

Classes de 3^{ème} B et de 3^{ème} D - CDI - EXPOSITION SUR LE MOUVEMENT DES SUFFRAGETTES BRITANNIQUES POUR L'ACCES AU DROIT DE VOTE (1918 - 1928)

Bravo à tous les élèves pour leur implication !

Schooling in 19th century Britain

Were boys and girls given the same education?

In the early 20th century, not everybody went to school, only the rich could afford to send their children to school because it wasn't free, school was very expensive. But the education at school between the boys and girls wasn't the same. So we are going to see what the differences in education were between boys and girls in the early 20th century.

On top of that, boys were taught the three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic. Beyond the home. Most of them went to university and got high-qualified degrees that enabled them to have great careers - some became doctors or lawyers. But it was different for girls!

Suffragette

Indeed, they were believed to only need to be educated in "accomplishments" such as artistic talents (singing and dancing), and languages. They were taught cooking, needle work and domestic duties. Girls from wealthy families were educated at home by a governess and later, sent to private schools.

Differences in education for boys and girls in 19th century Britain

Boys were taught more qualifying subjects than girls who were primarily educated at home and taught domestic skills. They couldn't learn the same subjects as men in school. They were considered unable to help their families.

Women were meant to do household chores and stay at home. They had to look after the children and do all domestic duties. They weren't allowed to be doctors or lawyers before the turn of the 20th and that's why there were few places at university for them. Anyway, most of them couldn't go to university.

Differences in education between boys and girls in 19th century Britain

At the turn of the century, children didn't have to go to school. Only kids from wealthy families could go to school. Wealthy families paid a governess who taught their children at home, whereas children born in poor families - even aged 6, were expected to work and help their family earn a living.

The lessons were long and the children experienced cruel treatment. The classes were freezing in the winter. School was hard work, repetitive and dull!

Differences between boys and girls

Boys and girls had 3 subjects in common: the 3 R's: Reading, writing and arithmetic. Boys and girls were educated. They had their own entrance and playground. Inspectors came to check the students' knowledge. They talked the questions they would give them. They had to recite the whole year.

Girls had to do specific domestic classes such as handwriting, home-making skills, sewing, music. The aim of these classes was to learn how to be a good housewife and mother. There was a fear that men wouldn't want to marry educated women.

Une suffragette

Je suis une suffragette, je veux voter. C'est mon droit, le respect des femmes. Je suis une femme, je suis une femme, je suis une femme. C'est mon droit, le respect des femmes. Je suis une femme, je suis une femme, je suis une femme. C'est mon droit, le respect des femmes.

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Marriage in the 20th century

What did women gain from it?

At the turn of the 20th century, women who got married had to promise to obey their husband, whereas men didn't have to promise anything to his future wives. They were told they were "loved" by their husband as if they were simple pieces of furniture and not of flesh. If they had wealth and property, they had to abandon it to their husbands once married. This was really unfair!

What were the advantages of marriage if they had to give up the few rights they had when they were single? When you take a close look at it, they didn't have much to gain really! Of course, any woman could expect to be loved, protected and taken care of by their husbands but it wasn't always the case for all of them unfortunately!

- if they didn't get on well with their husband, they couldn't divorce without their husband's consent whereas men could divorce without their wife's consent.
- After a divorce, women rarely had the custody of their children; they couldn't keep their children with them, their husband kept them.
- Men had more to gain than women when they got married.
- Women, from a poor social background, worked like their husbands but not for the same money, and had to assume the domestic duties at home.
- They earned 40 to 45% less than men for the same job.

SUFFRAGISTS VS SUFFRAGETTES

Millicent Fawcett was born on June, the 11th in 1847 in Amberley, Sussex in England and died in London, England in 1920. She was a writer, a political woman and a British feminist activist. From 1887 to 1919 she was the leader and one of the founders of the NUWSS (the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies). They were called Suffragists.

They presented their bills to the Parliament and held meetings to promote their cause. Her motto was "Courage calls to Courage Everywhere".

Emmeline Pankhurst

Emmeline Pankhurst was born in Manchester on July the 15th in 1858 and died in 1928. She was a British political activist, a Suffragette and the leader of the WSPU. She created the WSPU, or Women's Social and Political Union, in 1903 with her daughters and other women. They were called Suffragettes. Pankhurst helped women gain the right to vote in England. The Union was known for being a militant group; their members used to smash windows with stones, burn letter boxes, etc. Only women could enter the WSPU. The motto of the Suffragettes was "Deeds not words". Pankhurst was the first to be arrested in February 1908, because she attempted to enter the Parliament. While in prison, she went on hunger-strike with others Suffragettes but prison guards force fed them in response to their strike!

DEEDS NOT WORDS

VOTES FOR WOMEN

An exhibition by 3B and 3D students.

BRITISH SUFFRAGETTES: THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OUR SISTERS FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE. LET US PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR EFFORTS!

To ASK FREEDOM FOR WOMEN IS NOT A CRIME

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Women in early 20th century Britain: Why fight for the right to vote?

In England, in the late 19th century and in the early 20th centuries, some women wanted more freedom and representation in Parliament. As a consequence, they claimed their rights because they wanted:

- To be more important in the society
- To have more power
- To get involved in politics
- To be represented in parliaments
- And of course to express their opinion

How people considered them at The Time

The suffragettes were women who were heavily criticized and rejected by a certain part of the population. The suffragettes were often accused of disrupting public order and of breaking the law, endangering the stability of society.

People considered the suffragettes to be hysterical, crazy, uneducated women who challenged gender equality, and they were often caricatured in newspapers with many stereotypes. However, they were also admired and supported by other groups of people who saw them as pioneers for gender equality. They engaged in acts of pacifism such as hunger strikes and protests. Finally, in 1918, the right to vote for women over the age of 30 was granted by the British Parliament, and in 1928 for women over 21.

How women were considered in 19th century Britain

At the turn of the 20th century, women were still considered inferior to men and weaker than them. Women were expected to be subservient, quiet and home-bound, with only primary ambitions either confined to marriage, childbirth and home-making granted.

What women did at home back then:

- they took care of household chores
- they took care of cooking
- they took care of children
- they had to obey their husband

Also, people mostly men but also some women, thought that women were a bit silly, and not as intelligent as men. Women weren't considered capable of making major decisions even about their own life, and certainly not about the way the country should be governed. Even by the mid-19th century, the Victorians didn't bother to educate girls the same way they would educate boys. They weren't allowed to work like men but had to stay at home, expect when they were poor.

Women were not in control and they had to follow the rules that favoured men some women understood that the only way to get more freedom and rights would be the Right to vote to be represented in Parliament. Recognizing that nothing would change fundamentally for women until they could take a part in elections, they began to demand that the government to give them the vote. These people were called the "suffragettes".

World War I and the Right to Vote for Women



Women heading away with work, while waiting for the installation of hydraulic pumps.



At the beginning of the World War I, in 1914, all men aged 21 were sent to the War. Suffragettes who were in prison were released by the Government. Then, a choice had to be made and Suffragettes stopped their fight to focus on Britain's economy to keep the country going. Women started to work at traditional men's roles and replaced them successfully.



National Woman's Party Silent Sentinels at the White House gates, 1917

Yet all Suffragettes didn't agree to stop the fight. On the one hand, the WSPU and Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, stopped their campaigns but on the other hand, more radical Suffragettes continued the fight like the Women's Suffrage Federation led by Sylvia Pankhurst. During World War I, Women proved they had the same skills as men and that they weren't inferior to them.

So thanks to the War, women showed that they were able to replace men in factories and elsewhere. They proved useful to the society, and at the end of the war, the coalition government passed the Representation of the People Act on the 6th February of 1918; this act gave the right to vote for every man aged over 21 and every woman aged over 30. In November 1918, the qualification of women in the Parliament was allowed. Finally, ten years later, in 1928, a law passed and all women over 21 could vote on the same terms as men.

World War I and the Right to vote for women

World War I was one of the defining periods of the 20th century. It marked a giant step forward for the advancement of the right to vote for women.

As early as in 1914, during World War I, the Suffragette movement supported the war effort as women began to take on roles that would have been unthinkable just a few years earlier.



Women worked as conductresses on buses, trams and underground trains. Between 1914 and 1918, an estimated two million women took on jobs which had been previously filled by men, there was an increase from 24% of women in employment in July 1914 to 37% by November 1918.

By the end of the conflict, the goal of women's suffrage had been achieved, but only in certain circumstances: only women who owned property and were aged over 30 were allowed to vote in elections.

In 1918, Parliament passed an act granting the vote to women over 30 who were house owners, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, and graduates of British universities.

About 8.4 million women gained the vote in 1918. Nonetheless, the campaign for full voting rights for women continued. Fortunately in other areas of society, the role of women had changed significantly.

Later, in 1928, The Conservative Party, in control, passed the "Representation of the people Act" that extended the voting right to all women over the age of 21, granting them the vote on the same terms as men. That was a great victory!



Alfred Owen: World War I



BEN OUBANE Andre & LAIBOUCE Rhames, 7 D

ADOPTION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN EUROPE

The adoption of women's suffrage in Europe has been an evolutionary process marked by fierce struggles for equal rights. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, feminist movements emerged in several European countries, claiming the right to vote. Emblematic figures such as Emmeline Pankhurst in the United Kingdom and Louise Weiss in France have played an essential role in this fight.

After years of mobilization, the First World War had a significant impact on the perception of gender roles. Women contributed massively to the war effort, which strengthened the legitimacy of their demands. In 1918, the United Kingdom granted the right to vote to women over the age of 30, and other European countries followed.

The interwar period saw a gradual expansion of women's suffrage in Europe, culminating with the end of the Second World War. After 1945, many countries extended the right to vote to all women, which was a major step towards gender equality.

To conclude, the adoption of women's suffrage in Europe has been the result of decades of struggle, with the influence of major historical events and determined voices defending equal rights.



She was a British Conservative politician. She became Prime Minister of the UK on May, 4th, 1979. She left on November, the 28th in 1990. She was nicknamed the "Iron Lady".



A famous & powerful British female politician Margaret Thatcher was born on October, the 13th, in 1925 in Grantham and died on April, the 8th, in 2013 in London.

Thylen and Ines, 3AD

PETITE HISTOIRE DE DROIT DE VOTE DES FEMMES

- 1866 - 1874** Julie Douët, première bachelière, lutte pour le droit de vote, inspirée par les suffragettes anglaises.
- 1876** Début du militantisme suffragette (Protestations, marches, manifestations, etc.).
- 1881** Léonie Kauleid est la première femme à obtenir le mandat.
- 1893** La Nouvelle-Zélande est le premier pays à accorder le droit de vote aux femmes.
- 1909** Jeanne Schmied fonde l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes (U.S.F.F.).
- 1918** Le droit de vote est accordé, en France, à des femmes, à condition qu'elles aient 21 ans.
- 1925** Grande campagne suffragette autour de deux constitutions, des femmes ne votent plus.
- 1936** Cécile Bruntschwig, Suzanne Lacore et Marie-Josée Curie créent le mouvement. Prises que les femmes peuvent exercer les responsabilités.
- 1944** Déclaration du 21 avril 1944 reconnaissant le vote aux femmes en France.
- 1945** Lors des élections municipales, les femmes peuvent pour la première fois voter en France!

A Suffragette princess: Sophia Duleep Singh



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was born on 8 August 1876 in England. She was the daughter of an Indian Maharaja, Sir Duleep Singh, who had lost his Sikh Empire to the Punjab Province of British India at the time of the coronation.

Sophia's mother was Barbara Müller and her godmother was Queen Victoria, at her father's request, as they were friends. Sophia Duleep Singh lived at Hampton Court Palace in London, where her Suffragette life began.

When aged only 10, she got typhoid and lost her mum. She was educated at Elveden Hall in Suffolk, and later, lived in a socialist environment: she wore Parsian dresses, bred championship dogs, was into photography and cycling and attended High-society parties.



At 32, she met Una Dugdale, a member of the Women's Social and Political Union, who convinced her to join the League. She became an active militant and concentrated on fundraising for the union.

She met Emmeline Pankhurst and took part in a march to Parliament on a day remembered as "Black Friday" on November, 16th, 1910. There, she saw the police using force and so, intervened in an assault to defend a suffragette. As a consequence, she was arrested (but didn't go to prison as the charges against her were dropped).

In 1911, Sophia took part in the census boycott and helped to distribute copies of militant newspaper Votes for Women. She also sold The Suffragette outside Hampton Court. She joined another league, the W.P.S.U., and refused to pay taxes so one of her diamond rings was impounded in lieu of non-payment taxes.

In 1914, she gave £51 to the W.P.S.U. the largest individual donation that year. World War I led the W.P.S.U. to cease campaigning for the right to vote, and in 1915, Sophia decided to volunteer as a Red Cross nurse, looking after wounded Indian soldiers.

She was active all her life and died on August, 22nd in 1948 in Tylen Green, England.



Nadia & Zof, 2000 D

A suffragette Princess: Sophia Duleep Singh

Who was she?

Sophia Duleep Singh was born on the 8th of August in 1876. Her father was Maharaja Sir Duleep Singh, and her mother was Barbara Müller. Singh combined Indian, European, and African ancestry, and was from a British aristocratic family, her dad insisted that Queen Victoria was her God-mother. She had 4 sisters and 5 brothers. Queen Victoria was fond of Sophia and encouraged her and her sisters to become socialites. At the age of 17, she inherited wealth from her father at his death.

Her actions

In 1909, she joined the WSPU and became a leading member of the movement for women's voting rights, funding Suffragette groups. She took part in many Suffragette demonstrations, and was involved in strikes to draw attention to the women's rights cause. In 1910, Singh and a group of activists waited on meeting the Prime Minister to have an answer on the Conciliation Bill. They were expelled by Winston Churchill, the Home Secretary. Afterwards, 300 women organized a violent demonstration in protest. In 1913, Singh tried to stop the Prime Minister's car in the street while holding a poster reading "Give women the vote!" After women were given the right to vote over age 30 in 1918, Singh joined the Suffragette Fellowship and remained a member until her death in 1948.



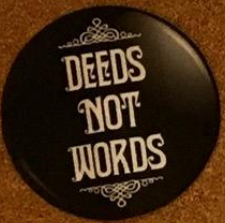
Princess Sophia Duleep Singh and her suffragette sisters on the street, London, in May 1913




Sophia Duleep Singh holding the suffragette banner in 1913.

Her fight

While her political and militant actions are not always fully documented, her involvement reflects a significant contribution to the struggle for women's suffrage in the early 20th century. She played a really important role in the movement for the women's rights. Not only was she a serious activist, but she often used her status and connections to promote the cause.



EMILY WILDING DAVISON: a stupid girl or a flamboyant heroin?



In 1913, a Suffragette called Emily Wilding Davison was at a very famous horse race called the Epsom Derby. She wasn't a simple spectator but was here for some very good reason! She was there to defend the cause of women and claim their right to vote but she was killed in a stupid accident.

Apparently, she threw herself in front of King George V's horse as she brandished a WSPU banner and wanted to attach it to the horse as a kind of publicity for the movement for the right to vote for women. She scared the horse, the jockey and the horse fell and the horse trampled Emily who was standing on the track.

In 1906, Emily Davison had joined the WSPU - **Women's Social and Political Union**.

She was among the very few educated women: indeed, she had grown up in a middle-class family, and studied at Royal Holloway College, London, and St Hugh's College, Oxford where she graduated, before taking jobs as a teacher and governess.

She had become a violent campaigner because she was convinced that the right to vote would change women's life and condition. She was a militant activist for the cause. She was arrested and imprisoned 9 times for taking illegal actions and being a troublemaker.

What did she want to prove at the Epsom Derby?
Her main goal was to attach a WSPU banner to a horse so as to catch the public's attention on the Suffragette's movement. She didn't have any accomplice but acted on her own.


More than 50,000 people attended her funerals in London: she was seen as a martyr of the cause for the right to vote for women, even though she didn't intend to kill herself.

Eve & Sylvia, 3eD

"DEEDS, NOT WORDS" What actions did the Suffragettes take to be heard from the Government?

In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst founded the WSPU, and their motto was very soon **"DEEDS NOT WORDS"** to show that taking action was better than only speaking words!


Indeed, even though when they demonstrated and tried to be heard, the British government didn't take their opinion into account. Unlike Millicent FAWCETT and her pacific militants, Emmeline PANKHURST thought that **only violence and illegal actions would allow them to gain the right to vote**.



That's why WSPU members often took violent actions, like smashing shop windows, attacking the polling stations and thus, stopping men from voting and more because they wanted to be heard from the government.

To prove how determined they were, Suffragettes took other actions like burning administrative buildings or the houses of people who had a lot of influence, such as politicians: they set fire to deputy David Lloyd George's country house to make a lot of noise around them and their association. They also burnt mail boxes: they blew public mailboxes with gunpowder to provoke reactions!

Emmeline Pankhurst's Suffragettes thought that demonstrating quietly and silently in the streets mere not sufficient and that violence was the only way to acquire their right to vote.




Suffragettes often ended up in prison because they disrupted public order. However, they never gave up their cause, and even continued their fight in jail when they went on hunger-strike! The wardens feared they died in prison and force-fed them, which was criticized by most of the British population.

Honora, Marion and Yvonne, 210

A Suffragettes' nightmare: Holloway prison

Founded in 1852 as the New City of London Prison, Holloway Prison was initially a mixed prison for men, women and children but in 1903 it became a women-only prison. Holloway prison was the largest women's prison in Europe. It finally closed in 2016.




Hundreds of Suffragettes were incarcerated there between 1905 and 1914 like Norah Elam, Maud Gonne and Emily Davison who was imprisoned 9 times!

Many of them continued their fight for the right to vote in prison by going on hunger strike. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters did so in March 1912 because they wanted to improve the conditions of detention of their fellow Suffragettes.

Most of those who went on hunger strike were force-fed by the wardens who wanted to stop them from rebelling in prison and did not want to be responsible for their deaths.

In 1909, members of the WSPU - Women's Social and Political Union - created a badge to honour the Suffragettes who had been put in jail: they waited for them outside Holloway and pinned the badge on their dresses as an award to be proud of.



The prison governor had a breakdown because the Suffragettes' actions provoked troublesome events at Holloway: their anti-establishment and militant behaviour would spread to other prisoners who would imitate them. And so some started to smash windows to improve the ventilation, others would start defying prison discipline and make constant complaints and demands to be treated better. They organised elections and produced a magazine.

Interesting fact: Holloway had different divisions of prisoners, like a kind of class system: rich prisoners could order their food and wine whereas working class prisoners couldn't.

Adèle & Catherine, 3eD

HM Prison Holloway: a women's prison

Presentation:
Holloway opened in 1852 in London, England. At the time, it was a mixed sex prison. It only became female in 1903 due to the increase of female crimes and the Suffragettes' movement. It was the largest women's prison in Europe at the time of the fight for women's suffrage.



Hunger strike
When a woman was jailed after her crimes, she often decided to go on hunger strike to protest. Of course the prison wardens couldn't let the prisoner die, so they ended up force-feeding her.



Force-feeding
Very soon, the authorities decided to introduce force feeding to hunger-striking prisoners. This involved prison wardens, wardresses and medical staff restraining the prisoner while forcing a rubber tube into their mouth or nose. Mixtures of milk, eggs or other liquid foods were poured into the throat. The prisoner could suffer from broken teeth, bleeding, vomiting, and choking if food was poured into the lungs.




Suffragettes' prison badge
When a suffragette used to get out of prison, other suffragettes gave her a medal with a text saying "for value" on silver pin bard, a piece of tissue and a silver bard with the colors green white and purple, representing the WSPU flag colors, and a charm at the end saying "Hunger strike".



Lily MOLINARO, Ethan LE GUEVEL, 3eB


Emily DAVISON: a stupid girl or a flamboyant heroin?

Emily Wilding Davison (11 October 1872 – 8 June 1913) was an English suffragette who fought for the right to vote for women in Britain in the early 20th century.



Emily was an activist and a violent campaigner who didn't hesitate in taking illegal actions. She was arrested on nine occasions, went on hunger strike seven times and was force-fed on forty-nine occasions.

Vocabulary:
Force-fed: Nourris de force
WSPU: Women's Social and Political Union, a union created by women who fought for the right to vote.



On June, the 14th, 1913, she was trampled by King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby because she wanted to attach the WSPU banner to his horse.

With her sacrifice, the movement gained a lot of publicity and people grew more and more interested in the Suffragettes' cause. She really was a leader of the cause!

Mathieu & Raphaël, 3eB

