

# Mary Robinson

## Week Seven Homework



Read the passage below and use the words from the box to fill in the blanks. Discuss Mary Robinson with people at home.

Research any terms you do not understand.

		position	presidential	older
		speech	presidency	securing
remarkably	office	Service	prominence	campaigned
graduated	between	second	range	

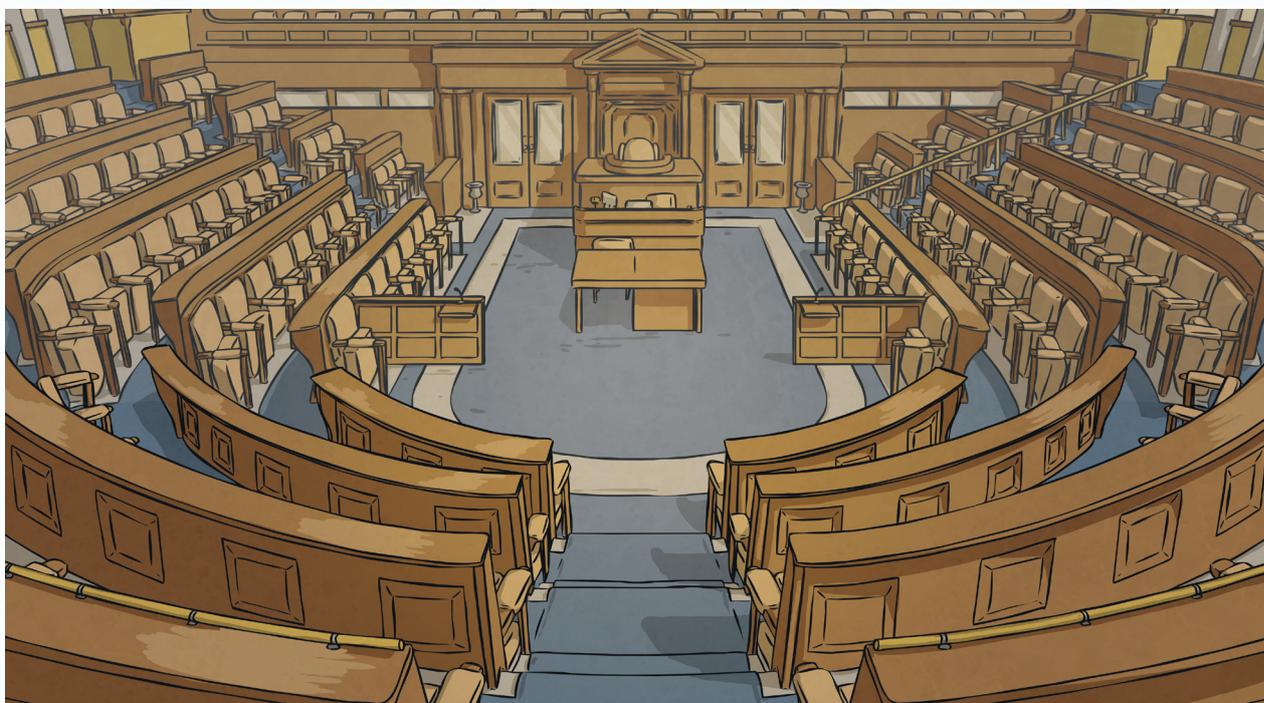
Mary Robinson is an Independent politician who served as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of Ireland from December 1990 to September 1997, the first woman to hold this \_\_\_\_\_. From 1969 to 1989, Robinson served as a Senator in Seanad Éireann for the University of Dublin. She first rose to \_\_\_\_\_ as a barrister, academic and campaigner. After her \_\_\_\_\_, Mary served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002.

Mary Robinson was born Mary Therese Winifred Bourke in Ballina, Co. Mayo, on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1944. Both of her parents were doctors. She has two \_\_\_\_\_ brothers called Oliver and Aubrey and two younger brothers called Henry and Adrian. Mary studied law at Trinity College, Dublin, where she was elected as a scholar. She \_\_\_\_\_ in 1967 with first class honours from Kings Inns and Harvard Law School and was called to the Irish Bar the same year. Robinson's political career began in 1969 when she got elected to the Seanad. She regularly campaigned for a wide \_\_\_\_\_ of liberal issues, including the right of women to sit on juries and against the then requirement that all women, upon marriage, resign from the Civil \_\_\_\_\_.

She worked for many years as a legal advisor for the Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform with David Norris.

Mary Robinson \_\_\_\_\_ successfully to get a nomination for the Irish Presidential race in 1990, \_\_\_\_\_ a nomination as an Independent from Labour, the Workers Party and Independent Senators. After a tough campaign, Mary succeeded in winning the \_\_\_\_\_ election. Her victory \_\_\_\_\_ was widely lauded and her phrase 'mná na hÉireann' became a cultural talking point in a changing Ireland. She became a \_\_\_\_\_ popular President who was able to reach out to different groups and bring them together. Much to everyone's surprise, she chose not to seek a \_\_\_\_\_ seven year term as President, instead choosing to take on the role of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1997, a \_\_\_\_\_ she held until 2002. Robinson continues to play a role in politics and campaigning to this day.

Mary married Nicholas Robison in 1970 and they have three children together. They divide their time \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland and Switzerland.



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## Answers

Mary Robinson is an Independent politician who served as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of Ireland from December 1990 to September 1997, the first woman to hold this **office**. From 1969 to 1989, Robinson served as a Senator in Seanad Éireann for the University of Dublin. She first rose to **prominence** as a barrister, academic and campaigner. After her **presidency**, Mary served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002.

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