Grade 5 History: The Suffragette Movement

Learning objective: To understand the campaign for women's suffrage in the UK, identifying key terminology and the methods used to achieve votes for women.

Read each question or term on the front of the card. Think carefully about your answer, then check it against the information provided after the 'Answer:' label.

What does the term 'suffrage' mean?

Suffrage is the right to vote in public, political elections.

Who founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903?

Emmeline Pankhurst.

What was the main difference between a Suffragist and a Suffragette?

Suffragists campaigned peacefully using constitutional methods; Suffragettes were often more militant and willing to break the law to gain attention.

What was the famous motto of the WSPU?

'Deeds, not words.'

Why were many Suffragettes sent to prison?

They were arrested for actions such as protesting, chaining themselves to railings, or damaging property to highlight the need for votes for women.

What was the 'Cat and Mouse Act' of 1913?

An Act that allowed hunger-striking prisoners to be released when they became ill, only to be re-arrested once they had recovered to finish their sentences.

In what year were women over 30 who met specific property qualifications first granted the vote in the UK?

1918.

When did all women over the age of 21 finally gain the right to vote on equal terms with men?

1928.

Ellie the Elephant is researching history. Why did Suffragettes choose purple, white, and green for their banners?

Purple stood for dignity, white for purity, and green for hope.

What is a 'hunger strike'?

A form of protest where someone refuses to eat to draw attention to their cause or demand a change in policy.

Why was the campaign for the vote so important for democracy?

It aimed to ensure that women had the same political representation as men and a say in how the country was governed.

What did the Representation of the People Act 1918 achieve?

It gave the vote to all men over 21 and women over 30 who met certain property requirements.