

Libbie Hyman Fact File B

To understand Libbie Hyman's work about classification.



Work with a partner to complete your fact files.

1. Where and when was Libbie Hyman born?

2. Hyman lived with her parents and three brothers.

3. Where were Hyman's parents originally from?

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

5. What did Libbie Hyman enjoy doing as a child?

6. Hyman graduated high school top of her class. She was not encouraged to go to college as her parents did not think girls should continue their education. She got a job in a factory instead.

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

8. What made Hyman choose to study zoology at university?

9. What obstacles to her career did Hyman face after she graduated?

10. Hyman became a research assistant at Chicago University. She worked in a laboratory investigating the anatomy of invertebrates. She realised that many of the invertebrates that she studied were wrongly classified. She became an expert in the taxonomy of invertebrates.



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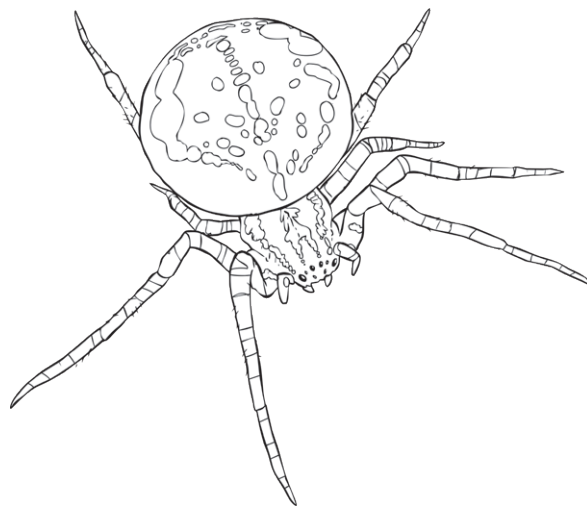
11. Why did Hyman decide to write a manual about vertebrates?

12. Why was Hyman able to go travelling in Europe in 1930?

13. 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.

14. The first volume of *The Invertebrates* was published in 1940. She quickly gained recognition for her work. She received honorary doctor of science degrees from many universities, including Chicago University. She was also awarded several medals and awards from international scientific societies.

15. How old was Hyman when the sixth and final volume of *The Invertebrates* was published?



Libbie Hyman Fact File B Answers

1. When and where was Libbie Hyman born?

Libbie Hyman was born in 1888 in Des Moines, Iowa, in the USA.

3. Where were Hyman's parents originally from?

Her father was originally from Poland and her mother was from Germany; they were Jewish immigrants.

5. What did Libbie Hyman enjoy doing as a child?

Young Libbie was interested in nature, and collected moths and butterflies. She learned scientific names for flowers from her brothers' textbooks.

8. What made Hyman choose to study zoology at university?

Libbie was put off by the antisemitic harassment (anti-Jewish bullying) that she encountered from a laboratory assistant in the Botany department. She studied zoology instead.

9. What obstacles to her career did Hyman face after she graduated?

Libbie's mother still required her daughter to take care of the house for her and her brothers. Her mother disapproved of Hyman's scientific career.

11. Why did Hyman decide to write a manual about vertebrates?

While she was working at the university, Hyman found that the textbooks used by the students were not accurate or comprehensive enough so she decided to write her own reference guide.

12. Why was Hyman able to go travelling in Europe in 1930?

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.

15. How old was Hyman when the sixth and final volume of *The Invertebrates* was published?

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