

# Women and Tennis

## Billie Jean King and Title IX

INTERNATIONAL  
TENNIS HALL OF FAME®

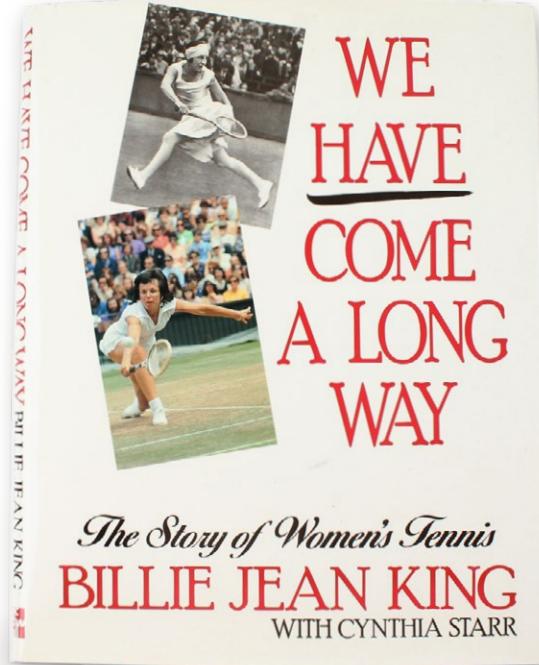
### OVERVIEW

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 contributions that Billie Jean King (b. 1943) made to tennis and women athletes.
- Learn about the 1970s and how King contributed in a significant way to gender equality during this time in history.
- Demonstrate what they have learned about King, her significance to the game, and her 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



### PREP AND MATERIALS

- Vocabulary Builder #3
- Text “Title IX”
- Tennis Ball Scavenger Hunt Graphic Organizer
- Video link and text *USA Today*  
[“Billie Jean King: Keep Successful Title IX Strong”](#)
- Billie Jean King and the Battle of the Sexes [Article](#) and [Newsclip](#)



### POSSIBLE SOURCES

- *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX* by Karen Blumenthal
- *We Have Come a Long Way: The Story of Women’s Tennis* by Billie Jean King and Cynthia Starr
- *Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends* by David Stabler

### VOCABULARY

**Title IX** (n.) the law that states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

**Feminist** (n.) a person who supports a range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve equal political, economic, personal, and social rights for women. This includes seeking to establish equal opportunities for women in education and employment; (also known as feminism).

(adj.) of, relating to, or supporting feminism

**Battle of the Sexes** (n.) generally refers to the conflict between male and female gender roles.

(n.) the title of three tennis matches which took place between a male player and a female player; most notably, the Battle of the Sexes between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs in 1973.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Women and Tennis Billie Jean King and Title IX



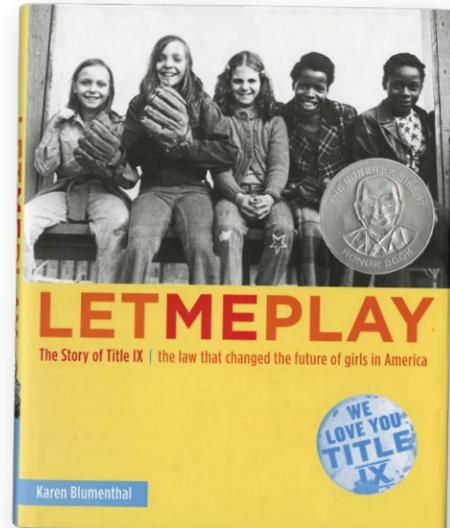
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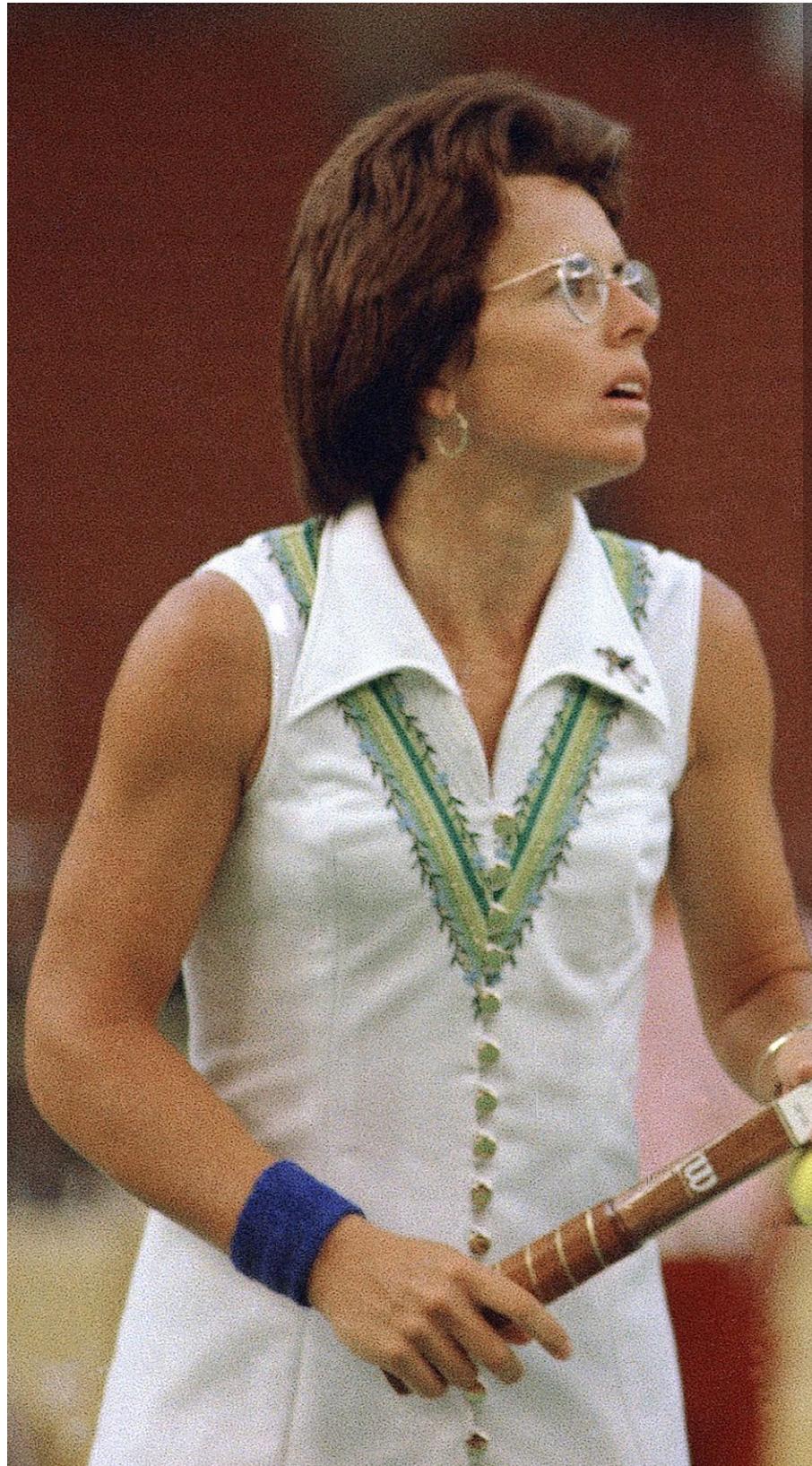
**1.** Each student will receive a **Vocabulary Builder** graphic organizer. The teacher will read each word and ask the students to fill in bubble 1 if they have never heard the word before, bubble 2 if they have heard the word but are unsure of the definition, or bubble 3 if they know the word and 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. All Students**

- a.** The students will read independently, or teacher will read aloud **Title IX** information sheet.
- b.** The students will complete the **Title IX Tennis Ball Scavenger Hunt** graphic organizer using information from the text to determine central ideas or information of a primary source.
- c.** The students will watch a [video](#) based on the *USA Today* article “Billie Jean King: Keep successful Title IX strong.”
- d.** Introduce the historic “Battle of the Sexes” match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. Explain that Billie Jean King agreed to this match to bring attention to the newly passed Title IX legislation.
- e.** Students will watch the news clip [“Billie Jean King and the Battle of the Sexes”](#) and read the accompanying article written by the National Women’s History Museum.
- f.** Based on the completion of the above activities’ students will leave the classroom with an understanding of what Title IX is and Billie Jean’s contributions to the world of tennis and women’s athletics and the fight for gender equality in the United States.

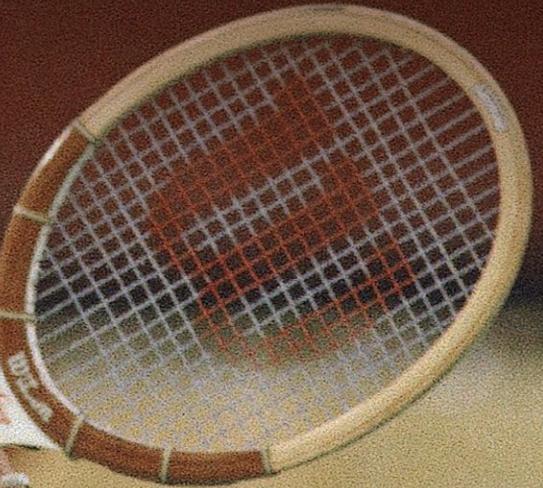




#### **Billie Jean King** (b. 1943)

Hall of Fame Class: 1987

Arguably one of the most important female athlete of all time, Billie Jean King was forever looking and moving beyond herself toward higher aspirations. That was why the USTA was applauded by so many authorities for renaming its National Tennis Center in her honor in 2006. King had a multitude of successes on the court, winning 12 majors in singles, taking 39 major tournaments in total.



For more information visit [Billie Jean King on TennisFame.com](http://BillieJeanKing.onTennisFame.com)



### Wightman Cup, 1961

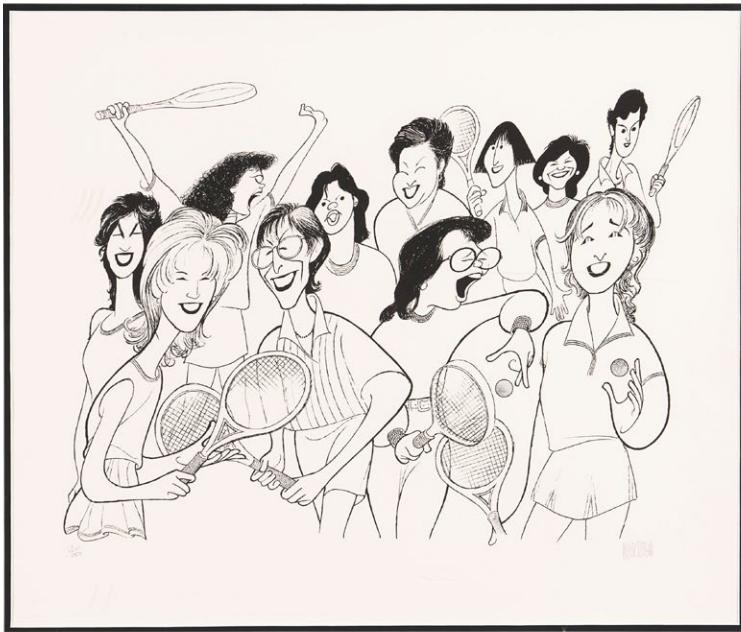
Presented to Billie Jean Moffitt, Gift of Billie Jean King, 99.1.24

**The Popular Game Galleries:  
Tennis & Tours,  
Wightman Cup Case**

### Tennis Shoes worn by Billie Jean King, 1973

adidas  
Gift of Billie Jean King, King Enterprises, 77.23.4a&b

**The Open Era Galleries:  
Battle of the Sexes Case**



### **Virginia Slims Legends, 1995**

Al Hirschfeld (1903-2003), Pen and ink,  
Gift of the Virginia Slims Legends, 96.20

### **The Open Era Galleries: WTA Virginia Slims & Prize Money Case**

Commissioned to commemorate the inaugural year of the Virginia Slims Legends Tour, Al Hirschfeld drew the likenesses of Tracy Austin, Rosie Casals, Françoise (Frankie) Dürr, Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong, Billie Jean King, Olga Morozova, Martina Navratilova, Betty Stöve, Wendy Turnbull, and Virginia Wade.

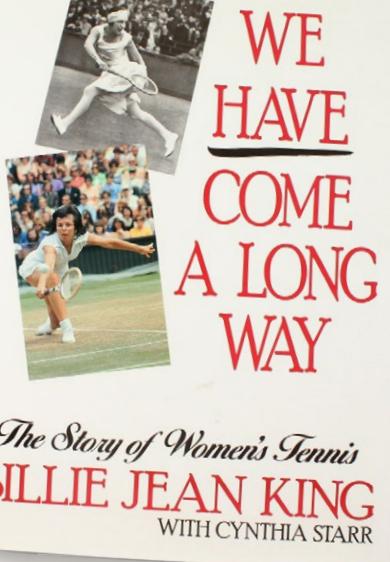


### **1st Virginia Slims Champion Trophy, 1971**

Trophies and Awards, Inc.  
Gift of Billie Jean King (*Thanks Mom, Dad, and Randy*),  
Director and Founder, World TeamTennis, 99.1.65

### **The Open Era Galleries: WTA Virginia Slims & Prize Money Case**

This trophy was presented to Billie Jean King in 1971 to recognize the beginning of the women's professional tour and Billie Jean's success at being the first woman to earn more than \$100,000 in one season.



### ***We Have Come a Long Way: The Story of Women's Tennis*, 1988**

Billie Jean King, author, Cynthia Starr, author, McGraw-Hill Company, publisher, PUB.1988.7

### **The Open Era Galleries: WTA Virginia Slims & Prize Money Case ITHF Collection**

This book chronicles the deep history of women's tennis, from its earliest days, through the formulation of the WTA.

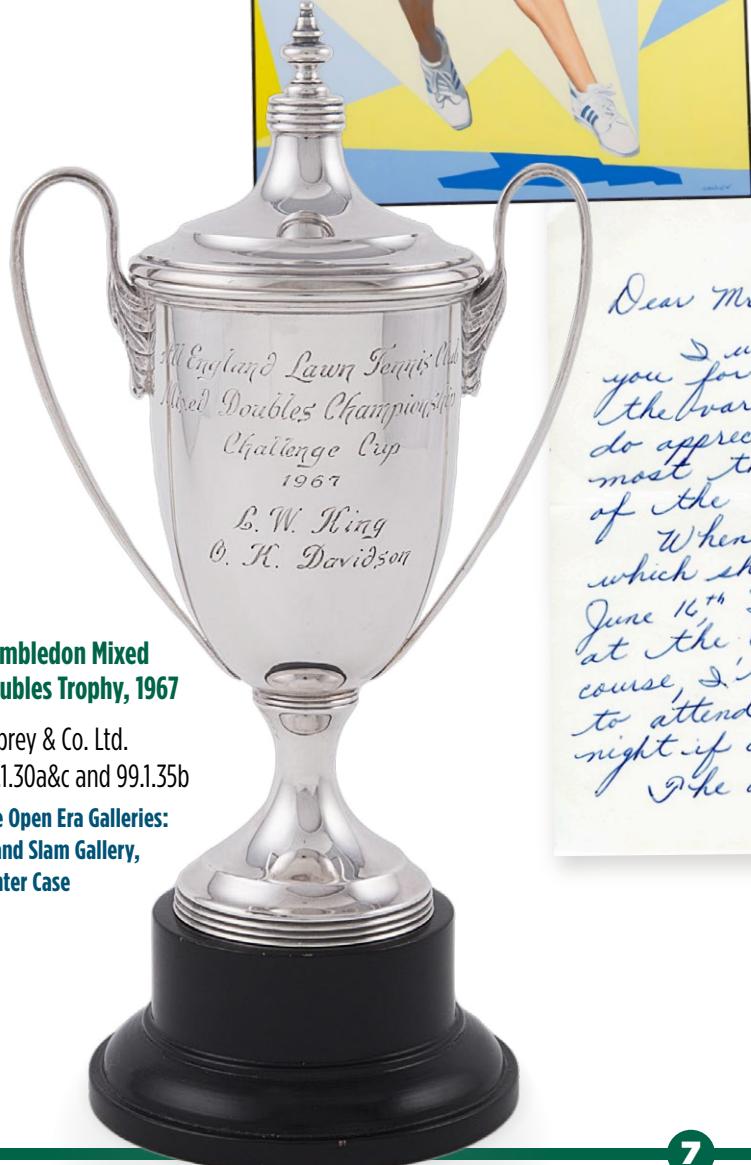


### Billie Jean King, 1975

Acrylic on Canvas,  
Sandra Blumberg (b.1939)  
Gift of Sandra Blumberg,  
98.4

[Open Era Galleries](#)

This action portrait originally hung in the sports club "Ovations" at the Philadelphia Spectrum Sports Arena.



### Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Trophy, 1967

Asprey & Co. Ltd.  
99.1.30a&c and 99.1.35b

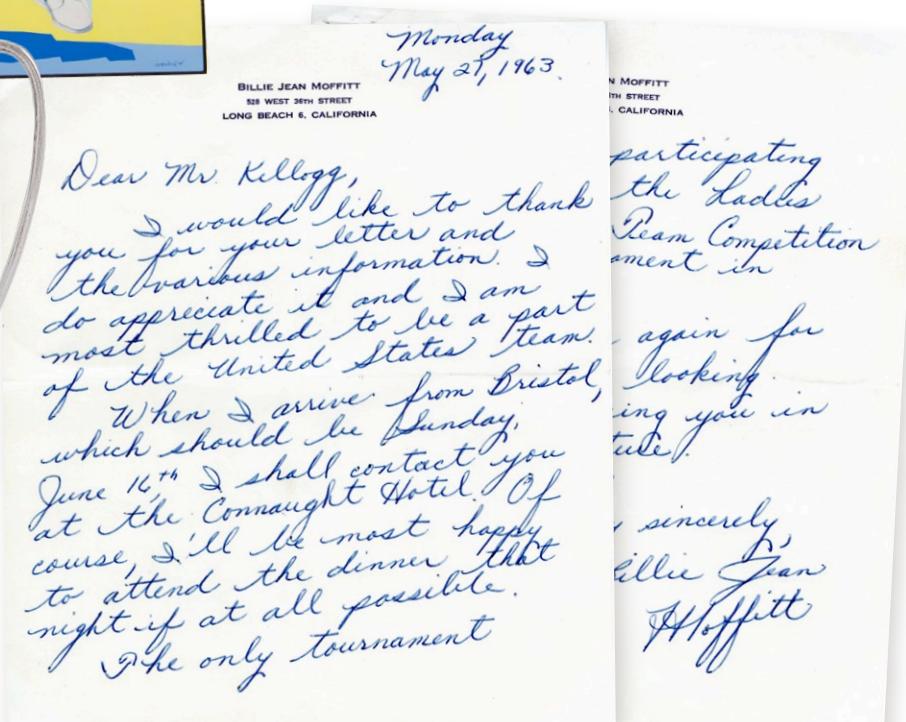
[The Open Era Galleries:  
Grand Slam Gallery,  
Center Case](#)



### Photograph of the First American Federation Cup Team, 1963

Gift of Carole Graebner, 95.47

[Global Tennis Gallery, Fed Cup Case](#)



### Letter from Billie Jean Moffitt to William Kellogg about participating in the first Federation Cup, 1963

Loan courtesy of William J. Kellogg, L95.3.3a&  
[The Open Era Galleries, Global Tennis Gallery, Fed Cup Case](#)