

Voices for Change: The Suffragette Movement

Learning objective: To understand the campaign for women's suffrage in the early 20th century and evaluate the methods used by the Suffragettes to achieve political equality.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed explanations. Ellie the elephant has provided some key terms to help you construct your answers.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the archives of history to learn about the brave women who campaigned for the right to vote. In the early 1900s, women in the United Kingdom were not permitted to vote in parliamentary elections. A group known as the Suffragettes, led by figures such as Emmeline Pankhurst, used direct action and public demonstrations to ensure their message of 'Votes for Women' could no longer be ignored by the government.

Word bank: Suffragette · Campaign · Equality · Parliament · Demonstration · Votes for Women · Emmeline Pankhurst · Political

1. Define the term 'Suffragette' and explain the primary goal of the movement they represented. (2 marks)

2. Why did the Suffragettes believe that public demonstrations and 'direct action' were necessary to achieve their goals? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the role of a Suffragette with the role of a citizen who has the right to vote today. What is the main difference? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the campaign for women's suffrage is considered a significant turning point in British history. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think peaceful protest is more effective than direct action in changing laws? Give a reason for your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Design a colourful banner that a Suffragette might have carried during a peaceful march. Include a powerful slogan that advocates for equality.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1910. Write a short diary entry describing a day in the life of a woman campaigning for the vote. What challenges might she face, and what gives her the courage to continue? Discuss what might have happened if the Suffragettes had never campaigned at all.