

The Fight for Equality: The Suffragettes

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Suffragettes to provide full, clear answers. Remember to explain why their actions were important in British history.

In the early 1900s, women in the UK were not allowed to vote in general elections. While men had the right to vote if they met certain requirements, women were excluded from the democratic process. The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), led by Emmeline Pankhurst, began a militant campaign to demand the vote. They used the motto 'Deeds, not words'. Through marches, public demonstrations, and petitions, they worked tirelessly to bring the issue of women's suffrage to the attention of Parliament and the public.

Word bank: Suffragette · Parliament · Representation · Equality · Protest · Campaign · Democracy

1. Ellie the Elephant is researching history and wants to know: what was the main goal of the Suffragette movement in the early 20th century? (2 marks)

2. The Suffragettes used the motto 'Deeds, not words'. Explain what you think this phrase meant in the context of their campaign. (2 marks)

3. Max the Monkey is looking at the history of voting. Why was it considered unfair that women were excluded from voting in general elections at that time? (2 marks)

4. List two different methods the Suffragettes used to try and persuade the government to change the law. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it took such a long and difficult campaign for women to finally gain the right to vote? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that a Suffragette might have carried during a peaceful march. Include a bold slogan and symbols that represent equality and the right to vote.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1910. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing what you saw at a Suffragette demonstration in London. How did the crowd feel, and what were they shouting?