

## Year 8 HT 6 – The Suffragettes

The suffragette movement was a campaign for women's right to vote in public elections. It was active from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, in the context of the wider women's rights movement. In the early 20th century, the position of females in Britain started to change in important ways. Before this time, women didn't have the same rights and opportunities as men. But during this period, women began to fight for equal rights and more opportunities.

One of the big changes was the suffrage movement, which was about women's right to vote. Women, known as suffragettes, worked hard and protested peacefully to get the right to vote. They believed that women should have a say in how their country was run, just like men. Eventually, in 1918, some women over the age of 30 were allowed to vote, and in 1928, women were granted equal voting rights with men.

Women also started to have more opportunities for work outside of the home. Before, most women were expected to stay at home and take care of the family. But during this time, more women began to work in jobs outside of the home, like in factories, offices, and schools. They showed that they could do many different jobs just as well as men.

During World War I, which took place from 1914 to 1918, many men went off to fight, leaving job vacancies. This created opportunities for women to step into roles traditionally held by men. Women worked in factories and on farms, and they played a crucial role in supporting the war effort. This helped change people's attitudes about what women could do and showed that they were capable of important work. However, it's important to note that even though progress was made, there were still some challenges and inequalities that women faced. It took time for society to fully recognize and value women's contributions and to create more equal opportunities for women in all areas of life.

The changes that took place during the early 20th century were significant steps towards gender equality, and they paved the way for further progress in the decades to come. Today, women have more rights and opportunities than ever before, thanks to the hard work and determination of those who came before them.

Here are some concurrent historical events in the UK and the rest of the world during the time period of the suffragettes.

Concurrent UK Historical Events:

1. Edwardian Era (1901-1910) - This period was named after King Edward VII and saw significant social, political, and cultural changes in the UK. The middle class grew in size and influence, there was a rise in the labour movement and trade unions, and new technologies such as the automobile and aeroplane emerged.
2. World War I (1914-1918) - The suffragette movement paused during the war as women took on new roles in the workforce in support of the war effort. Women worked in munitions factories, drove ambulances, and filled other jobs previously reserved for men.

Concurrent World Historical Events:

1. Second Industrial Revolution (1870-1914) - This was a period of rapid industrialization and technological advancements in Europe and North America. New inventions such as the light bulb, telephone, and internal combustion engine transformed society and created new opportunities for economic growth.
2. Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) - This was a conflict between Russia and Japan over territory and influence in East Asia. The war revealed the weakness of Russia's imperial government and helped to establish Japan as a major world power.

### Further reading:

Fiction:

"The Princess and the Suffragette" by Holly Webb - This book tells the story of Princess Sophia, who befriends a young suffragette and becomes passionate about women's rights herself.

Non fiction:

"Suffragettes and the Fight for the Vote" by Sarah Ridley - This book provides an overview of the suffragette movement in Britain, including the key events and figures involved.