

Libbie Hyman Fact File A

To understand Libbie Hyman's work about classification.



Work with a partner to complete your fact files.

1. Libbie Hyman was born in 1888 in Des Moines, Iowa, in the USA.
2. Who did Libbie Hyman live with while she was growing up?



3. Hyman's parents were Jewish immigrants. Her father was originally from Poland and her mother was from Germany.

4. What was Hyman's home life like?

5. As a child, Hyman was interested in nature, and collected moths and butterflies. She learned scientific names for flowers from her brothers' textbooks.

6. What did Hyman do after she graduated from high school?

7. Why did she eventually go to university?

8. At university, she wanted to study botany. However, she was put off by the antisemitic harassment (anti-Jewish bullying) that she encountered from a laboratory assistant. She studied zoology instead.

9. After she graduated, Hyman became a lab assistant. However, she was not free to pursue her career: her father had died and her mother still required Hyman to take care of the house for her and her brothers. Her mother disapproved of Hyman's scientific career.

Libbie Hyman Fact File A

To understand Libbie Hyman's work about classification.



10. What did Hyman realise while she was working as a research assistant at Chicago University?

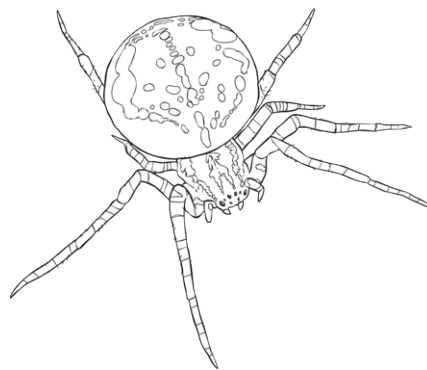
11. While she was working at the university, Hyman found that the textbooks used by the students were not accurate or comprehensive enough. She decided to write her own reference guide, and in 1922 she published a laboratory manual called *Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy*.

12. By 1930, Hyman realised she could live on the royalties from the sale of her book on vertebrates. Her mother had died in 1929, so she had no ties to Chicago. She resigned from her job at the university and travelled around Europe, researching invertebrates.

13. What did Hyman do after her travels in Europe?

14. What awards did Hyman receive after the first volume of *The Invertebrates* was published in 1940?

15. In 1967, at the age of 78, Hyman published her sixth and final volume of *The Invertebrates*.



Libbie Hyman Fact File A Answers

2. Who did Libbie Hyman live with while she was growing up?

Hyman lived with her parents and three brothers.

5. What was Hyman's home life like?

Hyman's home life was very strict. She was made to do lots of housework and look after her brothers.

6. What did Hyman do after she graduated from high school?

Despite graduating high school at top of her class, Libbie got a job in a factory instead of continuing her education.

7. Why did she eventually go to university?

Hyman was encouraged to go to university by one of her old high school teachers.

10. What did Hyman realise while she was working as a research assistant at Chicago University?

She realised that many of the invertebrates that she studied were wrongly classified.

16. What did Hyman do after her travels in Europe?

After her travels in Europe, Hyman settled in New York. She devoted all her time to writing her reference book on invertebrates, working in the Museum of Natural History. She was eventually given her own office there.

17. What awards did Hyman receive after the first volume of *The Invertebrates* was published in 1940?

Hyman received honorary doctor of science degrees from many universities, including Chicago University. She was also awarded several medals and awards from international scientific societies.