

Women and Tennis

Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs



OVERVIEW

Students will be introduced to important women in tennis. They will explore, through varied learning experiences, how these athletes significantly impacted the world of tennis and society.

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the contribution that Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs made to their sport and women athletes.
- Learn about World War II and how Marble and Jacobs participated in the wartime efforts.
- Demonstrate what they have learned about Marble and Jacobs, their significance to the game, and their place in history by successfully completing guided questioning activities, group organizers, and by taking part in meaningful classroom discussions.

Lesson Time: One Hour or Less



Common Core Learning Standards

Literacy in History/Social Studies,
Science, and Technical Subjects

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY

5th Grade:

RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.3, RI.5.4,
RI.5.5, RI.5.6, RI.5.7, RI.5.8,
W.5.7, W.5.8, W.5.9

6th-8th Grade:

RH.6-8.1, RH.6-8.2, RH.6-8.3,
RH.6-8.4, RH.6-8.5, RH.6-8.6,
RH.6-8.7, RH.6-8.8, RH.6-8.9,
W.6.7, W.6.8, W.6.9



Women and Tennis Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs



MATERIALS

- Vocabulary Builder #1
- Text “Meet the Women’s Wimbledon Champion who was also a Spy”
- Text “Helen Jacobs, Women’s Tennis Champion in the 1930s, Dies at 88”
- 5-1-3 Graphic Organizer
- Venn Diagram

SOURCES

- *Changing the Game: The stories of tennis champions Alice Marble and Althea Gibson* by Sue Davidson
- *Beyond the Game: An autobiography* by Helen Hull Jacobs

VOCABULARY

World War II (WII) (*n.*) a global war that lasted from 1939-1945, although related conflicts began earlier. It involved the vast majority of the world’s nations—including all the great powers—eventually forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis.

Competitor (*n.*) an organization or country that is engaged in commercial or economic competition with others; a person who takes part in an athletic contest

Spy (*n.*) a person who secretly collects and reports information on the activities, movements, and plans of an enemy or works for the competitor.
(*v.*) work for a government or other organization by secretly collecting information about his enemies or competitors.

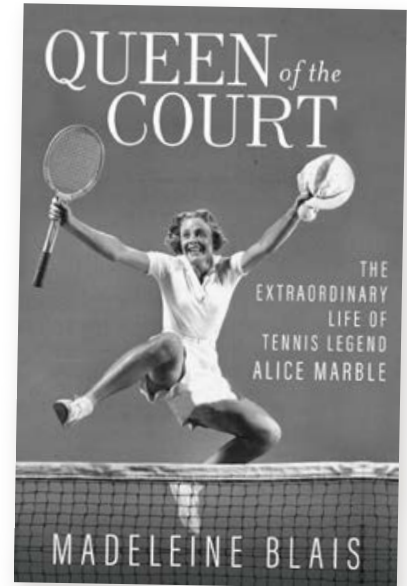
INSTRUCTIONS

Women and Tennis Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs



INTERNATIONAL
TENNIS HALL OF FAME®

1. Each student will receive a **Vocabulary Builder** graphic organizer. The teacher will read each word and ask the students to fill in bubble 1 if they have never heard the word before, bubble 2 if they have heard the word but are unsure of the definition, or bubble 3 if they know the word and can give the definition and use it in a sentence.
2. The teacher will work collaboratively with the students to come up with a working definition of the words on the graphic organizer and a sentence using the words as they pertain to the lesson at hand.



3. Students Who Exceed or Meet Expectations:

- a. The students will be broken into groups of three and will independently (or in groups of 2-3) read either *Meet the Women's Wimbledon Champion Who Was a Spy* or *Helen Jacobs, Tennis Champion in the 1930s, Dies at 88*.
- b. The students will then follow the directions to fill out the **5-3-1 Graphic Organizer** using the text they read.
- c. The teacher will then ask volunteers to share what their “most important word” was and to provide evidence from their text to support why they chose this word.
- d. Based on the discussions, students will leave the classroom with an understanding of how Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs impacted the tennis world's connections to WWII.

Students who partially meet or did not yet meet expectations:

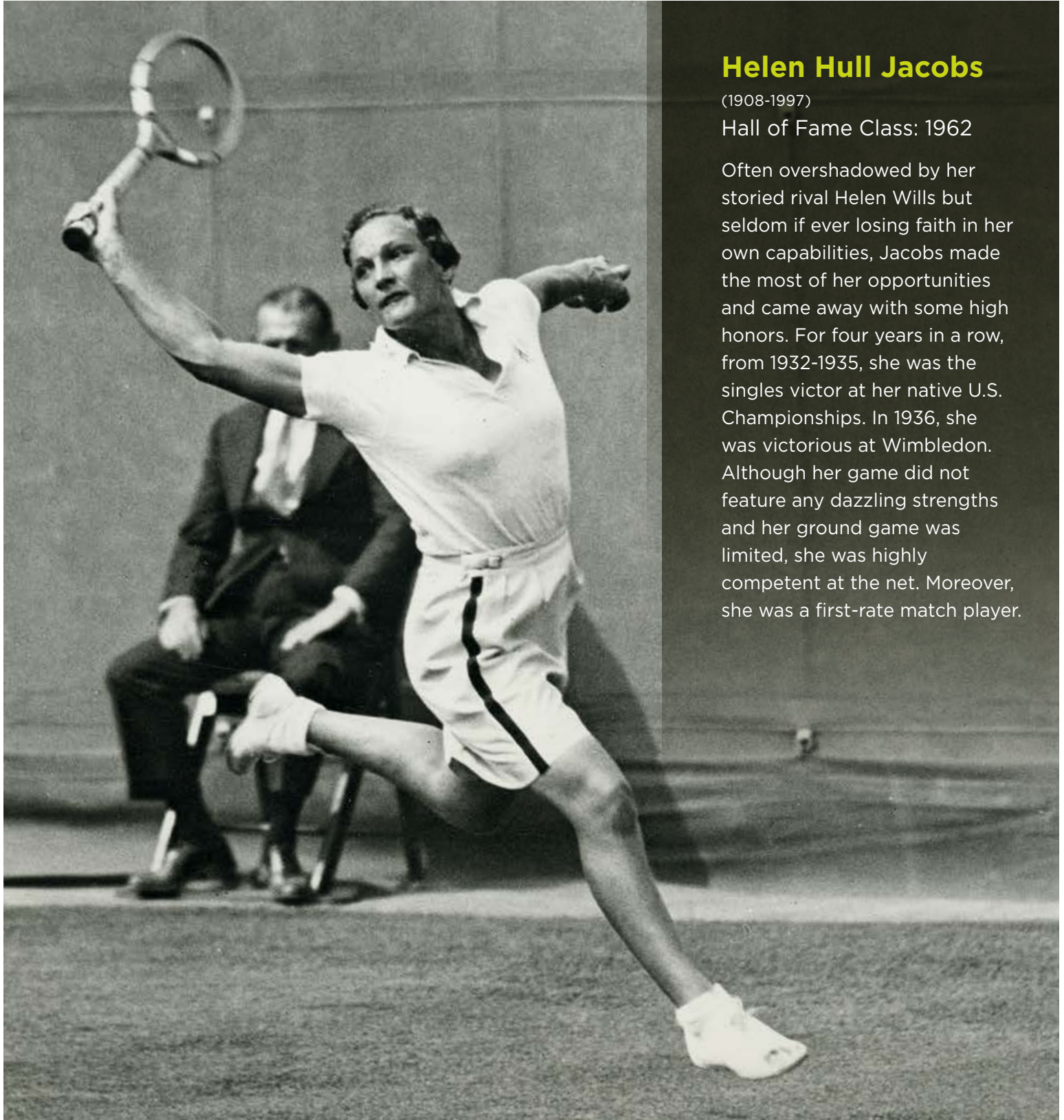
- a. Students will follow along quietly with their own copies as the teacher reads the two articles above aloud to the class.
- b. Students will receive a blank **Venn diagram**. The teacher will project the Venn diagram, and with the students, complete the Venn diagram comparing factual information about Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs based on the articles.
- c. Based on the completion of the Venn diagram students will leave the classroom with an understanding of who Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs were in the tennis world, and their connections to WWII.



Alice Marble (1913-1990)
Hall of Fame Class: 1964

A woman of unmistakable glamour and athleticism, the striking Marble, wearing her familiar sun visor, altered the face of the women's game. She demonstrated to the skeptics that it was indeed possible for a woman to master an aggressive, net rushing style of play. She moved relentlessly through the 1939 and 1940 seasons without losing a singles match. Marble took the women's game to another level with groundbreaking methodology.

For more information visit [Alice Marble](https://www.tennisfame.com/Alice-Marble) on TennisFame.com

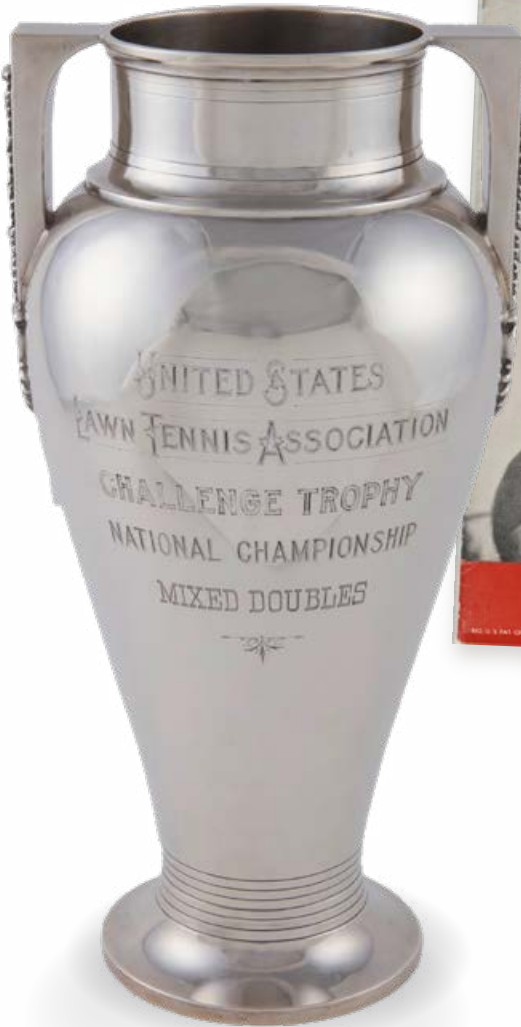
**Helen Hull Jacobs**

(1908-1997)

Hall of Fame Class: 1962

Often overshadowed by her storied rival Helen Wills but seldom if ever losing faith in her own capabilities, Jacobs made the most of her opportunities and came away with some high honors. For four years in a row, from 1932-1935, she was the singles victor at her native U.S. Championships. In 1936, she was victorious at Wimbledon. Although her game did not feature any dazzling strengths and her ground game was limited, she was highly competent at the net. Moreover, she was a first-rate match player.

For more information visit [Helen Hull Jacobs](https://www.tennisfame.com/HelenHullJacobs) on TennisFame.com



U.S. National Mixed Doubles Championship Challenge Trophy, 1926-1945

Black, Starr & Frost
Gift of Margaret Osborne duPont, 91.32.2

Grand Staircase, Case 4

This trophy was retired in 1945 by Margaret Osborne duPont and Bill Talbert after their third consecutive win. Many other Hall of Famers won this championship and are recognized on this trophy, including Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs.

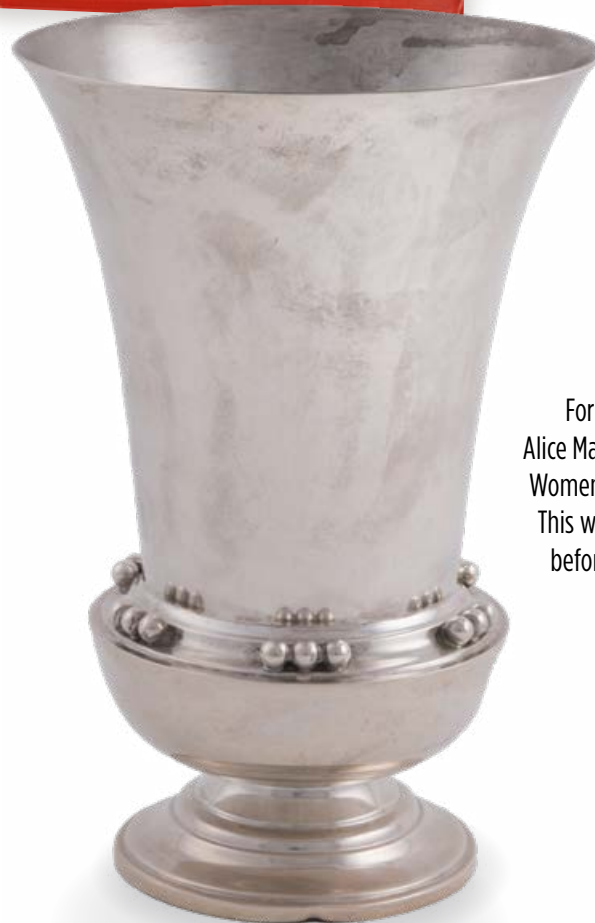


Life Magazine featuring Alice Marble, August 28, 1939

Time Inc.
Gift of Mark S. Young II, 95.23

The Popular Game: Tennis & Tours, 1940s & 1950s Case

After falling to Helen Hull Jacobs in the second round of the 1938 Wimbledon Championships, Marble compiled a remarkable winning streak, winning the final 18 tournaments and 111 matches of her amateur career.



U.S. National Women's Singles Championship Trophy, 1940

Black, Starr & Frost
Gift of Alice Marble, 64.1

Grand Staircase, Case 3

For the third consecutive year Alice Marble won the U.S. National Women's Singles Championships. This was Marble's last major title before she turned professional.



Women and Tennis Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs



U.S. National Mixed Doubles Championship Trophy, 1938

Black, Starr & Frost
Gift of the Friends of Don Budge,
98.70.12a&b

The Popular Game: Tennis & Tours, 1930s Case

The top-ranked American players Alice Marble and Don Budge teamed up in mixed doubles and soundly defeated the Australian team of Thelma Coyne Long and John Bromwich 6-1, 6-2.



Tennis Themed Scarf, ca.1975

Estate of Alice Marble,
91.14.45

The Popular Game: Tennis & Culture, Accessories Case



Women and Tennis Alice Marble and Helen Hull Jacobs

Shirt and Shorts worn by Helen Hull Jacobs, ca. 1933

Gift of Emily Bingham, 2009.49.2 and 2009.49.3

The Popular Game:
Tennis & Culture,
Fashion Case

In 1933, Jacobs broke tradition and became the first woman to sport shorts, rather than a dress or skirt, on the international tennis stage.



Lawn Tennis Shoes with Spikes Worn by Helen Hull Jacobs, ca. 1935

Gift of Margaret Osborne duPont, 74.9.2a&b

The Popular Game: Tennis & Culture, Accessories Case



U.S. National Women's Doubles Challenge Trophy, 1923-1935

Black, Starr & Frost
Bequest of the Estate of Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.114

The Popular Game:
Tennis & Tours,
1930s Case

Helen Hull Jacobs and Sarah Palfrey retired this cup with their third U.S. National Women's Doubles Championship in 1935 over the team of Caroline Babcock and Dorothy Andrus 6-4, 6-2.

Wightman Cup presented to Helen Hull Jacobs, 1932

Bequest of the Estate of Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.89

The Popular Game: Tennis & Tours,
Wightman Cup Case



Dreadnought Driver Tennis Racquet used by Helen Hull Jacobs, late 1920s

Harry C. Lee Co.
Gift of Emily Bingham, 2009.49.5

The Popular Game:
Area 2: Tennis & Tours,
1930s Case

Helen Hull Jacobs, who had great success as a junior player, used this racquet early in her junior career.

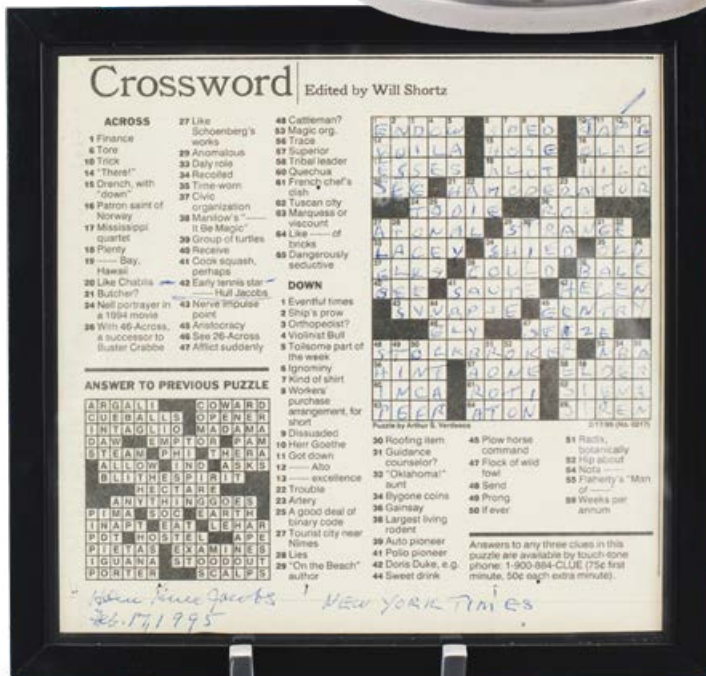


Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club Women's Singles Championship Challenge Trophy, 1924-1932

Reed & Barton
Bequest of the Estate of
Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.128

The Popular Game: Tennis & Tours, 1920s Case

This trophy was first presented to Mary K. Browne in 1924 and was retired by Helen Hull Jacobs following her third win in 1932 (she also won in 1928 and 1929).



Crossword Puzzle, February 17, 1995

New York Times
Bequest of the Estate of Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.100

The Popular Game: Tennis & Culture, Games Case

Crossword puzzle clues and answers often make references to athletes. Helen Hull Jacobs, a tennis champion from the 1930s, surely had an easy time completing this puzzle, as she was one of the answers!



Cartoon Drawing featuring Helen Hull Jacobs, 1934

Tom Webster (1886-1962)
Bequest of the Estate of Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.141

The Popular Game: Tennis & Culture, Fashion Case

Webster was a *Daily Mail* cartoonist and caricaturist specializing in sporting cartoons.



Helen Hull Jacobs Military Identification Tag and Bracelet, 1943

United States Navy,
Black, Starr & Frost/Gorham
Bequest of the Estate of Helen Hull Jacobs,
98.3.102 and 98.3.106

The Popular Game:
Tennis & Tours, WWII, and Olympics Case

Helen Hull Jacobs, who enlisted as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, served many different duties as part of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) and the U.S. Navy Personnel Separation unit in New York.



Helen Hull Jacobs's Player Badge for Wimbledon, 1937

All England Lawn Tennis Club
Bequest of the Estate of
Helen Hull Jacobs, 98.3.15

The Popular Game:
Tennis & Tours, 1930s Case

Jacobs was defeated by
eventual champion Dorothy Round
6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the
ladies' singles championship.



Helen Hull Jacobs, ca. 1936

Ida Frances Laidman, A.R.M.S. (British, 1877-1962)
Watercolor
ITHF Acquisition, 2002.43.2

The Popular Game: Area 2: Tennis & Tours, 1930s Case