



Sandra Day O'Connor



Retold by: Patience Clay

Illustrated by: Nikki Frances Fonacier

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Sandra Day was born on a ranch in El Paso, Texas in 1930.



As a child, she hunted coyotes and jackrabbits



and started to drive the truck as soon as she could see over the dashboard.



She started studying at Stanford University when she was just 16.



She would meet her future husband, John Jay O'Connor III, while at Stanford.



It was uncommon for women to work in law when she graduated and O'Connor had trouble finding work.



She offered to work for free in a California attorney's office. The offer was accepted and her career finally got started.



O'Connor and her family moved to Germany and then to Arizona.



When they settled in Arizona, O'Connor became a Republican politician and was elected to the state Senate.



She developed a reputation as a skilled negotiator and a political moderate.



In 1981, she was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan.



Her moderate political views made for a difficult confirmation process.



But she won her critics over and was confirmed unanimously.



Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female member of the US Supreme Court ever.



She faced challenges ranging from the lack of a nearby restrooms to journalists who forgot the Court was no longer all-male.



She continued to think deeply about each case, making her decisions difficult to categorize politically.



But most protected state and individual freedoms from
overbearing federal government.



She stated that “Courts interpret the law as it was written, not as the congressmen might have wished it was written.”



Sandra Day O'Connor served the Court for 25 years before retiring.



She was a female trailblazer and a powerful protector of the American way of life.

About the Author

Patience Clay is a parent and history buff. She has always loved sharing history with her kids. Now, she wants to share some of her favorite true tales with other children around the world.

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