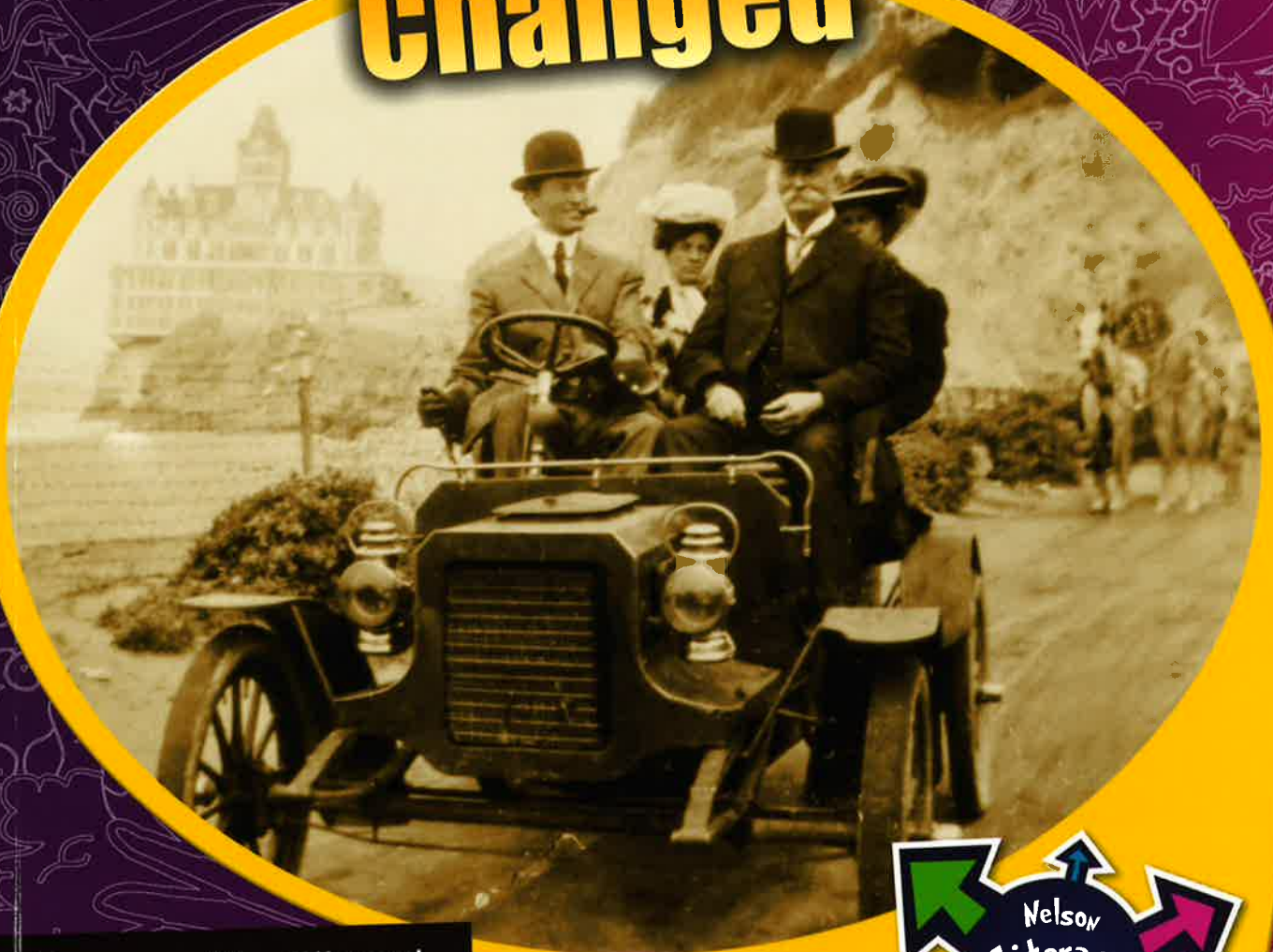


1913

The Year the World Changed



How was life different
100 years ago?

John Parsons



1913: The Year the World Changed

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Dear Reader

One hundred years ago, the world was a very different place. Many of the things we now take for granted, like highways, petrol stations, zippers, crossword puzzles, air travel and items made from stainless steel, were making their first appearance.

“

1913 WAS A TIME WHEN MANY NEW IDEAS, TECHNOLOGIES AND WAYS OF DOING THINGS BEGAN TO ALTER HOW SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD HAD OPERATED FOR CENTURIES.

”

Many of the things we now think of as normal in modern-day society, like the right to vote, were also not fully available to most people. The last century has seen a complete revolution in the way we live. I hope you enjoy reading about life a hundred years ago – and I hope, like me, you'll wonder how much more life will change in the next hundred years!

John Parsons



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1913: The Year the World Changed

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1

A World on the Verge of Change

1913

In 1913, an exhibition of modern art, called the Armory Show, was held in New York, USA. For many people, this was the first opportunity for them to see some new styles of art that were becoming popular in Europe at that time. Here is what one reviewer, writing in a New York newspaper, had to say about the modern works on display, from art movements such as cubism, impressionism and futurism, and renowned artists such as Picasso, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Cézanne.

"If you tied a paint brush to a cow's tail and then placed her in front of a canvas where flies could worry her, you would have a futurist painting. The best I can say about the exhibition is that it would have been twice as bad if there had been twice as many pictures."



the Armoury Show catalogue



Another reviewer disliked the paintings so much that he declared "the only thing I enjoyed was the beautiful brickwork in the walls of the gallery".

Today, artworks by these same artists are highly valued. In the first years of the twenty-first century, paintings by Cézanne have reached staggering prices of up to \$250 million. Picasso's artworks have sold for as much as \$124 million. The record price for a Van Gogh painting was over \$82 million. The world of art, as with much of the world around us, has changed enormously in the last 100 years. (You can find out more about how people felt about modern art in 1913 in Chapter 5: An Artistic Revolution on page 26.)

Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) in his studio (right). Picasso was born in Spain, but divided his time between Barcelona and Paris. He was a prolific artist who created paintings, sculpture, ceramics and drawings.



In many ways, 1913 was the year before the world started to change rapidly. It was a time when many new ideas, technologies and ways of doing things began to alter how societies around the world had operated for centuries. 1913 was also the year before World War I started. World War I was a period of conflict that resulted in great changes in society, vast political upheavals, rapid technological advances and a change in expectations from many people throughout the world. Although changes had been occurring before that year, after 1913, the world as most people knew it would never be the same.



For Professionals
Use Only

Many of the things that we take for granted 100 years later appeared for the first time in 1913. Novel inventions, such as the zipper, were developed. A new type of puzzle, the crossword, first appeared in a magazine in the USA. Stainless steel, which most of us use every day, was first created in England. Up until 1913, post offices in the UK had only delivered letters – but, in 1913, it was decided that delivering parcels might also be a good idea. As a novelty, confectionary manufacturers hit upon the idea of including a small toy in each packet of sweets. And, for the first time, a government decided that a new proposal, called income tax, would be a good way to raise money. In 1913, in the USA, the first income tax was set at a rate of 1% of the income that workers there earned.

Hmm. 13 down. A three-letter word describing how the government turns my money into their money. I'd better go and see my accountant.

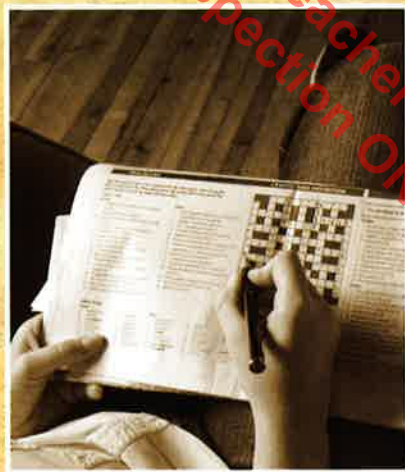
I just hope my zipper stays done up. It looks too easy to be true!

1913

For centuries, the ways people lived their lives had changed very slowly. But in the single century after 1913, the world and its peoples lived through more rapid changes than had ever been experienced before.

THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

In 1913 a journalist, Arthur Wynne, published what he called a "word-cross" puzzle in a magazine called *New York World*. Some people liked the puzzles, but many did not. One newspaper reporter said crossword puzzles were a waste of time spent "in the utterly futile finding of words, the letters of which will fit into a prearranged pattern, more or less complex. This is not a game at all." Others declared that they were just a fad, and predicted they would disappear within a few months.



THE ZIPPER

In 1913, the zipper was invented by a Swede, Gideon Sundback, who was working as an engineer in an American factory. He called his invention the "Hookless Fastener Number One". His zipper-making machine could produce about 60 metres of zipper per day. Zippers were first used to zip up a new kind of rubber gumboot. It wasn't until 10 years later that the term "zipper" was coined – and it took 20 years for people to realise they would be useful on clothes! They became most popular on children's clothes, as many young children had difficulty learning how to do up buttons!

STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel, which does not rust or corrode like ordinary steel, was first made by Harry Brearly in August 1913. He added chromium and carbon in varying amounts to ordinary steel, and discovered that this mix resulted in a durable steel that did not tarnish. Brearly had been brought up in Sheffield, an area of England that had been famous for making cutlery since the 1600s. At the time, he was trying to make a type of steel that could be used in gun barrels, but he immediately realised how useful his new product would be for making knives, forks and other kitchen utensils. Brearly's discovery had such an impact on the cutlery-making industry that, when he died in 1948, he was buried in Sheffield Cathedral.



2

The Struggle for Equality

An **Equal** Say

Nineteen thirteen was an important year in the struggle for equality between men and women. For centuries, in every country that held elections, only men had been allowed to vote. But from the early 1800s, increasing numbers of women were demanding that they, too, should have an equal say in how their governments were chosen. The right to vote was called “suffrage”, and those women who were involved in the movement to give women a vote were called “suffragettes”.

“Give us bread and roses” was a catch-cry of the suffragette movement. It meant that to flourish, women needed not only essentials, like bread, but also to be valued and appreciated for their contribution to society.



suffragettes in 1913

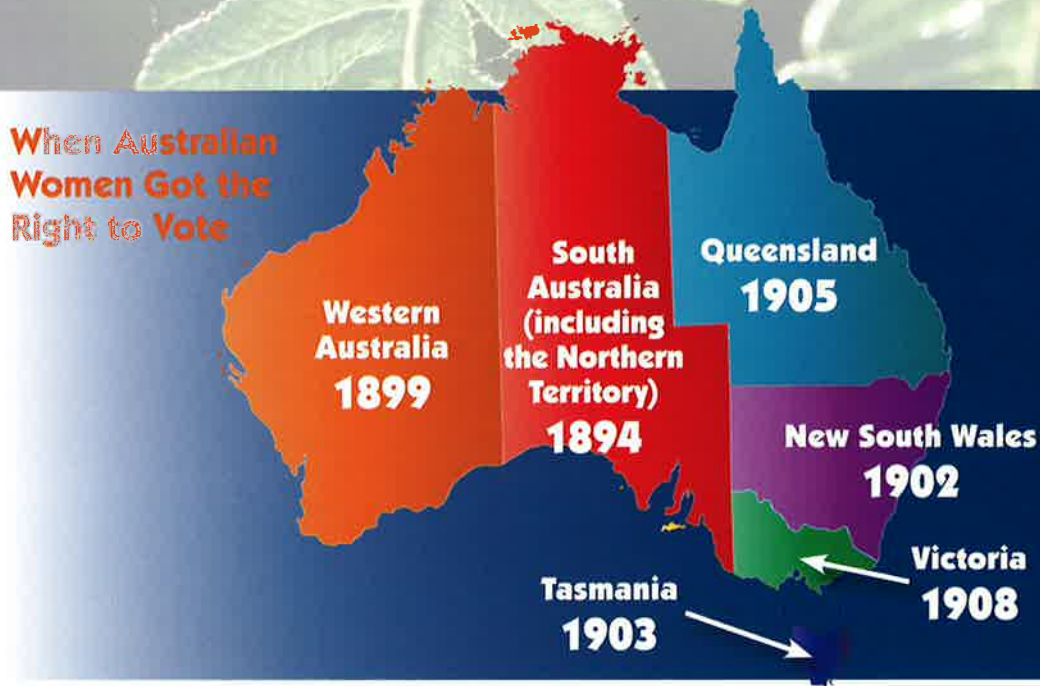
KING HENRY VI OF ENGLAND

In England, men were first given the right to vote in 1492. But King Henry VI decided that only men who owned property worth more than 40 shillings were eligible. In those days, that was an enormous amount of money, so few men were actually entitled to vote. King Henry VI’s decision lasted with few amendments for 340 years until 1832, when men who lived in houses worth more than 10 pounds were also allowed to vote. This still meant 6 out of 7 men in England were not able to vote. It wasn’t until 1918 that all English men were given the right to vote.



King Henry VI (1421–1471) restricted the voting rights of Englishmen to the very wealthy.

In 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to allow women to vote. The state of South Australia followed in 1894, becoming the first in Australia to give men and women equal voting rights. Despite these changes, in 1913 most countries around the world still denied women a say when it came to choosing governments.



VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

In the mid-nineteenth century, Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia gave voting rights to all male British subjects over 21. As Indigenous Australian males were also British subjects, they were entitled to vote. However, few Indigenous Australians were informed about their rights under British law, so many did not know they were entitled to vote.

In 1894, South Australia's decision to give men and women equal voting rights was a progressive move. Furthermore, because every woman was entitled to vote, this meant that Indigenous Australian women were, for the first time, also entitled to vote.

Years of misunderstandings and, in some cases, deliberate obstruction by people in power, around Indigenous Australians' voting rights followed, however.

Later, South Australia's constitution, and its insistence that all South Australian men and women be allowed to vote in federal elections, became an important part of the legal battle to ensure that all Indigenous Australians understood their voting rights and were able to exercise them freely and fully throughout Australia.



In the USA, in March 1913, a group of women paraded in front of the White House holding placards and demanding they be allowed to vote. In April 1913, there were several general strikes in Belgium, where workers refused to go to work in support of voting rights for women. In June, demonstrations in the Netherlands attracted thousands of protesters, all demanding that women be given the vote.

the program of events for the 1913 suffragette procession in the USA (below)



But it was in Britain, where women had been trying to get the vote for almost a century, that patience was running out amongst the suffragettes. Some suffragette groups staged violent protests. Throughout 1913, windows in shops and government buildings were smashed by protesters. Some buildings were set on fire. A few suffragettes deliberately assaulted members of the police so that they would be arrested. Once they were arrested and put in prison, these women would go on a hunger strike, refusing to eat until they became extremely ill. In 1913, the British government, which didn't want to be held responsible for protesters starving themselves to death, passed a law that came to be known as the "Cat and Mouse" law. Women on hunger strikes were left to starve until they almost died, and then they were released from prison to recover. As soon as they became healthy again, they were re-arrested and thrown back in jail.



A British suffragette campaigns on a London street.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

In 1889, a group of settlers and indigenous people in a province of Vanuatu declared independence. This new country was named Franceville. Everybody in Franceville, regardless of ethnicity or gender, was entitled to vote, and Franceville therefore became the first self-governing country in the world to grant "universal suffrage", or votes for everyone. Unfortunately, the British and French authorities that governed the rest of Vanuatu resisted the efforts of the people in Franceville, and within two years, it had been forced to give up its independence.





Emmeline Pankhurst, one of England's most militant suffragettes, travelled to the USA in 1913 to give a speech in which she declared that the British government would have to choose between giving women "freedom or death". She was arrested that year; one of eight times that she was put in prison for her beliefs.



Emmeline Pankhurst (above and right) was arrested several times for advocating violence to achieve the aims of the suffragette movement. She died in 1928, the year that women eventually got full voting rights in the UK.

But one of the most shocking events in 1913 occurred at a famous horse race called the Epsom Derby. A suffragette called Emily Davison decided that a good way to protest would be to stop one of the races. She chose one in which King George V had a horse running. As the horses approached, she ran onto the track calling "votes for women". Unfortunately, the horses were travelling too fast to avoid her. Emily was knocked over by the king's horse, and died of her injuries four days later*.

* Read more about Emily Davison in the Nelson Literacy Directions 6 big book, *The Kids' Guide to Government*.

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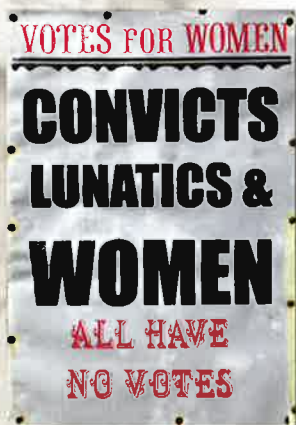
A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF EMILY DAVISON'S PROTEST, 1913

"I was watching the horses approaching the corner, when I noticed a figure bob under the rails on the opposite side to which I was standing. The horses were thundering down the course at a great pace bunched up against the rail. It was obviously her intention to stop the race. Misjudging the pace of the horses, she missed the first four or five. They dashed by just as she was emerging from the rails. With great calmness she walked in front of the next group of horses.

"The first missed her, but the second, Anmer, came right into her, and catching her with his shoulders, knocked her with terrific force to the ground while the crowd stood spellbound. The woman rolled over two or three times, and lay unconscious. She was thrown almost on her face. Anmer fell after striking the woman, pitching Jones, the jockey, clear over its head. Fortunately, Anmer fell clear of the woman, and the horses following swerved by the woman, the jockey and the fallen horse."



Anonymous, 1913



The struggle for equal voting rights was at its most passionate in 1913, and protests continued in Britain, Europe and many other countries throughout the year. However, despite the protests, women in Britain had to wait another 15 years, until 1928, before they were given the same voting rights as men.