Social Studies / History Assessment: The Fight for Women’s Suffrage

Learning objective: To evaluate the historical significance of the Suffragette movement and the campaign for women's right to vote in the UK.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear, accurate answers. Ensure you use specific terminology where possible.

In the early 20th century, women in the United Kingdom did not have the same political rights as men. The Suffragists, led by Millicent Fawcett, believed in peaceful protest. However, as progress was slow, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was formed in 1903. Led by Emmeline Pankhurst, they adopted the motto 'Deeds, not words.' These women, known as Suffragettes, used more militant tactics to ensure their voices were heard by the government. After years of campaigning and the impact of the First World War, the law began to change, eventually leading to women gaining the vote.

Word bank: Suffragette · Suffragist · Representation of the People Act · Emmeline Pankhurst · Parliament · Votes for Women · Campaign · Equality

1. What is the main difference between a 'Suffragist' and a 'Suffragette' in terms of their methods of protest? (2 marks)

2. Identify one specific tactic used by the WSPU to bring attention to their cause. (1 mark)

3. Why did the motto 'Deeds, not words' become significant to the Suffragette movement? (3 marks)

4. Explain how the First World War impacted the argument for women’s right to vote. Consider the roles women took on during this time. (4 marks)

5. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act was passed. Why was this act not considered 'equal' for all women compared to men? (3 marks)

6. Ellie the Elephant is researching historical change. Write a 5-mark response explaining why the campaign for women's suffrage is considered one of the most important movements in British political history. Think about the long-term impact on democracy. (5 marks)

7. If a protest banner cost £1.50 to make in 1910 and the WSPU made 5 banners, what was the total cost? Show your working. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that a Suffragette might have carried during a peaceful march. Include a slogan and a symbol that represents the fight for equality.

Extension challenge: Research a woman who campaigned for the vote outside of the main leadership. Write a short paragraph on why she felt it was important to risk her safety for the cause. Total: /25