

Year 8 Learn Sheet

Final Assessment *The Development of Democracy – women and the vote in Britain*

Key words:

Democracy – the idea that people choose their leaders by voting. It also means the people enjoy freedoms.

Suffrage – the right to vote

MP – A Member of Parliament

Adultery – ‘cheating’ on your partner

Hunger Strike – protesting against your treatment in jail by refusing to eat

Who could vote in the early 1800s?

- **Only** men with property could vote
- Votes were **bought** by candidates or threats were used to pressure people into voting
- Voting was in public **not** in secret
- In ‘**rotten boroughs**’ only a very small number could vote, while in big cities like Manchester full of poor people, **there was not a single MP**

The civil rights of women in the 19th century

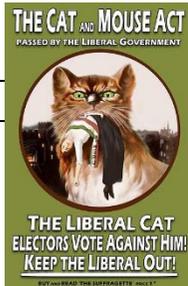
- In Victorian Britain it was believed that the ‘mission’ of women was to support their husbands
- Married women could **not** work or own their own wealth/property
- Divorce was **only** allowed if **2 out of the 3 things were happening: the husband was cruel, had abandoned his wife, had committed adultery**

Divorce was **rare** – women **couldn’t** escape abuse. If divorce did happen the woman was shunned by society. She couldn’t easily get a job and in most cases she would never see her children again.

Suffrage movement:

- By 1897 many women had had enough. The campaign for improving women’s civil rights in Britain had fully begun
- There were two different groups:

Suffragists (NUWSS)	Suffragettes (WSPU)
<p>Set up: 1897</p> <p>Leader: Millicent Fawcett</p> <p>Protest type: peaceful protest</p> <p>Examples: leaflets, speeches, petitions (signed names) to MPs</p> <p>Problems: they weren’t getting quick results</p>	<p>Set up: 1903</p> <p>Leader: Emmeline Pankhurst</p> <p>Protest type: actions/sometimes violent protest</p> <p>Slogan: “Deeds not words”</p> <p>Examples: throwing an axe at the carriage of the Prime Minister, blowing up post boxes, going on hunger strike, Emily Davison’s death</p> <p>Problems: the violent actions of some Suffragettes meant that many MPs continued to think women were irresponsible</p>



How did the war change things?

When WW1 started in 1914, Pankhurst decided to help the British government. Suffragettes could now prove that women were **responsible** enough to have the vote. Young women became **munitionettes** (making shells [bombs] in factories). Without them the soldiers wouldn’t have been able to fight. It worked! **In 1918 women 30 and over with some property in their family the right to vote. All women could vote from 1928.**