



Today we are going to research the suffragettes.

What is a suffragette?

Why did they exist?

What were they fighting for?

What Is Vote 100?

2018 marks several important anniversaries in the history of British democracy. Vote 100 is a project to commemorate the laws and events which brought about equal votes for all.



Throughout 2018, there will be a series of events to celebrate these anniversaries. There will be online exhibitions and a major public exhibition in Westminster Hall.

Votes for Women

2018 marks the [centenary](#) of the Representation of the People Act. When parliament passed the act, all men over 21 received the vote as well as some women over 30.

That same year, women voted for the first time in a general election. This was also the first time in which women over 21 were able to stand for election as MPs.



Think about it

What was the significance of the First World War in the campaign for women's votes?

The Suffragists and Suffragettes

Before 1918, all women were not allowed to vote in general elections. Whilst some men and MPs (such as George Lansbury) supported women's right to vote, the majority of men opposed it.

The Suffragists focused on lobbying locally and nationally to try and gain the vote for women.

The Suffragettes went to greater lengths for the cause, including illegal and violent campaigns.

Some women weren't happy to accept that and were passionate about democratic equality. There were two groups active in campaigning for women's suffrage in the early 20th century.

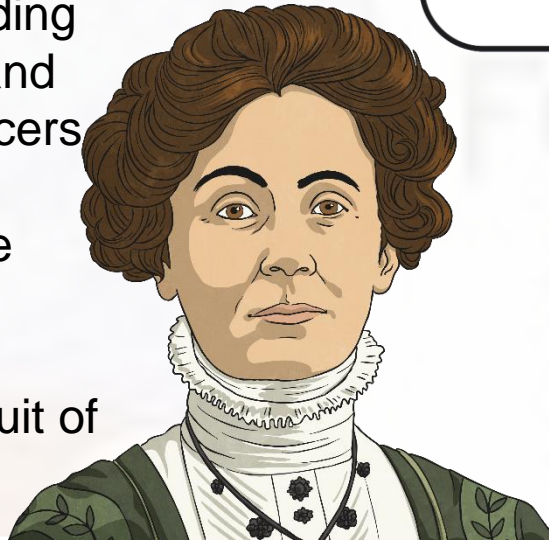
Use the internet to research about the early campaigns for women's suffrage and create a poster. How did the two groups differ? Who were the main people involved? What were the main events?

Do it

Emmeline Pankhurst

The leader of the suffragette movement was Emmeline Pankhurst. Born in Manchester to parents who were politically active, she was first involved in the women's [suffrage](#) movement at the age of just 14.

In their campaign for 'Votes for Women', [Suffragettes](#) were known for public confrontations, including smashing windows and assaulting police officers. Along with her daughters, Emmeline spent time in prison where she went on hunger strike in pursuit of her goal.



Listen to one of Emmeline Pankhurst's rousing speeches!

[Listen to it](#)

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Millicent Fawcett

Born in Suffolk but educated at boarding school in London, Millicent Fawcett led the largest peaceful suffragist organisation, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Her interest in literature and education began in her school years and would influence her work campaigning for rights for women throughout her life.

Aged 19, she went to a speech by the MP John Stuart Mill. She was inspired by his support for women's rights and became actively involved in his campaign.



Millicent Fawcett died in 1929. Can you find out what she witnessed in parliament just a year before?

Find it

Voice and Vote

Westminster Hall will host a major public exhibition in 2018 and there will be a number of activities associated with it.



The project, which examines all aspects of the campaign through the creative arts, is a celebration of women's suffrage.

The project began in 2014 with funding from the Speaker's Art Fund and includes online exhibitions, a [curator's](#) blog and social media campaigns.

Create your own piece to include in an exhibition about universal **suffrage**. This could be a picture or poem or maybe a video.

Find it

Celebrating 90 Years of Equality

Between 30th June and 2nd July 2018, you have the chance to celebrate our [democratic equality](#) with a cup of tea and slice of cake.

This weekend marks the 90th anniversary of the Representation of the People (Equal [Franchise](#)) Act which finally gave men and women equal voting rights.

EqualiTeas is a chance to share your experience of democracy, debate your views and celebrate the people and events who brought about democratic equality.

Find it

