

Ellie's History Lesson: The Fight for the Vote

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Suffragette movement and the campaign for women's voting rights in the early 20th century.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences for your answers.

Ellie the elephant loves to look through her historical archives to find stories about how the world has changed. One of the most important stories she shares is about the Suffragettes. In the early 1900s, women in Britain were not allowed to vote in general elections. This meant they had no say in the laws being made in Parliament. A group of determined women, known as the Suffragettes, decided to change this. They organized peaceful marches, held large public meetings, and sold newspapers to spread their message. Some even chained themselves to railings or went on hunger strikes to show how serious they were. Their motto was 'Deeds, not words.' They wanted to prove that women were just as capable as men and deserved the same rights. It was a long and difficult struggle that lasted many years. Finally, in 1928, the law was changed so that all women over the age of 21 could vote on equal terms with men. Because of the bravery of these women, the voice of every person in the country became important to our democracy.

Word bank: Suffragette · campaign · parliament · equality · protest · democracy

1. According to the text, what was the main goal that the Suffragettes were trying to achieve? (2 marks)

2. What was the official motto used by the Suffragettes during their campaign? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the Suffragettes felt it was necessary to take part in protests and hunger strikes? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what does the phrase 'no say in the laws' tell us about how women were treated before 1928? (2 marks)

**5. Why is the work of the Suffragettes still important to people living in Britain today?
Explain your answer. (3 marks)**

Draw: Draw a poster that a Suffragette might have carried during a march, including a slogan about equality and the right to vote.



Extension challenge: Research a famous Suffragette, such as Emmeline Pankhurst. Write a short diary entry from her perspective describing how she felt on a day of campaigning.