



## ***Social Studies Your Way*** Texts



**Emily Starr**  
**President/CEO**

Hi! I know the challenges of elementary education. Fueled by my teaching experience and a desire to help fellow educators, I left the classroom in 2005 and StarrMatica Publishing Group was born. 16 years later, I continue to be a leader in the field of innovative classroom resources. I have a passion for creating STEAM teaching resources to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and to help teachers differentiate reading instruction.

Are you settling for texts that don't target your curriculum and that your students struggle to read?

StarrMatica is different. Quickly find texts designed around Social Studies essential questions and written at six different Lexile levels. You can even customize a text to teach and assess specific Common Core ELA Standards.

Visit our website for a **FREE TRIAL** and full access to all of our *Social Studies Your Way* texts including aligned quiz questions, graphic organizers, and writing prompts:

**[www.starrmatica.com](http://www.starrmatica.com)**





# SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS AND PEOPLE IN DISABILITY HISTORY

---

By Michelle Negrón Bueno

Shequem Griffin is a professional NFL player with the Seattle Seahawks. In 2018, he became the first amputee to play professional football. Griffin was born with a condition that affected the development of his left hand which was amputated when he was four years old. He practiced hard and became a talented football player alongside his twin brother, Shaquille.

Growing up, the twin brothers played on the same High School football team and stuck together even in college. When the coaches on their first college team didn't give Shaquem the same opportunities as they gave his brother, they left that team and joined a different one where Shaquem had a fair chance to play. A few years later, Shaquille signed with the Seattle Seahawks and soon after Shaquem signed as well.

## *A History of Abuse and Discrimination*

In the not so distant past, people who were born with conditions like Shaquem Griffin's, or had other invisible forms of disability, often were seen as lifetime burdens. People with disabilities were feared and misunderstood. This led to discrimination and abuse. Sometimes they were hidden at home away from the rest of society or left to grow up in institutions away from their families.

For those with disabilities who entered mainstream society, they faced harassment and discrimination. Many were denied access to schools and jobs. Even hospitals, restaurants, stores, and other public places didn't let them in.

Many people with disabilities and their supporters didn't think this was fair. Over the last 150 years, activists have advocated for people with disabilities and have supported new laws that protect people with disabilities. Their advocacy has made it possible for people with disabilities to live full and independent lives in society.

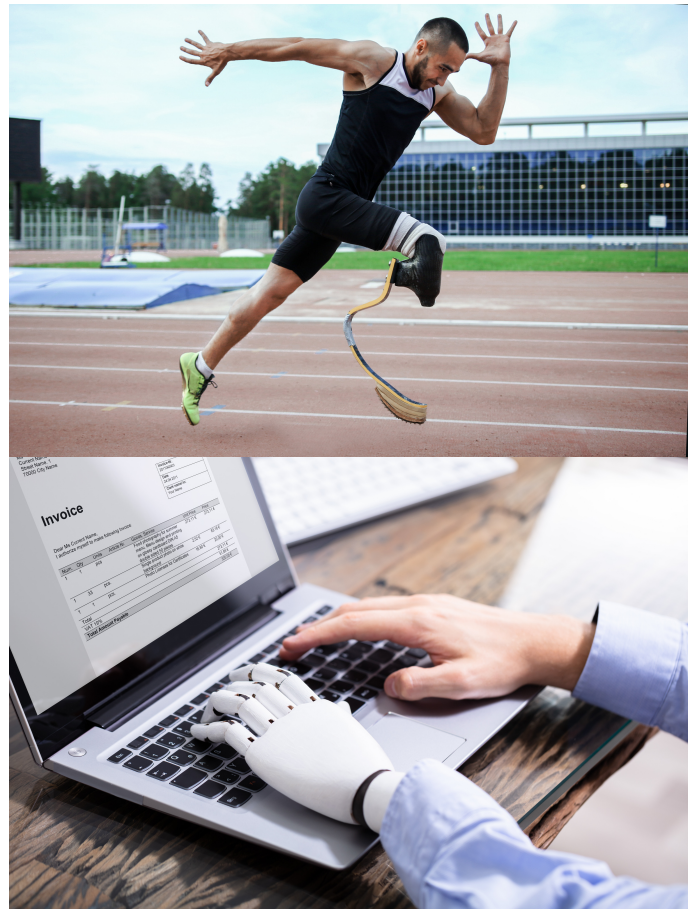
### *What is a Disability?*

Some disabilities are physical, like an amputee. Other disabilities are sensory, cognitive, learning, or mental. They may be a mix of these. Some disabilities are easy to see while others are invisible. Examples of disabilities include hearing loss and deafness, vision damage and blindness, paralysis, muscular weakness, autism, brain injuries, life-time illnesses, dyslexia, and mental illnesses.

### *Growing Awareness and Knowledge*

Many different events and people have helped to forge a different world for people with disabilities. Some came as a result of medical breakthroughs like the use of amputation in the civil war. Others came from advances in the sciences of psychology and psychiatry. Also, powerful figures began to create change.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became the 32nd U.S. President in 1932, he was the first President with a significant physical disability. Roosevelt had been diagnosed with polio which left him paralyzed. He used a wheelchair for mobility. During his recovery, Roosevelt founded the Roosevelt Institute for Rehabilitation in 1927 to provide treatment for people with disabilities. Many historians believe that Roosevelt's disability was key in shaping his presidency. His policies that helped the poor and others who weren't accepted in society opened the door to societal change.



*Attitudes toward people with disabilities have changed so much that the focus has become less on what people can't do to what a person can do if given the opportunity. Every day new technologies are being created that improve access to technology, communication, and society at large for people with disabilities.*



During his presidency, members of the League of the Physically Handicapped organized a protest at the Home Relief Bureau in 1935. The Bureau was part of the government and existed to find jobs for people during the Great Depression. However, when people with disabilities applied, they were unfairly denied jobs. The members of the advocacy group staged a sit-in for nine days. A sit-in is an act in which people purposefully disobey a law to protest something they think is unfair. Sitting in the Bureau's offices wasn't lawful, but they did it to bring attention to the problem. U.S. newspapers told the story, and people all over the country began to support the organization's protest. As a result of the protest, 1,500 people with disabilities were given jobs just like non-disabled people.

#### *Disability Rights Are Civil Rights*

The movement continued to grow over the next 75 years. Following a wave of civil rights activism in the 1960s, disability rights activists began to make significant changes in the 1970s. Starting with the Rehabilitation Act in 1973, the door was opened to new laws protecting people with disabilities. In 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed.

The law was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990 and amendments were signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1997. This law requires that students with disabilities attend school with their non-disabled classmates as much as possible and learn the same things at school that their non-disabled classmates are learning. The IDEA also requires that students with disabilities receive additional support, if necessary, for their education.



*This is a rare photograph of President Roosevelt in his wheelchair.*



*The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures that businesses and agencies accommodate people with disabilities in their buildings, services, and business practices.*



In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and President George H.W. Bush signed it into law. The ADA ensures that all people with disabilities are free from discrimination in the workplace, in local and state government agencies (including public schools and universities), and in public businesses like restaurants, theaters, stores, doctor's offices, and other similar businesses. The ADA requires physical accessibility and equal access to communication for people who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, and hard of hearing. It is the most detailed law requiring access in the U.S. for people with disabilities.

These changes didn't come easily. One of the most significant moments in disability rights is the 504 sit-in that took place across the country in cities such as San Francisco, Denver, and Washington D.C. It was led by leaders such as Judith Heumann and Ed Roberts, both long-time activists who became influential government leaders and were themselves people with disabilities. The sit-in lasted roughly 26 days in April 1977. It was the longest protest of its kind to that date in any government building. It was named 504 for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and was necessary because certain groups were not making the changes required by the Rehabilitation Act. It also helped to pave the way for the future legislation of ADA and IDEA.

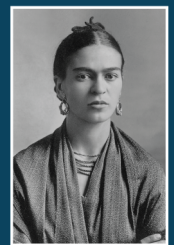
#### *A Global Movement*

Even though changes didn't happen overnight or follow one charismatic leader or one event, the U.S. is now a world leader in disability rights. In 2006, the United Nations ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an international agreement based on the ADA. People with disabilities all over the world are able to live full and meaningful lives though discrimination against people with disabilities continues to this day.

#### **Did You Know?**



Throughout her life, the internationally renowned portrait artist Frida Kahlo featured her own disabilities in many of her self-portraits. **Born in Mexico in 1907, Kahlo contracted polio at the age of six, affecting her ability to walk. A few years later she was severely injured in a bus accident, which permanently damaged her spine. Today, many of her paintings that hang in museums all over the world depict her disabilities.** In 2001, the U.S. commemorated her life on a U.S. stamp. Her work is also showcased in The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.





# SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS AND PEOPLE IN DISABILITY HISTORY

---

By Michelle Negron Bueno

Shequem Griffin is a professional NFL player. Griffin was born with a problem with his left hand. It hadn't grown right before he was born. It was very painful. His hand was amputated when he was just four years old. Shequem loved football. He practiced hard with his brother, Shaquille. They became talented football players. Shaquille signed with the Seattle Seahawks. Shequem signed a year later.

## *A History of Abuse and Discrimination*

Not long ago, people who were born with disabilities were seen as problems. They were feared. They were misunderstood. This led to people treating them differently. Sometimes they were hidden away from society. Sometimes they were left in institutions where they lived away from their families. Many weren't allowed to go to schools, hospitals, restaurants, stores, and other public places. Some tried to live normal lives. But people treated them badly. They wouldn't let them do things that other people got to do.

Many people in the U.S. didn't think this was right. People with disabilities can live full lives in society. They should have rights like everyone else. People began to work together. They have changed the way people with disabilities are treated. New laws have been made. New laws protect their rights.

## *What is a Disability?*

There are many kinds of disabilities. Some disabilities are physical. Some are mental. Some people have learning disabilities. People may have a mix of these disabilities. Some disabilities are easy to see. Others you can't see. Examples of disabilities include hearing loss and deafness. They include vision problems and blindness. Some people can't move parts of their bodies well. They may not be able to move at all. Some have brain injuries. Others have life-time illnesses.

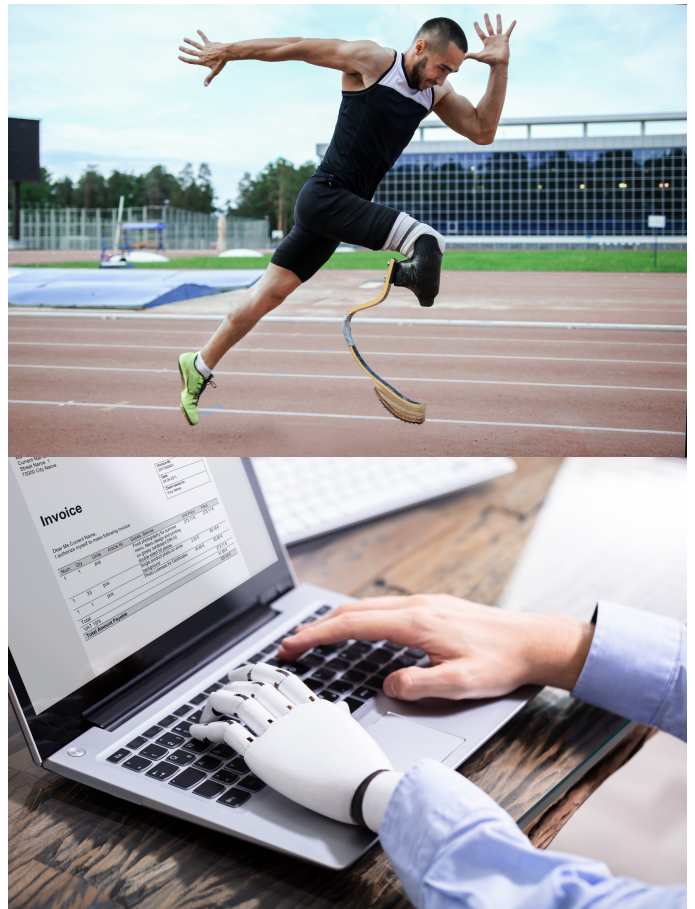
## *Growing Awareness and Knowledge*

Events happened that changed things. People have also helped to change things. Medical breakthroughs made changes. Amputation in the civil war saved lives. It also introduced more people with disabilities into society.

Other breakthroughs included the treatment of mental illness. Some people wrote stories about their lives. These stories helped people understand what mental illness was like. Powerful people also helped to make change.

Franklin D. Roosevelt became the 32nd U.S. President in 1932. He was the first President with a major physical disability. Roosevelt had polio. It left him paralyzed. He used a wheelchair. Roosevelt started a treatment center for people with disabilities. Many historians believe that Roosevelt's disability was important to his presidency. He helped the poor. He opened the door to change.

During this time, members of an organization that supported disability rights held a protest. They went to a government agency in 1935. The agency was supposed to find jobs for people. But they were not being fair. People with disabilities were not getting jobs. The members of the organization held a sit-in. They stayed in the offices of the agency for nine days. A sit-in is an act of disobedience. People disobey a law to say something is unfair. Sitting in the agency's offices for that long wasn't lawful. They were bringing attention to the problem. Newspapers told the story. People all over the country heard about it. They supported the sit-in. As a result, 1,500 people with disabilities were given jobs just like non-disabled people.



*Attitudes toward people with disabilities have changed so much that the focus has become less on what people can't do to what a person can do if given the opportunity. Every day new technologies are being created that improve access to technology, communication, and society at large for people with disabilities.*



## *Disability Rights Are Civil Rights*

The movement kept going. It became important to more people. It grew over the next 75 years. There were a lot of civil rights changes in the 1960s. Supporters of disability rights built on that change. The Rehabilitation Act was passed in 1973. It opened the door to new laws that protected people with disabilities. In 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed. The law was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990. Changes to IDEA were signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1997. This law says that students with disabilities go to school with their non-disabled classmates as much as possible. It also says that they learn the same things as their non-disabled classmates. The law also says that students with disabilities receive more support in school if needed.

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). President George H.W.

Bush signed it into law. The ADA makes sure that all people with disabilities are not treated differently anywhere. This law included workplaces, public schools, and universities. It also included businesses like restaurants, theaters, stores, doctor's offices, and other similar places. The law says that people with disabilities should be able to enter any of these places and use their services. It is the strongest law in the U.S. for people with disabilities.



*This is a rare photograph of President Roosevelt in his wheelchair.*



*The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures that businesses and agencies accommodate people with disabilities in their buildings, services, and business practices.*

These changes didn't come easily. One of the most important times in disability rights happened in 1977. The 504 sit-in took place all over the country. It was led by people such as Judith Heumann and Ed Roberts. They are both long-time supporters of disability rights. They would become important government leaders. They also have disabilities. The sit-in lasted 26 days. It was named for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. It was necessary because certain groups were not making the changes the law said they needed to make. It also helped to pave the way for future laws.

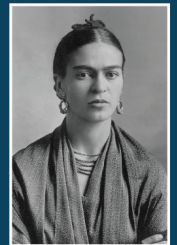
### *A Global Movement*

Changes in disability rights didn't happen overnight. They didn't follow one leader. They didn't happen after one event. It took many years. It took many people. Now the U.S. is helping other countries. In 2006, the United Nations held the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is an agreement between many countries. It is based on the ADA. That is why people with disabilities all over the world are able to live better lives. A lot has been done. There is still work to do. Treating people with disabilities differently continues to this day. Disability rights are human rights.

### **Did You Know?**



Throughout her life, the internationally renowned portrait artist Frida Kahlo featured her own disabilities in many of her self-portraits. **Born in Mexico in 1907, Kahlo contracted polio at the age of six, affecting her ability to walk. A few years later she was severely injured in a bus accident, which permanently damaged her spine. Today, many of her paintings that hang in museums all over the world depict her disabilities.** In 2001, the U.S. commemorated her life on a U.S. stamp. Her work is also showcased in The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.





Thank you!

Thank you for checking out our texts! We hope that you will enjoy using them with your students as much as we do! Please remember that it is meant for *personal* or *educational* use only. You may not sell, modify, or distribute through other websites.

Like what you see? We have more! Visit our website and sign up for a free trial to gain full access to all of our *Social Studies Your Way* texts:

[www.starrmatica.com](http://www.starrmatica.com)

If you experience a problem with this file or find a mistake, please let us know, and we will do our best to fix it.

Like and follow us on our social media accounts for giveaways, weekly themed content, and more!

FOLLOW US!

