



Women's Suffrage: history and citizenship resources for schools

Inspire your students and engage them with their own democratic future through historical case studies of suffragists and contemporary campaigners for gender equality.

The HA is proud to bring you an innovative new project celebrating votes for women, launching in September 2018. Women's Suffrage looks at women at the hustings through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, to the growth of the suffrage movement in the nineteenth century and forward to contemporary democratic voices.

Where can you find 3,000 suffragist campaigners all in one place?

At the heart of the project is a database of over 3,000 individuals from around England who fought for women to get the vote from the mid-nineteenth century through to the early twentieth century. Using data from the 1866 Women's Suffrage Petition and the 1914 Home Office Amnesty (an index of suffragette arrests from 1906-14) the *Women's Suffrage Project* will include biographical detail of individuals

to bring to life the everyday men and women who campaigned for the right to vote through peaceful means and by using more militant methods. The data will also allow students to discover more about their own localities and the broad socio-economic backgrounds of individuals that have characterised their area. They can find out about particular families and connections, trades and occupations, campaigning activity, numbers of men and women actively involved with the suffrage movement, organisations that people belonged to and what roles they took on within those organisations.

Interrogating the data

Guidance and support will be provided to get the most from the database. Resources will include local history questions, guidance to help develop your own local history enquiries as well as questions relating local stories to national movements. Guidance will enable students to ask other questions of the data, for example: *Were campaigners for women's suffrage all middle class?*

Including data sets across a 50-year time span allows for questions regarding changes in the membership, location and activity of suffrage campaigners. This historically rigorous approach will help develop students' substantive knowledge at different scales; from small-scale human stories, to a clear and coherent narrative concerning the evolution of the campaign, to large patterns and trends conveyed through generalisations.

Teacher resources

Teacher guidance will offer support for planning your Key Stage 3 to support GCSE options using the online resources and a timeline to help contextualise the history of women's suffrage. The *Women's Suffrage Project* will include questions and enquiries that put the history of women's suffrage into a broader picture with vignettes and support for looking at women's engagement with elections in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. With a strong emphasis on the story of women and the vote, the project will also help develop a bigger picture of suffrage history.

The database will be supported by academic research with articles, podcasts and film to provide the necessary background and context to recent scholarship. Podcasts with historians will explore the history of elections and the changes to the democratic process from the early seventeenth century with enquiries



and activities to allow students to understand who could vote and who couldn't and how this changed over time. The Project will raise questions such as: *Why can rare instances of women at the hustings as voters be seen in 1640 but not during the nineteenth century? What role did women play in political patronage before the nineteenth century? How did women exercise political power before 1918? Why did women want the vote?*

Further links to national and regional archives, museums and accessible academic-led public projects will provide a starting point for students to undertake their own research into individuals in their locality.

Schools participating in the project will be encouraged to use the historical background to explore current political activity and institutions. We are delighted to be working with the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT) who will be developing a set of flexible assets that teachers can use to suit the curriculum provision in their school and to support their existing teaching on democracy and equality.

The resources available are designed primarily for Key Stage 3 and GCSE history and citizenship. They will include case studies of contemporary campaigners for gender equality. We encourage schools who use the

resources to consider how they can integrate the historical understanding with their citizenship teaching to help students to consider the importance of engaging with the political process and why they should register to vote at 16.

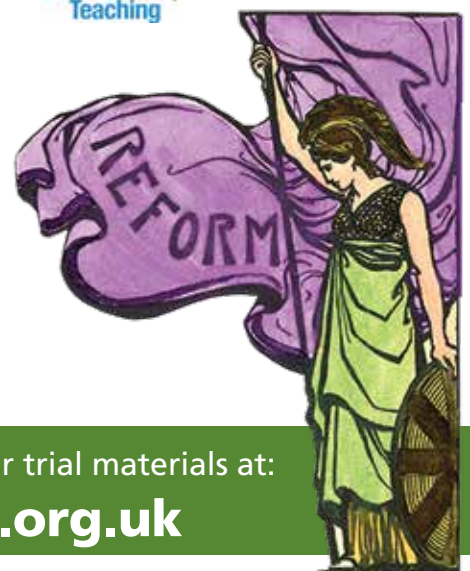
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Supported by the Government Equalities Office, Cabinet Office and Department for Education.



Register your interest today and get access to our trial materials at:

www.suffrageresources.org.uk