

HISTORY / CITIZENSHIP · Y4–Y6

# The Suffragettes & Women's Suffrage

Knowledge Organiser — Y4–Y6

## Key vocabulary

1

**Suffrage**

The right to vote in elections. 'Suffragette' refers specifically to the militant campaigners for women's suffrage in the UK.

2

**Suffragettes (WSPU)**

Members of the Women's Social and Political Union, founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1903. Used militant tactics: hunger strikes, window-smashing, arson, chaining themselves to railings.

3

**Suffragists (NUWSS)**

Members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, led by Millicent Fawcett. Used peaceful, constitutional methods: petitions, marches, lobbying Parliament.

4

**Emmeline Pankhurst (1858–1928)**

Founder of the WSPU. Most famous leader of the suffragette movement. Arrested many times; underwent hunger strikes; died shortly after women were granted equal voting rights to men.

5

**Emily Davison (1872–1913)**

Suffragette who died after running onto the racecourse at the Epsom Derby and being struck by the King's horse. Whether it was a planned act of protest is still debated.

6

**Representation of the People Act 1918**

Gave the vote to women over 30 who met property qualifications. 8.4 million women could now vote. Equal voting rights to men came in 1928.



# of women's suffrage

1903–1928

- 1897: Millicent Fawcett founds NUWSS (constitutional suffragists)
- 1903: Emmeline Pankhurst founds WSPU ('Deeds, not words')
- 1905: First suffragette arrests — Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney
- 1913: Emily Davison dies after the Epsom Derby incident
- 1913: Cat and Mouse Act — allows release and re-arrest of hunger-striking prisoners
- 1914–1918: WWI — many suffragettes support the war effort; some continue campaigning
- 1918: Representation of the People Act — women over 30 with property can vote
- 1928: Equal Franchise Act — all women over 21 can vote, equal to men
- KEY QUESTION: Did the militant tactics of the suffragettes help or hinder the cause?

