Mary Wollstonecraft #2

- She wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* in 1792.
- Wollstonecraft believed in equal education for girls and boys. Only education could give women the knowledge to participate equally with men in public life.
- She did argue that a woman's first duty was to be a good mother. But, a woman could also decide on her own what was in her interest without depending on her husband.

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

- She argued that women had not been included in the *Enlightenment* slogan "free and equal." Women had been excluded from the social contract.
- Her arguments were often met with scorn, even from some 'enlightened' men.
- Wollstonecraft and Catherine Macaulay were British feminists. The most famous French feminist was Germaine de Stael.

Mary Wollstonecraft #3 - Quotes

- If women be educated for dependence; that is, to act according to the will of another fallible being, and submit, right or wrong, to power, where are we to stop?
- The divine right of husbands, like the divine right of kings, may, it is hoped, in this enlightened age, be contested without danger.
- Let not men then in the pride of power, use the same arguments that tyrannic kings and venal ministers have used, and fallaciously assert that women ought to be subjected because she has always been so.
- Strengthen the female mind by enlarging it, and there will be an end to blind obedience. Virtue can only flourish among equals.

