

A Year of Women

Lost in history: Women in Science

Fact #6:

Sophia LaLonde, Clayton, NY, created the original recipe for **1000 Island Dressing**, and May Irwin, a prominent New York City stage actress, coined the name.

Teaching Points

1. Women inventors during the 20th Century.
2. How the salad dressing became popular.
3. Women inventors receiving credit for their innovations.

NY Learning Standard(s)

ELA 1; SS 1; SS 2; MST 2

Discussion Questions

- 1a. Can you name any women inventors during the 20th century? Do you think there may have been career barriers for women inventors during the 20th Century? Do the same barriers exist today?
- 1b. What was Sophia LaLonde's role with the 1000 Island Dressing?
- 2a. How did the 1000 Island Dressing become famous?
- 2b. Do you think the dressing would have been popular without it being taken to New York City? What other inventions have been exposed in a similar nature?
- 3a. Did Mrs. LaLonde receive any recognition for inventing the dressing? Do you think many women inventors ever really receive the recognition they deserve from their inventions?
- 3b. How can you determine if the dressing received world recognition?

Activity Extensions

1. **Research/Article.** Find out about women inventors during the 20th century. Do you think women inventors exist more today than yesterday? Develop a newspaper article that provides credit to women that have not received the acknowledgement they deserve as inventors.
2. **Field Trip.** Visit the Thousand Islands Museum and/ or the Thousand Island Inn in Clayton, NY to find out more information about Sophia LaLonde and her famous 1000 Island Dressing.
3. **Media.** Utilize newspapers from Northern New York, (<http://www.nc3r.org/jlboecessls/#databases>) to find online articles about inventors/inventions of Northern New Yorkers, both women and men. Also look for additional information about 1000 Island Dressing.