

Create a project explaining: How Did the Suffragettes Win the Right to Vote?

Questions to think about:

- ✓ Why did people believe women should not be allowed to vote?
- ✓ What inequalities did women face?
- ✓ When did some women gain the vote?
- ✓ Why do you think women got the right to vote? (WWI contributions or the suffragette campaign? Maybe a specific group who pushed the movement forward?)
- ✓ When did women gain equal voting rights with men in Britain?
- ✓ Why was this a significant achievement?

People/organisations you could focus on:

- Emmeline Pankhurst
- Women's Social and Political Union
- Emily Wilding Davison
- Millicent Fawcett
- Men who supported women's voting rights

**This project can be done any way you like as I understand you might not have access to everything you would on a normal school day:** a PowerPoint presentation, a word document, a poster, some sentences explaining your findings etc. **I just want you to do your best and hopefully enjoy finding out about this significant achievement for democracy in Britain!**

We will use this when we study the suffragettes to present any interesting facts you find to the class...

Use this link to help: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxwg3j6>

And this is a summary of what happened in case you can't access the internet:

- No women had the vote in 19th century Britain, even though there was a female monarch (Queen Victoria) for most of it. (Victoria was an opponent of votes for women).
- The campaign for votes for women gathered towards the end of the 19th century.
- There were many opponents of votes for women, including some women. It was argued by opponents of votes for women that women were not intellectually or emotionally capable of having the vote, and that they should remain delicate, pure figures looking after the home, their husbands and their children.

- The NUWSS (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) was the main suffragist movement, led by Millicent Fawcett. They campaigned using peaceful methods, e.g. petitions, writing to MPs.
- By around 1903 many Votes for Women supporters felt that peaceful methods were failing, and that more militant methods (e.g. breaking windows, blowing up post boxes, chaining themselves to railings outside Parliament) were needed. This led to the formation of the WSPU (The Women's Social and Political Union), the main suffragette movement, led by Emmeline Pankhurst.
- The suffragette campaign escalated in violence up to the outbreak of the First World War (1914). In 1913, the suffragette Emily Davison was killed when she ran in front of the King's horse at the Derby (we will look at whether she meant to die for the cause or not...)
- In 1914 the suffragettes paused their militancy and supported the war.
- During WW1 (1914-18) many women did war work (e.g. driving buses, working in munitions factories), and this challenged many traditional-minded people's views about what women were capable of.
- In 1918 the government gave the vote to wealthier women over the age of 30. There is some debate about whether this was the result of the suffragette campaign, or whether women's war work was more important.
- In 1928, all women over the age of 21, regardless of whether or not they owned a home, were given the right to vote on the same terms as men. The Representation of the People Act 1969 lowered the voting age for both men and women to 18 years old.