

- Susan B. Anthony's friend Amelia Bloomer helped to make popular more comfortable clothes for women. These became known as "bloomers." Show students photographs of some of the tight corsets, heavy petticoats and huge hoopskirts that women wore in the 19th century. Ask students to describe how women might have felt wearing these clothes. How would women's lives be different today if they had to wear clothing like this? As a follow-up, students may sketch drawings of 19th-century styles of clothing or try to draw clothing that they think would make their own lives more comfortable.
- Many people were involved in the fight for women's rights. Provide students with the names of other women who worked for this cause, and ask them to research their lives and accomplishments. Students may also give presentations on important suffragists.
- While trying to overcome numerous obstacles, Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly to promote women's rights. However, women did not officially gain the right to vote until the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Ask students to describe how Anthony would have felt to learn that her goal had finally been achieved. Ask students to research the first election in which all women in the United States could vote, and about women voting and women in government today. Students may write letters to Susan B. Anthony telling her about the information they've found in their research.
- To give students the feeling of what it's like to vote, hold an election in your class! Select an issue for students to vote on, such as how to best decorate your classroom, and break students into small groups so they can discuss their opinions on the matter. Ask each student to vote, and implement the decision made by the majority of students.
- Ask students to create a collage of images of women from around the world in various modern roles.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.susanbanthonyhouse.org/
The Susan B. Anthony house in Rochester, New York offers this site, which offers valuable information, including an extensive timeline, and allows students to take a "virtual tour" of Anthony's residence.
- memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html
This Library of Congress site is an extremely valuable research tool for teachers, consisting of primary source materials from the National Woman Suffrage Association Collection. (Continued)

- www.greatwomen.org/
The National Women's Hall of Fame provides students with brief biographies on famous women in American history, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
- www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trr040.html
This American Memory site from the Library of Congress contains images from Elizabeth Cady Stanton's scrapbook of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Suggested Print Resources

- Corey, Shana. *You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer: A Very Improper Story*. Scholastic Press, New York, NY; 2000. This light, fictional account tells the story of Amelia Bloomer, presenting her controversial fashion ideas within the broader context of the women's rights movement.
- Fritz, Jean. *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?* Putnam, New York, NY; 1995.
- McCully, Emily. *The Ballot Box Battle*. Knopf, New York, NY; 1996. This fictional story gives young students a glimpse into the life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the status of women in the 19th century.
- Raatma, Lucia. *Susan B. Anthony*. Compass Point Books, Minneapolis, MN; 2001.

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SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Grades K-4

This guide is a supplement designed for teachers to use when presenting this program. The guide provides you with a brief historical overview, previewing and follow-up discussion questions, vocabulary, focus questions for assessing comprehension, extension activities and print and Internet resources.

Before Viewing: Give students an introduction to the topic by relaying aspects of the program overview to them. Select pre-viewing discussion questions and vocabulary to provide a focus for students when they view the program.

After Viewing: Review the program and vocabulary, and use the follow-up questions and activities to inspire continued discussion. Encourage students to research the topic further with the Internet and print resources provided.



Historical Overview

Voting is one of America's most important rights, yet for much of the history of the United States, women were not permitted to vote. Susan B. Anthony, a leading advocate for the rights of women, worked tirelessly and heroically to try and change the laws so women could have a voice in this country.

At the time Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820, women had almost no rights and were not allowed to go to college. Jobs were limited to "ladylike" occupations like teaching school or caring for children, and married women's wages were paid directly to their husbands. Anthony became a teacher and was shocked to learn that male teachers earned much more money than female teachers. At this time slavery still existed, and Anthony became active in the abolitionist movement, campaigning for the freedom of enslaved Africans. She used the lessons she learned from this fight in the battle for women's rights.

Other women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton believed in women's rights as well, and in 1848 the first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. Anthony and Stanton would work together for many years after this famous convention to persuade others to believe in their cause.

Susan B. Anthony faced many obstacles in her quest but she never gave up, traveling thousands of miles and delivering countless speeches. Failure, to her, was impossible. Although women did not win the right to vote in her lifetime, less than twenty years after she died, Congress finally signed into law the Nineteenth Amendment, which says that women cannot be denied the right to vote in any state in America.

Vocabulary

textile mill — A factory in which thread is woven into cloth to be made into clothing.

Quakers — Also known as the Society of Friends, a religious group that believes strongly in religious freedom and whose services involve equal participation by men and women. Susan B. Anthony was raised as a Quaker.

abolitionist — A person who is opposed to slavery.

slave — A person who is owned by another person.

Women's Rights Convention — The first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, which demanded equality and the right to vote for women.

Declaration of Independence — A document issued on July 4, 1776, which declared that the American colonies were free and independent states. Thomas Jefferson was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence.

American Revolution — The war fought between 1776 and 1783 in which America defeated the British and resulted in America's independence. Also called the Revolutionary War.

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enslaved — The state or nature of being owned by another person.

The Married Women's Property Act — A law first passed in New York in 1848, but which was amended in 1860 to allow women to have more control over their money and property.

The Civil War — A major war in the United States between 1861 and 1865 in which northern states battled southern states that were attempting to break away from the United States of America

revolution — A major change in how a country is ruled.

National Woman Suffrage Association — An organization formed in 1890 that helped secure the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

suffragist — A person who works to help people, especially women, obtain the right to vote.

International Council of Women — An organization formed in 1888 by women, including Susan B. Anthony, whose goal was to improve the lives of women.

19th Amendment — An amendment to the United States Constitution that was ratified in 1920 and gave women the right to vote.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- During Susan B. Anthony's life, women did not have the same opportunities as men did to go to school. Ask students why it is important to go to school and get an education.
- Although our country was officially a democracy, until 1920 most women could not vote in the United States. Explain to students why voting is important in the United States. Discuss why it would be wrong for some people in our country to be allowed to vote while others could not.
- Ask students to describe the personal characteristics of a person who never gives up. Why is it important for people to continue to work hard towards their goals, despite problems and setbacks?

Focus Questions

1. What is Susan B. Anthony best known for?
2. Why did Susan B. Anthony's father start his own school?
3. What kinds of jobs were available to women in the early 1800s?
4. Why was housework so difficult in the early 19th century?
5. Why weren't women able to change rules or laws that were unfair?
6. How did Susan B. Anthony try to end slavery?
7. What important meeting took place in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848?
What did Elizabeth Cady Stanton speak about at this meeting?

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8. What type of education did Elizabeth Cady Stanton receive instead of college?
9. How did Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton spread their message about women's rights?
10. What was the Married Women's Property Act?
11. What did Susan B. Anthony do during the Civil War?
12. What was The National Woman Suffrage Association's goal?
13. Why was Susan B. Anthony arrested in 1872?
14. What states were the first to give women the right to vote?
15. What did the 19th amendment accomplish?

Discussion Questions

- During Susan B. Anthony's life, there weren't electric appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers or microwave ovens. Ask students to discuss how their lives might be different if they did not have access to these modern conveniences in their homes.
- When Susan B. Anthony was a teacher, she discovered that male teachers made much more money than female teachers! Ask students how they would feel if they earned less money than another person who did the exact same job.
- Ask students to think of something they would like to see changed in the world and to describe why they feel this change is important. Based on what they know about the life of Susan B. Anthony, ask students to discuss a variety of ways they could tell other people about what they believe in, and how they would go about changing the world!
- By casting her vote for Ulysses Grant in the presidential election of 1872, Susan B. Anthony broke the law that said women were not allowed to vote, a bold act that helped bring attention to and eventually led to a change in this unfair law. In many other countries, unfair laws cannot be changed. Ask students to discuss why it is important that we can change laws in America. Why is being able to change laws good for people in the United States?

Follow-up Activities

- In her speech at the 1848 Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, Elizabeth Cady Stanton spoke about women's rights such as the rights to speak freely, to own property and to go to college. Break students into small groups and ask students in each group to reflect on their own lives and create lists of rights they feel all young people should have.

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