Social Studies**

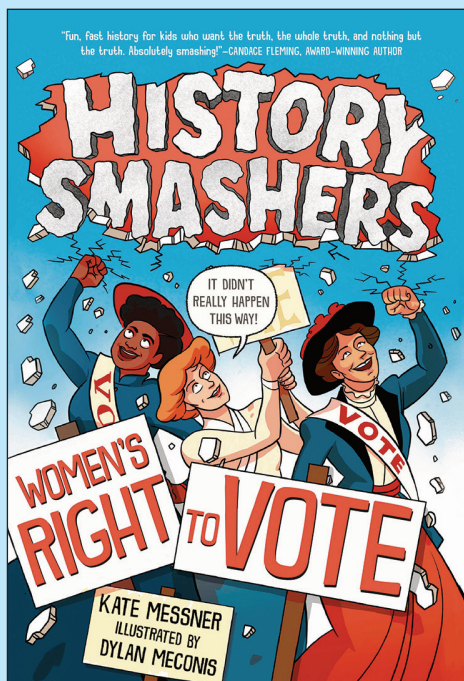
In teaching about the history of slavery, it is also essential to teach about African Americans' resistance to it. Pair *History Smashers: The Underground Railroad* with lessons on slavery, the Civil War, and abolitionism.

### **For the Classroom Bookshelf**

Include this title on your classroom bookshelf to encourage students to engage with uncomfortable history and explore what is missing from traditional education.







**History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote**  
Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis  
PB: 978-0-593-12034-7

## History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote

Through illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, Kate Messner smashes history by exploring the little-known details behind the fight for women's suffrage.

Women marched and picketed for the right to vote! They even went to jail. But in the end, it all came down to a letter from a state representative's mom. No joke.

*Women's Right to Vote* smashes the myths about the struggle for women's suffrage. In 1920, Susan B. Anthony passed a law that gave voting rights to women in the United States. RIGHT? WRONG! Susan B. Anthony wasn't even alive when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. Plus, it takes a lot more than one person to amend the Constitution.

The truth is, it took millions of women to get that amendment into law. Take an intersectional approach to teaching the truth with *Women's Right to Vote*!



### Social Studies

Pair *Women's Right to Vote* with lessons on the Constitution, social justice and activism, the suffrage movement, the early twentieth century, and the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments.



### English Language Arts

Deep dive into the primary source documents throughout *History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote*. Examine rhetorical strategies and practice visual literacy by analyzing cartoons.



### Women's History Month

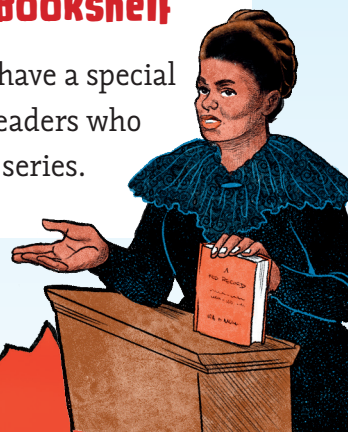
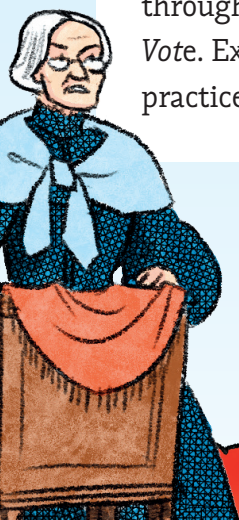
After reading, celebrate women's right to vote during Women's History Month in March.

### Election Day

Time your reading of *History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote* with an election day to acknowledge those who fought for voting rights.

### For the Classroom Bookshelf

Recommend to students who have a special interest in social justice and readers who have outgrown the *Who Was?* series.



RANDOM HOUSE  
TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS



@RHCBEducators



@TheRandomSchoolHouse