

Year 8 History Knowledge Organiser: Why did women get the vote?

Timeline



1897	NUWSS formed. Millicent Fawcett is leader.
1903	WSPU is formed by Emmeline Pankhurst and daughters.
1905	Militant Campaign begins – Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney arrested.
1908	Mass rally in London – 300,000 to 500,000 activists attend. Window smashing using stones with written pleas on them.
1909	Hunger strike and force feeding starts – Marian Wallace Dunlop becomes the first hunger striker.
1913	Militant bomb and arson campaigns and increasing arrests which results in the passing of the “Cat and Mouse” Act , under which hunger strikers are temporarily released then rearrested to prevent them dying in police custody.
1913	Emily Wilding Davison attempts to pin a Suffragette scarf onto the King’s Horse at the Derby. She is struck by the horse and dies 4 days later.
1914	World War 1 starts – Suffragette leaders urge women to join the war effort. NUWSS continues to campaign for recognition for their work.
1918	The Representation of the People Act is passed, allowing men over 21 and women over 30 to vote.

Key People



[Emmeline Pankhurst](#)
– WSPU

Led the WSPU from October 1903. Took more militant action such as windows smashing, arson and hunger strikes. Arrested numerous times, went on hunger strike and was force fed. Died in 1928.



[Christabel Pankhurst](#) - WSPU

Became a speaker for the WSPU in 1905. She trained as a lawyer but could not practice as woman. Arrested with her mother. Fled England in 1912 for fear of being arrested again. Unsuccessfully ran for Parliament in 1918.



[Emily Wilding Davison](#) - WSPU

Joined WSPU in 1906. 3 years later, left job as a teacher and became a suffragette full time. Frequently arrested for number of crimes including setting fire to post box. By 1911, become increasingly militant.



[Millicent Fawcett](#)
- NUWSS

Leading suffragist and led NUWSS from 1897-1919. Played a key role in getting women the vote. Dedicated to using constitutional means, and argued that militancy was counter-productive.

Tier 3 Words

Cat and Mouse Act	Permitted suffragettes on hunger strike to be released but re-arrested once well again to complete their sentences.
Force feeding	Imprisoned suffragettes on hunger strike were sometimes force fed. Being force fed involved a rubber tube being inserted into the throat or nose and liquidised food being poured in.
Hunger strike	Some imprisoned suffragettes went on hunger strike to further raise awareness for their cause.
NUWSS	The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) was formed in 1897 and brought together many smaller suffrage organisations. The NUWSS's method was non-confrontational and constitutional.
Representation of the People Act	In 1918, the Representation of the People Act granted the vote to women over 30 who were also householders, the wives of householders, owners of property worth over £5 or university graduates. The Act also granted the franchise to all men over the age of 21.
Suffragette	A campaigner for women's suffrage willing to undertake militant action or to break the law.
Suffragist	A campaigner for women's suffrage who believes in constitutional methods of campaigning.

Tier 2 Words

Arson	The act of deliberately setting fire to property with a view to causing extensive damage.
Constitutional	A peaceful, legal way of campaigning, often using recognised 'political' methods such as petitions.
Enfranchisement	To be granted the vote or the state of having the vote.
Manifesto	A public declaration or proclamation, stating the aims and methods of a campaign group.
Militant	Aggressive and violent behaviour in pursuit of a political cause, favouring extreme or confrontational campaign methods.
Petition	A formal written request or application, especially one signed by many people, to a particular individual or group, for example, a government.
Propaganda	The publication of resources and ideas designed to encourage a particular and specific response.
Suffrage	The right to vote in political elections.

