

Women in World War I

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CONTEXT

Women engaged in World War I in a variety of capacities. They served in support roles for the American and British militaries, worked as nurses and doctors, volunteered for the International Red Cross, drove ambulances, worked in factories, and grew much-needed crops. At the end of World War I, suffrage was expanded to women in both the United States and Great Britain. This activity is designed to help students explore the parallels and divergences in the suffrage movements as well as the way in which service in World War I helped drive home the importance of suffrage as a component of citizenship. This activity is designed to synthesize student knowledge about the women's rights movements with what they have learned about women's service in World War I.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Suffragettes on File Document Collection

The National Archives (United Kingdom)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/suffragettes-on-file/>

Woman Suffrage and the Nineteenth Amendment Document Collection

National Archives and Records Administration (United States)

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/woman-suffrage/>

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the techniques used by the suffrage movements in the United States and Great Britain during World War I; and
- Discuss the impact the war (and women's contributions to the war effort) had on the suffrage movement.

Teacher Instructions

- Make one copy of the Analyzing the Women's Suffrage Movement Graphic Organizer for each student.
- Divide the class in half.
- Assign half of the students to review the women's suffrage movement in Great Britain and half to review the women's suffrage movement in the United States.
- Ask students to complete the first four rows of the graphic organizer using the document collections.
- Encourage students to synthesize information and list key events, people, or ideas, without getting bogged down in too many details. Encourage students to work in small groups to encourage synthesis and pooling knowledge.

***Teacher Tip:** Teachers can select to provide students with the link to the two document collections, links to specific documents within the collection, or printed copies of preferred documents.

- Pair one student from each side with another student from the other half of the class.
 - Ask students to share what they have learned in their research for the first four rows.
 - Ask students to work together to complete the bottom four rows. Encourage students to refer to primary sources or secondary research as needed to help them.
 - Circulate around the room and assist students as needed. Offer prompts from the answer key if needed to get students started.
 - Review student responses as a class.
 - Wrap the activity by asking students, *Do you think women's suffrage in Great Britain and the United States can be seen as a direct legacy of World War I? Why or why not? Justify your answer.* Students can respond verbally or in writing as per teacher discretion.

Analyzing the Women's Suffrage Movement

Graphic Organizer

	GREAT BRITAIN	UNITED STATES
Origins		
Women were blocked by voting because of the		
Key Leaders		
Key Organizations		

Analyzing the Women's Suffrage Movement

Graphic Organizer (cont.)

	GREAT BRITAIN		UNITED STATES	
Related Movements				
Tactics				
How did women's work in WWI influence suffrage?				
Suffrage Granted / Expanded by				

Analyzing the Women's Suffrage Movement

Graphic Organizer Answer Key

	GREAT BRITAIN	UNITED STATES
Origins	1866 petition to Parliament for the right to vote	1848 – Seneca Falls Declaration 1850 – National Women's Rights Convention
Women were blocked by voting because of the	Reform Act 1832 – voting reform bill that limited voting rights to “male persons”	U.S. Constitution, most state constitutions
Key Leaders	Lilly Maxwell John Stuart Mill Helen Taylor Millicent Fawcett Emily Davies Emmeline Pankhurst Emily Wilding Davidson Christabel Pankhurst Sylvia Pankhurst	Elizabeth Cady Stanton Lucretia Mott Sojourner Truth Susan B. Anthony Carrie Chapman Catt Ida B. Wells Lucy Stone Alice Paul Harriet Stanton Blatch Lucy Burns
Key Organizations	National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) Dublin Women's Suffrage Association Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)	National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) National Woman's Party (NWP) National Association of Colored Women (NACW)

Analyzing the Women's Suffrage Movement

Graphic Organizer Answer Key

	GREAT BRITAIN		UNITED STATES	
Related Movements	abolitionism / anti-slavery movement urbanization industrialization Progressivism imperialism Victorian Era (U.K.) / Gilded Age (U.S.) Jim Crow / segregation African American suffrage (U.S.) Pro-war movement / Anti-war movement (World War I) Anti-suffrage movements			
Tactics	lobbying national government lobbying state governments (U.S.) picketing / protests / strikes parades and marches militant activities (more common in Great Britain) imprisonment / hunger strikes			
How did women's work in WWI influence suffrage?	women served in support roles in the military women worked in factories / farms to support the war effort women contributed to bond drives women volunteered at home and abroad for relief organizations (International Red Cross, Salvation Army, YWCA)			
Suffrage Granted / Expanded by	-Representation of the People Act (1918) – gave women over age 30 with property the right to vote -Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act (1928)		-Nineteenth Amendment (1920) -Voting Rights Act (1965)	