

The Suffragettes





Learning Objective

To know about the Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.

- To know who Emmeline Pankhurst was.
- To know why she is an important pioneer.

Who was Emmeline Pankhurst?



Emmeline Pankhurst was a British woman who campaigned for women's rights.

She is most famous for founding the Suffragette organization
which fought for women to have the right to vote.

Emmeline Pankhurst's Life



- Emmeline Goulden was born on 15 July 1858 in Manchester.
- Her parents were involved in politics and she was first told about the suffrage movement when she was just 8 years old.
- In 1879, when she was 21, she married Richard Pankhurst. He was 24 years older than Emmeline and he was also involved in politics.

Emmeline Pankhurst's Life

- Children: On 22 October 1880 her eldest daughter, Christabel was born. In the years that followed Richard and Emmeline had 4 more children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Sadly the elder boy became ill and died.
- In 1898 Richard died and it was left to Emmeline to look after the family. However, she still remained heavily involved in politics and women's rights.



Emmeline Pankhurst's Life

- In 1905 Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) they later became known as the Suffragettes.
- The WSPU was more forceful than the other women's rights groups before it. Their motto was '**Deeds, not words.**'
- The WSPU made speeches, organised rallies and protests but soon they became violent. They threw rocks, smashed windows and set fire to postboxes.
- As a result of the violence Emmeline was arrested many times and was sent to prison. L



Emmeline Pankhurst's Life

- In 1914 World War I began. The Suffragettes had to stop their campaign to help with the war effort. Emmeline helped women go to work to do the jobs normally done by the men, while they were away fighting in the army.
- In 1918, when the war was over, the Prime Minister David Lloyd George passed a law which allowed married women over the age of 30 to vote.
- In 1928 the *Equal Franchise Act* was passed and became law on 2 July that all women could vote from 21 years old, giving them equal rights with men.
- Just a few days later, on 14 July 1928 Emmeline Pankhurst died, aged 69 at a nursing home in Hampstead.

Who were The Suffragettes?



The word **suffrage** means having the right to vote.

The Suffragettes campaigned for women to be allowed to vote by organising rallies and protests and giving speeches.

Before the first war women were not treated the same as men, they were not thought of being equal to men.

Who were The Suffragettes?



Women were not allowed to:

- **vote** (it was thought that they weren't intelligent enough to understand what went on in the world of politics.)
- **own property** like houses.
- do 'important' **jobs**, e.g. doctors or lawyers.
- it was not seen as important for girls and young women to go to **school and university**.

The Suffragettes went to extreme measures to continue their campaign; they smashed windows, burned down churches and chained themselves to buildings.

Task

Sort the suffragette statements into before and now.

Optional task:

Design a poster/sign that could be used by Emmeline Pankhurst on one of her protest marches.

