

Suggested Internet Resources

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

- www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/timeline/
The BBC provides a valuable interactive timeline of 20th-century women's history.
- rs6.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html
The Library of Congress' "Votes for Women: Selections from the National American Woman Suffrage Association Collection, 1848-1921" offers books, pamphlets and other artifacts that document the suffrage campaign.
- www.brynmawr.edu/library/exhibits/suffrage/pankhurst.html
Bryn Mawr College's Special Library Collections' "Dedicated to the Cause: Bryn Mawr Women and the Right to Vote" has a wealth of information on the Suffragette Movement.

Suggested Print Resources

- Bausum, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*. National Geographic, Washington, D.C.; 2004.
- Cooney, Robert P.J. *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*. American Graphic Press, Santa Cruz, CA; 2005.
- Purvis, June. *Emmeline Pankhurst: A Biography*. Routledge, New York, NY; 2002.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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TITLES

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| • WINSTON CHURCHILL | • RICHARD NIXON |
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GREATEST SPEECHES OF THE 20TH CENTURY™

VOICES IN TIME

EMMELINE PANKHURST: CHAMPION OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Grades 9-12

Great political speeches are authentic and heart felt — designed to move audiences, instill trust, and clearly and effectively communicate goals and policies. *Greatest Speeches of the 20th Century: Voices in Time* will introduce viewers to a wide range of prominent leaders and analyze the rhetoric they used to persuade others during times of dramatic social change and intense political turmoil. Students will become more knowledgeable about the immediate impact and enduring effect of history's most remarkable speeches, and through these stirring words increase their awareness of 20th century world history.



Historical Overview

The concept that a woman's vote is equal to a man's is a very recent development in advanced western democracies. Like so many rights that are now taken for granted, universal suffrage was brought about through a long and sometimes brutal struggle. Suffragettes like Emmeline Pankhurst in Great Britain fought hard battles in what they referred to as a "civil war" to achieve the right to vote. As a young mother, the fiery and intelligent Pankhurst was appalled at the conditions of poor working women, which underscored her belief in the need for women to have a say in the creation of law. In 1903, she helped form the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in Great Britain. Pankhurst's powerful and persuasive speeches incited her organization's often militant activism and inspired protestors to endure long prison sentences and hunger strikes, which resulted in the repeal of Great Britain's unjust, antiquated laws.

Time Line

1858 — Emmeline Pankhurst is born in Manchester, England.

1867 — The London Society for Women's Suffrage is formed.

1903 — The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) is formed.

1908–1909 — Emmeline Pankhurst is jailed three times.

1912 — The WSPU becomes extremely militant.

1914 — World War I begins.

1918 — The Representation of the People Act is passed, granting some women the right to vote.

1928 — Unrestricted women's suffrage is passed in England; weeks later, Emmeline Pankhurst dies.

1948 — The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is adopted.

Vocabulary

referendum — A form of direct democracy in which citizens vote for the final approval of a legislative act.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights — A 1948 document that lists all of the social, political and economic rights that all people in the world should have.

Suffragist — A reformer, such as Susan B. Anthony, who worked to obtain the right for women to vote.

Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) — An organization formed originally by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1903 to get more working class women involved in the voting rights movement. Later, the WSPU staged demonstrations, hunger strikes and more militant protest actions.

civil disobedience — The act of resisting government laws that one believes are unfair or unjust.

Liberal Party — A major political party in Great Britain, which formed in the early 19th century, that helped pass numerous social reforms in the early 20th century. The party has since merged with the Social Democratic Party to form the Liberal Democrats.

The Cat and Mouse Act — A strategy British police used to prevent suffragette hunger strikers from becoming martyrs by releasing women from prison when they became ill and returning them to prison when their health improved.

World War One — The first major war of the 20th century that involved the Allied Powers, led by Great Britain, France and Russia, and their opponents, the Central Powers, which included Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Representation of the People Act — A 1918 law passed by Parliament that granted some women the right to vote in Great Britain.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights state?
2. In what western countries were women not allowed to vote in 1910? Which country pioneered the concept of women voting?
3. Who were the major political influences in Emmeline Pankhurst's life?
4. How were WSPU members treated at the Free Trade Hall meeting in Manchester?
5. What was the Cat and Mouse Act?
6. How did the Pankhurst women respond to the challenge of World War I?
7. What voting restrictions were written into the Representation of the People Act?

Discussion Questions and Activities

- Emmeline Pankhurst's autobiography, *My Own Story*, was published in 1914. Ask students to read excerpts from her book and discuss Pankhurst's personal observations on her formative years, passage of the Franchise Bill and waging guerrilla warfare. Portions of *My Own Story* are at the following web site:
www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1914Pankhurst.html
- Prior to World War I, many in British society were horrified by the militant protest tactics of members of the WSPU. Ask students to research newspaper accounts that described the actions and methods of this radical group. As an extension, students may compare and contrast the civil disobedience methods used by the WSPU with those of other voting and civil rights movements from history. Newspaper stories from the early 20th century about Emmeline Pankhurst and the WSPU may be found at the following web site: rs6.loc.gov/ammem/collections/suffrage/millerscrapbooks/titleE.html
- With the vigorous women's suffrage movement in the United States achieving victories in some states, Susan B. Anthony traveled to England and visited Emmeline Pankhurst in 1902. Ask students to compare and contrast the goals and strategies of Anthony and Pankhurst and to role play a mock conversation between the two civil rights leaders at this time. Students may speculate about the impact this meeting had on the British suffragette movement.

(Continued)