

Year 8 History Knowledge Organiser: How and why did women win the vote?

Summary

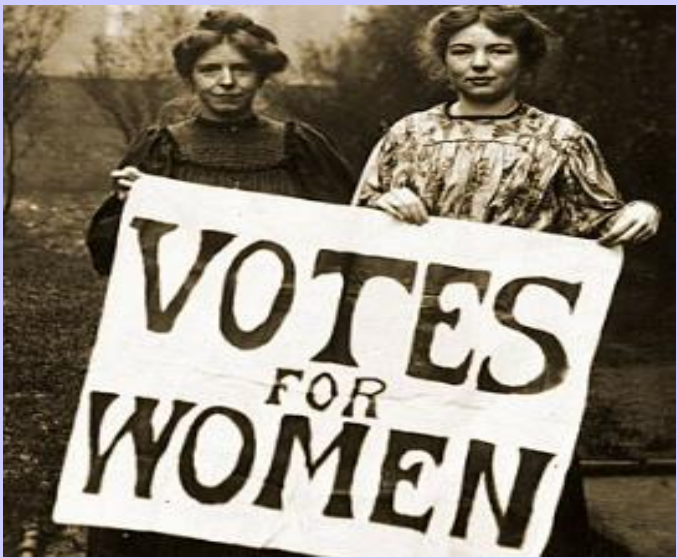
Women's Suffrage is about the **right of women to vote** at elections.

At the start of the 19th century, women in Britain did not have the right to vote. They also had **few legal protections** or **rights to education or work**.

By the end of the 1800s, there was increasing support for the right of women to vote. There were two main groups who campaigned for women's rights, the **Suffragists** (NUWSS) and the **Suffragettes** (WSPU).

In 1918, just before World War One ended, the government passed a law giving some women the right to vote for the first time. **Further acts in 1928 and 1969** extended this to more women.

Anney Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst of the Suffragettes in 1908.



Key People

MILLCENT
FAWCETT
(1847-1929)



-Dame Millicent Garratt Fawcett was the leader of the Suffragists from 1897 until 1919.
- This organization advocated for women's suffrage through peaceful and non-violent means, such as lobbying, public speaking, and organizing petitions.
Over time they won some publicity, and their membership grew, but by 1903 some women were increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress they were making and formed the Suffragettes. Fawcett distanced herself from these more militant and direct approaches.

EMMELINE
PANKHURST
(1858-1928)



-Emmeline Pankhurst had been a former member of the Suffragists but became frustrated with their approach. She then formed the Suffragettes in 1903.
-It was a more inclusive group, which welcomed women from a range of different backgrounds and groups.
-Her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, were also active and important to the cause.
-From 1905, when the Suffragettes campaign became more extreme (sometimes violent), Pankhurst often found herself in trouble with the police. At the outset of WWI, she encouraged women to join the war effort and was integral to women eventually being given the right to vote.

EMILY DAVISON
(1872-1913)



-Emily Davison was a prominent English Suffragette.
-She was a militant fighter for her cause - she was arrested on nine occasions, went on hunger strike seven times and was force-fed on forty-nine occasions.
-In 1913, she went to the Derby at Epsom, one of the most famous horse races in the world. Carrying a Suffragettes sash, she walked onto the racetrack in front of King George's horse, Amner. She was hit by the horse, which would have been travelling around 35mph. She suffered serious injuries and later died in hospital. It is thought she intended to attach the sash to the horse to raise awareness of the campaign for women's suffrage.

Key Vocabulary

Suffrage

Suffragette

Suffragist

NUWSS

WSPU

Hunger Strike

Cat & Mouse Act

Petition

Act

Emmeline Pankhurst

Millicent Fawcett

Emily Davison

Major Events

Women's Suffrage Petition - 1866



In 1866, Barbara Bodichon and other women's rights activists presented the first women's suffrage petition to Parliament. Signed by over 1,500 women, the petition demanded that women be granted the right to vote on the same terms as men. While this initial petition was unsuccessful, it laid the groundwork for future suffrage efforts.

Formation of Suffragists (NUWSS) - 1897

The NUWSS, led by Millicent Fawcett, advocated for women's suffrage through peaceful and constitutional means. Unlike the more militant WSPU, the NUWSS focused on lobbying, public speaking, and organizing petitions to achieve suffrage. The NUWSS played a crucial role in gaining support for women's suffrage and paved the way for future legislative victories.

Formation of the Suffragettes - 1903

Founded by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, the WSPU was a militant suffragette organization that played a significant role in the women's suffrage movement. The WSPU employed tactics such as demonstrations, hunger strikes, and window-smashing to draw attention to the cause and put pressure on the government.

Cat and Mouse Act - 1913



The Act was designed to deal with suffragettes who engaged in hunger strikes while imprisoned. Under this Act, hunger-striking prisoners could be released from prison if their health deteriorated to a dangerous level due to starvation. Once their health improved, they could be rearrested and returned to prison to complete their sentence.

Representation of the People Acts - 1918 and 1928

- The Representation of the People Act 1918 was a landmark piece of legislation that partially granted women the right to vote in the UK. It extended voting rights to women over the age of 30 who met certain property qualifications, as well as to all men over 21.
- The Representation of the People Act 1928, also known as the Equal Franchise Act, granted equal voting rights to women and men over the age of 21, regardless of property qualifications.
 - This legislation finally achieved universal adult suffrage in the UK.

Top Facts

1. When the Suffragettes began adopting more aggressive acts, their motto became 'Deeds Not Words.'
2. Before the Cat and Mouse Act, Suffragettes were often force-fed when they went on hunger strike.
3. Emily Davison's death raised awareness of the cause.
4. World War 1 drastically changed women's role in society. Women were cast into roles previously occupied by men. It is thought that this contributed to changing attitudes across the country.
5. The 1918 Representation of People Act wasn't thought to go far enough. Women still had to be over the age of 30 and own property to be allowed to vote.
6. 'Suffrage' means the right to vote in elections.
7. There remains divided opinion over the extreme strategies adopted by the Suffragettes.
8. The fight for women's rights is not over. Men are still paid more on average for doing the same jobs, and in many countries women do not have basic rights.

Women's Suffrage Timeline

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1866: First women's suffrage petition is presented to parliament by Barbara Bodichon. | 1867: Formation of London Society for Women's Suffrage. | 1897: Establishment of Suffragists (NUWSS). | 1903: Formation of Suffragettes under Emmeline Pankhurst. | 1907: First 'Mud March' by Suffragettes in London. | 1908: Women's Sunday demonstration. | 1913: Emily Davison steps out in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby. | 1918: Representation of People Act is passed, granting voting rights to some women over 30. | 1928: Representation of People act passed, granting equal voting rights to women and men. |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|