

The Fight for Equality: The Suffragette Movement

Learning objective: To evaluate the significance of the Suffragette movement and understand the historical struggle for women's right to vote in the United Kingdom.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your writing is clear and structured.

In the early 20th century, women in the United Kingdom were largely excluded from the political process. They could not vote in general elections or sit as Members of Parliament. Led by figures like Emmeline Pankhurst, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) adopted a 'deeds, not words' approach to campaign for the vote. Their methods were often militant and designed to attract national attention to their cause, ensuring that the issue of women's suffrage could no longer be ignored by the government.

Word bank: Suffragette · Representation · Parliament · Campaign · Equality · Protest · Democracy · Emmeline Pankhurst · Militant · Franchise

1. Define the term 'Suffragette' and identify the primary goal of their movement. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is studying historical records. She notes that the WSPU used the motto 'Deeds, not words.' Explain what this motto suggests about their methods compared to groups that used only peaceful petitions. (3 marks)

3. Identify two specific methods used by the Suffragettes to gain publicity for their cause. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the tactics of the Suffragists (NUWSS) and the Suffragettes (WSPU). Why might some people have disagreed with the Suffragettes' approach? (4 marks)

5. Justify why the right to vote is considered a fundamental aspect of a modern democracy. (4 marks)

6. Explain why the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 caused a significant shift in the Suffragettes' campaign activities. (5 marks)

7. What might have happened if the government had continued to ignore the demands for women's suffrage for another fifty years? Predict the potential impact on British society. (5 marks)

Draw: Design a protest banner that a Suffragette might have carried during a march. Include a powerful slogan and symbols that represent the fight for equality.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Investigate the 'Representation of the People Act 1918'. Write a short paragraph explaining why this was a landmark moment for women, and identify which groups of women were still excluded from voting after this Act was passed.