

The Fight for Equality: The Suffragettes

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Suffragettes. Read the term or question on the left, then check your understanding with the answer provided on the right.

What is the definition of a 'Suffragette'?

A member of a militant women's organisation in the early 20th century who campaigned for the right to vote in public elections.

Who was Emmeline Pankhurst?

A key political activist and the leader of the British suffragette movement who helped women win the right to vote.

What was the main slogan of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)?

'Deeds, not words'.

Explain the difference between a 'Suffragist' and a 'Suffragette'.

Suffragists (NUWSS) used peaceful, constitutional methods, while Suffragettes (WSPU) adopted more militant tactics to draw attention to their cause.

Why did the Suffragettes feel that peaceful protest was not enough?

They believed that after decades of ignoring their requests, the government would only listen if the campaigners became more disruptive and impossible to ignore.

What happened in 1918 regarding women's voting rights?

The Representation of the People Act was passed, which allowed some women over the age of 30 (who met property qualifications) to vote for the first time.

What was the primary goal of the Suffragette movement?

To achieve 'votes for women', ensuring that women had the same democratic rights as men to influence laws in Parliament.

What is meant by the term 'militant' in the context of the Suffragettes?

Using confrontational, forceful, or sometimes illegal methods to achieve political change.

Justify why the Suffragettes believed the right to vote was essential for society.

They argued that since women were subject to the laws of the land, they should have a voice in creating those laws to ensure fairness for everyone.

What might have happened if women had never campaigned for the vote?

It is likely that democratic reforms would have been significantly delayed, and the social status and legal rights of women would have remained restricted for much longer.