

Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines

1997

We have big challenges before us!

Jody Williams was born in Vermont. She is a teacher.

When Jody was a little girl she wanted to help other people. She did not like **bullies**.

When she grew up she met children who had lost arms and legs when they stepped on **landmines**. These children lived in countries fighting wars. Landmines were buried in the ground. Jody wanted to get rid of landmines because they hurt people who lived there.



In 1991, she started the **International Campaign to Ban Landmines**: the ICBL.

- **Landmines have been used in many wars**
- **About 1,000-2,000 people die from landmines each month**
- **The cost to make a landmine: is \$3-\$75**
- **The cost to get rid of a landmine: \$300-\$1,000**
- *About 80 countries in the world have landmines*

Jody said that getting rid of landmines was a good idea. She knew it was the right thing to do. She knew that it would be a safer world when landmines were all gone.

She got many countries to sign a promise to get rid of their landmines. This was the **Mine Ban Treaty**.

The United States did not sign. Jody called President Bill Clinton a “weenie” for not signing this treaty.

Jody is still working on getting rid of landmines. The Mine Ban Treaty is working. Many countries are getting rid of land mines. She said she will not stop until all landmines are gone from all countries.

Jody lives in a small house in Vermont, where she loves to walk around barefoot.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines

Landmines are used in wars. When a war is over, the landmines stay in the ground and hurt anyone who walks on or near them. They may be there for **many years**. Guns go home with the soldiers, but landmines buried in the ground hurt people for many more years. Landmines cannot tell the difference between a soldier and someone who is not a soldier.

The ICBL was the first group in the world that was able to get countries to get rid of landmines. The ICBL helped countries that wanted to ban landmines.

Activities

Jody Williams

Jody wants people to do something about things that bother them. Is there anything you think is not fair? What could you do about it?

Discussion Questions:

Why does Jody hate landmines?

Why are landmines a problem?

How is Jody Williams different from other people who live in the United States?

Why do you think President Bill Clinton did not sign the treaty? Do you think any President of the United States will sign this?

What are other things about war that are bad?

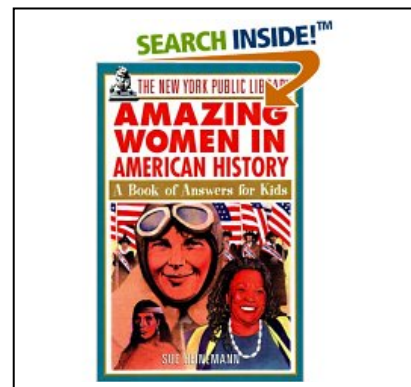
Vocabulary:

1. International Campaign to Ban Landmines
2. decades
3. civilians
4. landmines
5. ICBL

Read Together:

Jody Williams pp 164-165

[The New York Public Library Amazing Women in American History: A Book of Answers for Kids \(The New York Public Library Books for Kids\) \(Paperback\) by The New York Public Library \(Author\), Sue Heinemann \(Author\)](#)



Activities:

Adopt a Mine Field as a class or school at <http://www.landmines.org/>

Send the written letters of the class

Technology Option:

Research countries and conflicts that have the most difficulty with landmines today (example: Afghanistan)

Resources:[Adopt-a-Minefield](#)

www.landmines.org

Coordinated by the U.N. Association of the USA, the U.N. Development Programme, and the Better World Fund, Adopt-a-Minefield raises funds for mine clearance operations. Every dollar raised is forwarded to the United Nations. The website is a great source of information on landmine history, current solutions, major players in the anti-landmine campaign, and it offers curriculum units for grade school through high school.

[Clear Landmines](#)

www.clearlandmines.com

Visitors to the Clear Landmines website can make free donations (once a day) to the effort to eradicate landmines by the “click of a button.” The funds are administered and distributed by the Canadian Landmine Foundation, and the site also has free banner ads you can place on your site.

Impact of Armed Conflict on Children

<http://www.unicef.org/graca/>

International Campaign to Ban Landmines official website

www.icbl.org