

WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1 What do you think the following events and terms refer to? Discuss with a partner.

interbellum	the Great Depression
suffragettes	the Roaring Twenties
Wall Street crash	the prohibition
inflation	the Dust Bowl

2 Match the events and terms to the explanations.

a interbellum	e the Great Depression
b suffragettes	f the Roaring Twenties
c Wall Street crash	g the prohibition
d inflation	h the Dust Bowl

- The ban on the production and sale of alcohol in the USA from 1920 until 1933.
- The interwar period between the end of World War I (1914-1918) and the beginning of World War II (1939-1945).
- A period of great economic and cultural prosperity in the 1920s in the USA, Canada and Western Europe.
- The members of women's organizations in the 19th and 20th centuries fighting for women's right to vote in general elections.
- Also known as the Stock Market Crash of 1929 or Black Tuesday. It began on Thursday, 24 October 1929 and it started the biggest stock market crash in US history. It was the beginning of the Great Depression.
- A global economic crisis which caused unemployment and stopped economic development in the 1930s.
- A period of great dust storms and drought in the USA in the 1930s.
- This process happens when the prices go up but the value of money goes down.



3 Read the report on the suffragette movement. Match the titles to the text.

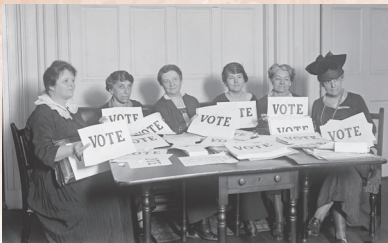
a Women fight back with "Suffrajitsu"

d Women vs the government

b Suffragettes in Great Britain

e The history of voting

c Votes for women



There are many liberties and rights we take for granted in the modern world, and one of them is certainly a person's right to vote. While most people have always had the right to vote for whom they wanted, women have only been accepted into this exclusive club in the previous century. The first modern country to allow women the right to vote was New Zealand in 1893 and the last European country to do the same was Switzerland in 1971.

In Great Britain the fight for women's suffrage started at the end of the 19th century when women's suffrage societies began campaigning in a peaceful way for women's rights. Soon it became clear that meetings, petitions and pamphlets would not make any significant improvements and that women would need to come up with a different strategy. In 1903 Emmeline and her daughter Christabel Pankhurst organised the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and suffragettes began fighting for their rights more violently.



By 1912 it was clear that the British government did not plan on allowing women the right to vote. This motivated the WSPU to start using different tactics. Soon suffragettes were using vandalism, protests and even bombs to draw attention to their cause. The government reacted by putting almost a thousand women in prison where they continued their protests by going on hunger strikes. Because the government did not want to be responsible for women dying of hunger in prisons, they would either force-feed them or let them go home to get better and then put them back in prison under the so-called "Cat and Mouse Act".

Suffragettes soon had to fight more than just their government. In 1910 during a protest in front of the Parliament the police attacked more than 200 women and arrested more than 100. This event came to be known as Black Friday and it encouraged women to start learning jiu-jitsu in order to protect themselves. Not only were women learning martial arts to fight the police but they also protected their leaders in public places by organising their own security team called The Bodyguard.



Everything changed in 1914 with the beginning of World War I. The government released the suffragettes out of prisons and the women put the fight for votes on hold and focused on helping out on the battlefield and the home front. Partly in recognition of their work during the war, in 1918 all women over 30 were finally granted the right to vote and in 1928 every woman over the age of 21 got the same right.

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4 Choose only one correct answer that best paraphrases the underlined word or phrase.

- 1 There are many liberties and rights we take for granted in the modern world.
- a understand to be normal
 - b do not understand to be normal
 - c fight for
- 2 Women have only been accepted into this exclusive club in the previous century.
- a 19th
 - b 20th
 - c 21st
- 3 In Great Britain the fight for women's suffrage started at the end of the 19th century.
- a rights
 - b suffering
 - c right to vote
- 4 Soon it became clear that meetings, petitions and pamphlets would not make any significant improvements and that women would need to come up with a different strategy.
- a songs, renovations, rise up
 - b leaflets, important changes, think of
 - c fliers, small changes, invent
- 5 By 1912 it was clear that the British government did not plan on allowing women the right to vote.
- a asking
 - b giving
 - c taking from
- 6 Soon suffragettes were using vandalism, protests and even bombs to draw attention to their cause.
- a to make people notice and support their fight
 - b to make people help them
 - c to make people join them
- 7 Women in prison continued their protests by going on hunger strikes and then the government would force-feed them.
- a eating, ask them nicely to eat
 - b throwing away food, make them clean the mess up
 - c stopping eating, make them eat

- 8 Women were learning martial arts to protect themselves from the police.
- a sports used for losing weight
 - b painting
 - c sports used for self-defence and attacking
- 9 Women put the fight for votes on hold and focused on helping out on the battlefield and the home front.
- a stopped fighting for votes for a period of time
 - b didn't stop fighting for votes
 - c stopped fighting for votes for ever
- 10 Partly in recognition of their work during the war, in 1918 all women over 30 were finally granted the right to vote.
- a not because, given
 - b because, allowed
 - c as thanks, denied the possibility

5 Choose one 20th-century event and do research on it. Prepare a short presentation. The questions below might help you.

Wall Street crash

the prohibition

the Roaring Twenties

the Great Depression

the Dust Bowl



WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT – ANSWER KEY

1 Students' own answers.

2 g, a, f, b, c, e, h, d

3 e, b, d, a, d

4 1 a, 2 b, 3 c, 4 b, 5 b, 6 a, 7 c, 8 c, 9 a, 10 b

5 Students' own answers.