

## Activity: Those Infamous Fashion Plates



Sarah Hale did not care for fashion plates but her readers loved them. When Sarah went to work for Louis Godey, he also insisted that each magazine include at least one of the plates.

The first plates were black and white drawings but soon color was added. The job of coloring the plates was done by ladies working from home. They added a little color to the dresses, bonnets, or shawls. They used water colors to paint the fashions.

Look at the sample fashion plate your teacher has posted. This plate was taken from an 1842 edition of *Godey's Ladies Book*. Notice that only a bit of color is used on the plate. The woman who painted this plate used only shades of blue and red. The trees in the background are not painted. Why do you think this is so? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity:** Try to be a fashion plate painter. Your teacher will give you a sample of a different fashion plate. You may use only 2 or 3 colors on the plate. What media do you think might work best? Have some students use colored pencil. Others might use markers, crayon, or water color. How fast could you color a plate? Try timing yourself.

**After you have colored the plate, discuss these questions as a class:**

1. How many plates do you think you could finish in one hour?
2. Was it difficult to work quickly and carefully?
3. Would you like to do this kind of work or would you tire of it?
4. Why would you want to complete many plates in a short amount of time?
5. What might some disadvantages be to this kind of work?



Chapter Review

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**To My Countrywomen: The Life of Sarah Josepha Hale**

**Chapter 1—Newport, New Hampshire, 1805 – 1813.**

**Summary:** *Sarah's brother, Horatio, leaves home for college. Sarah meets David Hale.*

1. Why was Sarah especially sad that Horatio was going to college?

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2. How did *The Mysteries of Udolpho* inspire Sarah?

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3. What is a dame school?

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4. Why was 1811 such a tragic year for the Buell family?

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**Opinion Essay:** Sarah's parents did not believe "that women's brains' were smaller than men's brains and not meant for intellectual learning." Did Sarah pass on this belief in her dame school? Explain your opinion in 4 to 5 sentences.

**Challenge!** A 19<sup>th</sup> century dame school was similar to today's preschool. Use a Venn diagram to show how these schools were the same and how they were different.



**Venn Diagram :**