

- 1867 Käthe Schmidt is born in Königsberg, East Prussia
Her family exposes her to progressive principles of social equality
- 1886–89 Studies painting at women's art schools in Berlin and then Munich
- 1890 Makes her first prints
- 1891 Marries Karl Kollwitz, a medical doctor, and moves to Berlin
- 1892 Gives birth to her son Hans
- 1896 Gives birth to her son Peter
- 1898 Her prints are nominated for the gold medal at a state-sponsored exhibition, but Kaiser Wilhelm II vetoes the award because of their socialist content and because she is a woman
- 1904 Studies sculpture at the Académie Julian in Paris
- 1914 **WORLD WAR I BREAKS OUT**
Her son Peter is killed in action in Belgium
- 1918 **WORLD WAR I ENDS**
Amid violent turmoil, Germany transitions from a monarchy to a democracy
Women in Germany gain the right to vote
- 1919 Becomes first woman professor at the Prussian Academy
- 1932 Signs the Urgent Appeal for Unity, a public statement encouraging the factions of Germany's political left to unify against the Nazi Party. It fails, and Hitler rises to power
- 1933 Forced by the Nazis to resign from her professorship at the Prussian Academy of Arts
- 1936 Threatened by the Gestapo with removal to a concentration camp
- 1939 **WORLD WAR II BEGINS**
- 1945 Two weeks before the war ends, Kollwitz dies in exile in Moritzburg, Germany