

Votes for Women: The Story of the Suffragettes

Deeds, Not Words: Join Ellie the Elephant on a Journey Through History!

- At the start of the 20th century, most women in the United Kingdom were legally barred from voting in general elections, meaning they had no direct voice in national government.
- Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903, adopting the famous slogan 'Deeds, not words' to highlight their commitment to direct action.
- Suffragettes used creative and bold methods to raise awareness, including parades, public speeches, and distributing leaflets to ensure their cause could not be ignored by the public.
- The campaign faced immense challenges, with many supporters enduring imprisonment and hunger strikes to highlight the injustice of the current political system.
- The Representation of the People Act 1918 was a significant milestone, granting the vote to women over the age of 30 who met specific property qualifications.
- Full equality in voting rights was eventually achieved in 1928, when the law was changed to allow all women over the age of 21 to vote on the same terms as men.

Did you know? Did you know? The term 'Suffragette' was originally used by newspapers as a way to mock the movement, but the women reclaimed the name with pride, turning it into a powerful badge of courage and determination.

Key vocabulary: Suffragette · Campaign · Parliament · Democracy · Equality · Protest · Franchise