

The Road to Equality: A Suffragette Strategy Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the methods, motives, and challenges faced by the Suffragettes in their campaign for women's right to vote in the early 20th century.

Ellie the Elephant is researching the campaign for women's suffrage. Below are a series of historical actions and events. Categorise each action as either a 'Constitutional Method' (peaceful, legal campaigning) or a 'Militant Method' (direct action). Then, provide a justification for why different strategies were used by the movement.

Word bank: Suffragette · Suffragist · Parliament · Demonstration · Petition · Militant · Equality · Franchise

1. 1. Categorise these actions: (A) Organising a peaceful march, (B) Chainings oneself to railings, (C) Handing a petition to a Member of Parliament, (D) Breaking windows. Explain which category each belongs to. (4 marks)

2. 2. Explain why some women felt that peaceful methods, such as writing letters to newspapers, were not enough to change the law. (2 marks)

3. 3. Compare and contrast: How did the methods of the 'Suffragists' differ from the 'Suffragettes'? (3 marks)

4. 4. Justify your answer: Was the decision to use militant tactics a help or a hindrance to the cause of women's suffrage? Provide one reason to support your argument. (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if the government had ignored the suffrage movement for another fifty years? Consider the impact on British society. (2 marks)

6. 6. Imagine you are a campaigner in 1910. Draft a short, persuasive slogan (no more than 10 words) that you would put on a banner to convince the public that women should have the right to vote. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a historical protest banner from the year 1910. Include a symbol of the movement (such as the colours purple, white, and green) and a powerful message demanding the 'Franchise' (the right to vote).



Extension challenge: Research the 'Representation of the People Act 1918'. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a woman who has just gained the right to vote for the very first time, describing how the long struggle has finally changed her future.