

**An Industrial and Urban Nation****BIOGRAPHY READING****Jane Addams****WHY AM I IMPORTANT?**

As you read the profile below, think about how Jane Addams showed kindness by opening Hull House and promoting other important reforms.

Jane Addams grew up the daughter of one of Cedarville, Illinois's leading citizens. Her father instilled in young Addams the value of achievement and hard work. She attended Rockford Female Seminary from 1877 to 1881. By her graduation, she had decided to become a doctor so she could work among the poor. While she attended medical school for one year, illness made her take leave. She traveled to the great cities of Europe, where she got a first-hand look at life in the slums. When she returned home, she felt dissatisfied. Addams wanted to help the poor but she did not know how. Eventually, she went abroad again. On this trip, Addams made up her mind. When she returned home, she would use her inheritance to start a settlement house in the city. This way she could have a direct impact on the everyday lives of poor people.

In 1889 she and a former classmate rented an old mansion in Chicago's worst slum. They moved in and began to build Hull House. At first, Addams did not know what her neighbors needed. As people visited and talked about their difficulties, Addams began to create a program of services. Over the years, parents sent their children to Hull House for such things as kindergarten, child care, and hot lunches. Adults got help with problems like learning English and finding jobs. Over time, Hull House grew to cover an entire city block.

Addams gave lectures and wrote books about Hull House, so people outside of Chicago learned about the good work she was doing. Soon settlement houses were springing up around the state and then around the country.

Addams also trained many young social workers at Hull House. Through her contact with other reformers, Addams learned about other reform needs. She decided to use her skills to help many different people. She campaigned for women's suffrage and labor laws. She pushed the government to set up a separate court for juvenile criminals. She even became the garbage inspector for her neighborhood so she could get the streets clean.

Chapter 19: Biography Reading continued

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, however, Addams shifted her attention to working for peace. The following year she helped found the Women's Peace Party. She traveled to Europe to attend an international women's convention. Then she set out to try and convince European leaders to negotiate a peace. As the United States entered the war, many people criticized Addams' actions and ideas as unpatriotic. Still, she never gave up her beliefs. In the 1920s she formed and presided over the Women's International League for Peace. In 1931, four years before her death, she was a co-receiver of the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote world peace.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ After you have finished reading the selection, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What lesson did Addams learn while she was on her first trip to Europe?

2. What types of services did Hull House provide to its poor neighbors?

3. How did other social workers and reformers learn about Addams' ideas?

4. What did Addams do to promote peace during and after World War I?
