THEY FOUGHT for JUSTICE

Jill McDougall



PM

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They Fought for Justice

Level 30

Running Words 2542 **Text Type** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–29

Curriculum Area Humanities – History

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Establish why other countries followed the law passed in 1893 by the New Zealand Parliament that gave women the right to vote.

2 Compare the different approaches used by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr in fighting for equal rights.

3 Discuss why Mother Teresa's life was devoted to helping children.

4 Suggest what may have happened to the Torres Strait Islands if Eddie Mabo hadn't made his important speech at a land rights conference in 1981.

5 Prepare a speech about a concern, today, that affects children of your age.

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'A Brave Person I Know or Have Heard About'.

2 Prepare a description of the person and his or her bravery.

3 Edit and revise the description.

4 Present the description as an article for your school magazine.

5 Critically evaluate the article.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 30	Card	Information Report	*William Barak*
Level 30	Book	Information Report/Personal Recount	*Digging Up the Past*

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this text contains names and images of people who are deceased.

Inspiring Individuals

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Throughout history, many people have fought for equal **rights** and justice. At times, groups of people have banded together to fight for a cause. At other times, a few brave individuals have led the way, inspiring others to join them.

Mahatma Gandhi (below left) led a peaceful campaign, over many decades, in favour of India's independence from the British Empire.



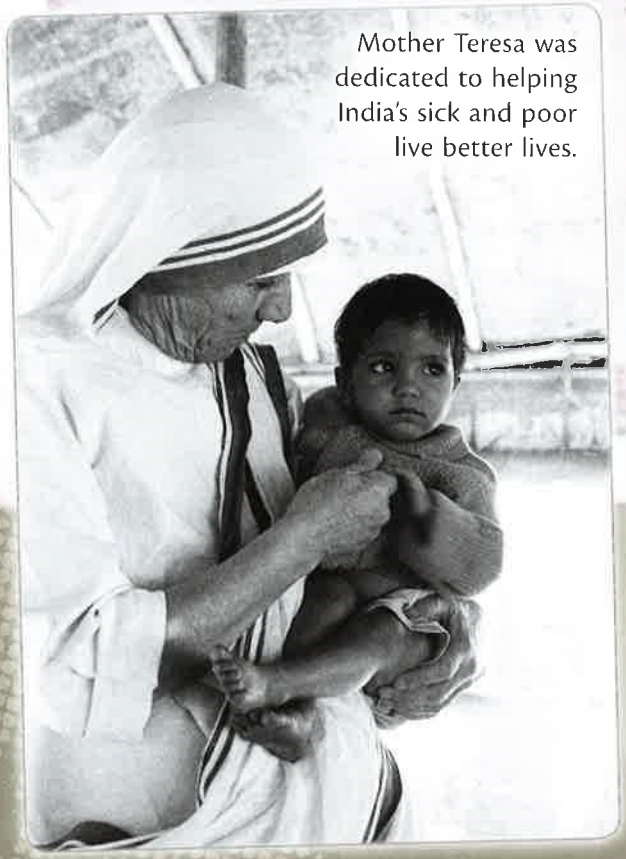


Nelson Mandela fought for equality for people of all skin colours in South Africa.

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Martin Luther King Jr led the fight for equality between races in the USA.



Mother Teresa was dedicated to helping India's sick and poor live better lives.

Eddie Mabo (below left) fought for the rights of Indigenous Australians to be recognised as owners of their traditional lands.



Kate Sheppard

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Katherine (Kate) Sheppard fought for women's right to vote in New Zealand. She was born in 1847 in Liverpool, England, but later moved with her family to New Zealand.

In the 1800s, women's roles in society were very **restricted**. For example, a woman needed **consent** from her father or husband to open a bank account or sell her own property.

From an early age, Kate Sheppard believed that women should be allowed to play a full role in society. In New Zealand and around the world, women did not have the right to vote or to be elected to parliament. In 1885, Sheppard began to write letters to newspapers and give speeches in favour of voting rights for women.



Kate Sheppard in 1905

"We are tired of having a 'sphere' doled out to us, and of being told that anything outside that sphere is 'unwomanly'."

– Kate Sheppard

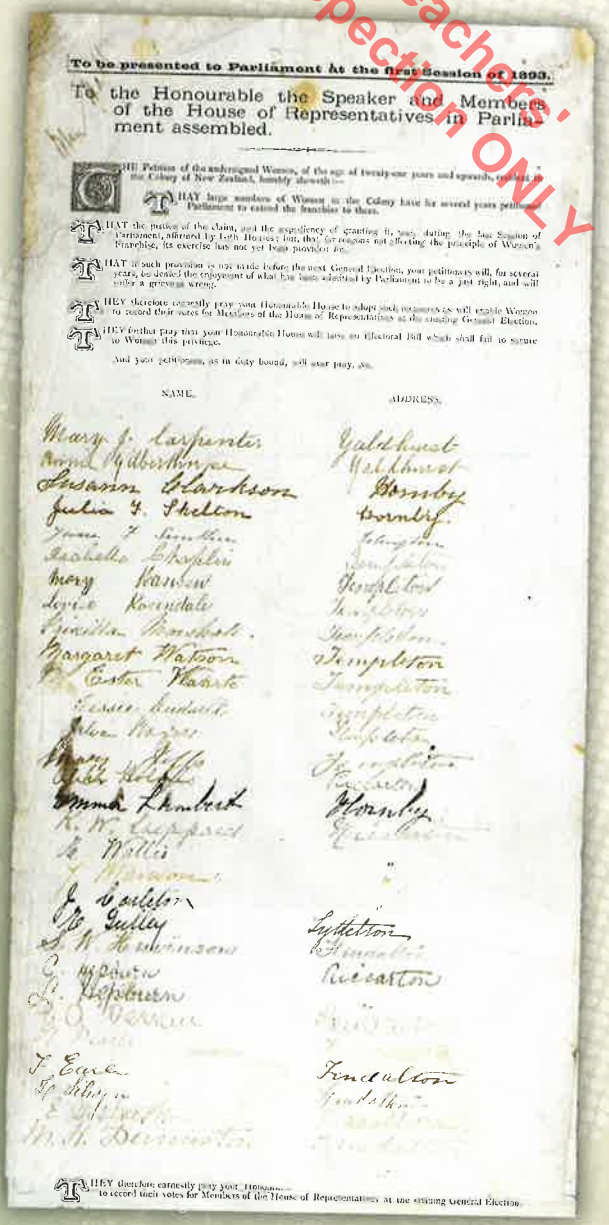
Think and Talk About...

Many people once accepted the idea that women were too "frail" to take part in public life.

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Sheppard was a talented writer and a powerful speaker. She soon became a leader in the fight for women's **suffrage** in New Zealand. Those in favour of women's suffrage, like Sheppard, **campaigned** to change the laws that said women were not allowed to vote. For the next six years, Sheppard travelled throughout New Zealand, holding public meetings and building support for the cause.

Kate Sheppard was a great organiser, and she began to collect signatures for a **petition** to be presented to the New Zealand Parliament. The first petition failed in 1891, but Sheppard simply started again and collected even more signatures. Another petition, in 1892, was also unsuccessful, but in 1893 she convinced nearly 32 000 people to sign her petition. This final petition contained so many signatures that it had to be carried to Parliament House in a wheelbarrow.



To be presented to Parliament at the first Session of 1893.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives in Parliament assembled.

THAT large numbers of Women in the Colony have for several years petitioned Parliament to extend the franchise to them.

THAT the justice of the claim, and the expediency of granting it, were, during the last Session of Parliament, affirmed by both Houses; but, that for reasons not affecting the principle of Women's Franchise, its exercise has not yet been provided for.

THAT if such provision is not made before the next General Election, your petitioners will, for several years, be denied the enjoyment of what has been admitted by Parliament to be a just right, and will suffer a grievous wrong.

THEY therefore earnestly pray your Honourable House to adopt such measures as will enable Women to record their votes for Members of the House of Representatives at the ensuing General Election.

THEY further pray that your Honourable House will pass an Electoral Bill which shall fail to secure to Women this privilege.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

NAME. ADDRESS.

Mary J. Carpenter — Waldronst
Anna Gilberthorpe — Waldronst
Susanna Clarkson — Bromley
Julia A. Shelton — Bromley

THEY therefore earnestly pray your Honourable House to adopt such measures as will enable Women to record their votes for Members of the House of Representatives at the ensuing General Election.

This is the first page of the 1893 petition. Kate Sheppard's signature can be seen in the left column, about half-way down.

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Finally, in 1893, the New Zealand Parliament passed a law giving women the right to vote. This was a major achievement, as New Zealand was the first country in the world where all women could vote. Other countries gradually followed New Zealand's example.

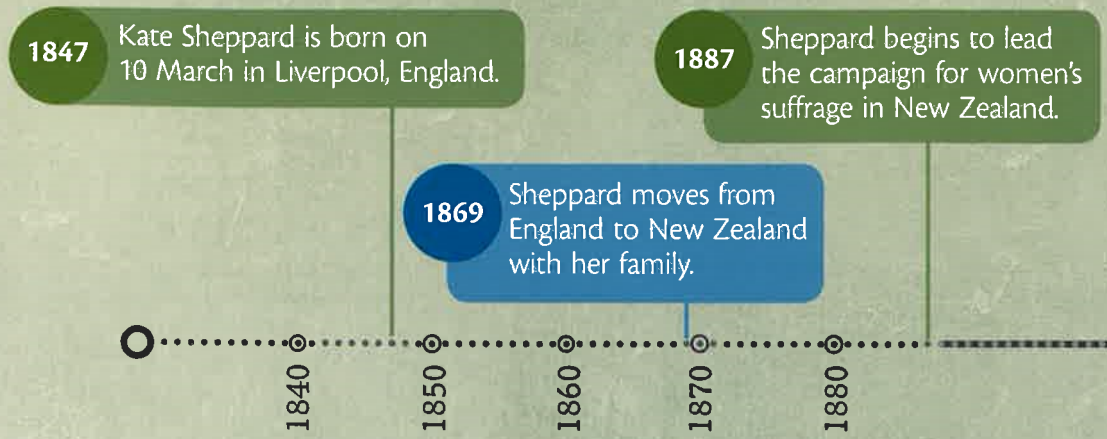
Kate Sheppard died in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1934. Today, a mural celebrating her work and achievements with the suffragettes stands on the banks of the Avon River in Christchurch. In 1999, her image was added to the front of the New Zealand $10 note.

Think and Talk About...

Women in New Zealand were not permitted to stand for parliament until 1920.

A Timeline of Kate Sheppard

New Zealand Suffragette



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Kate Sheppard (middle) was elected the first President of the National Council of Women of New Zealand in 1896.

1893 Sheppard presents a petition containing 32 000 signatures to the New Zealand Parliament.

The New Zealand Parliament passes the *Electoral Act 1893* on 19 September, granting women the right to vote.

1934 Kate Sheppard dies on 13 July in Christchurch, New Zealand.

1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940

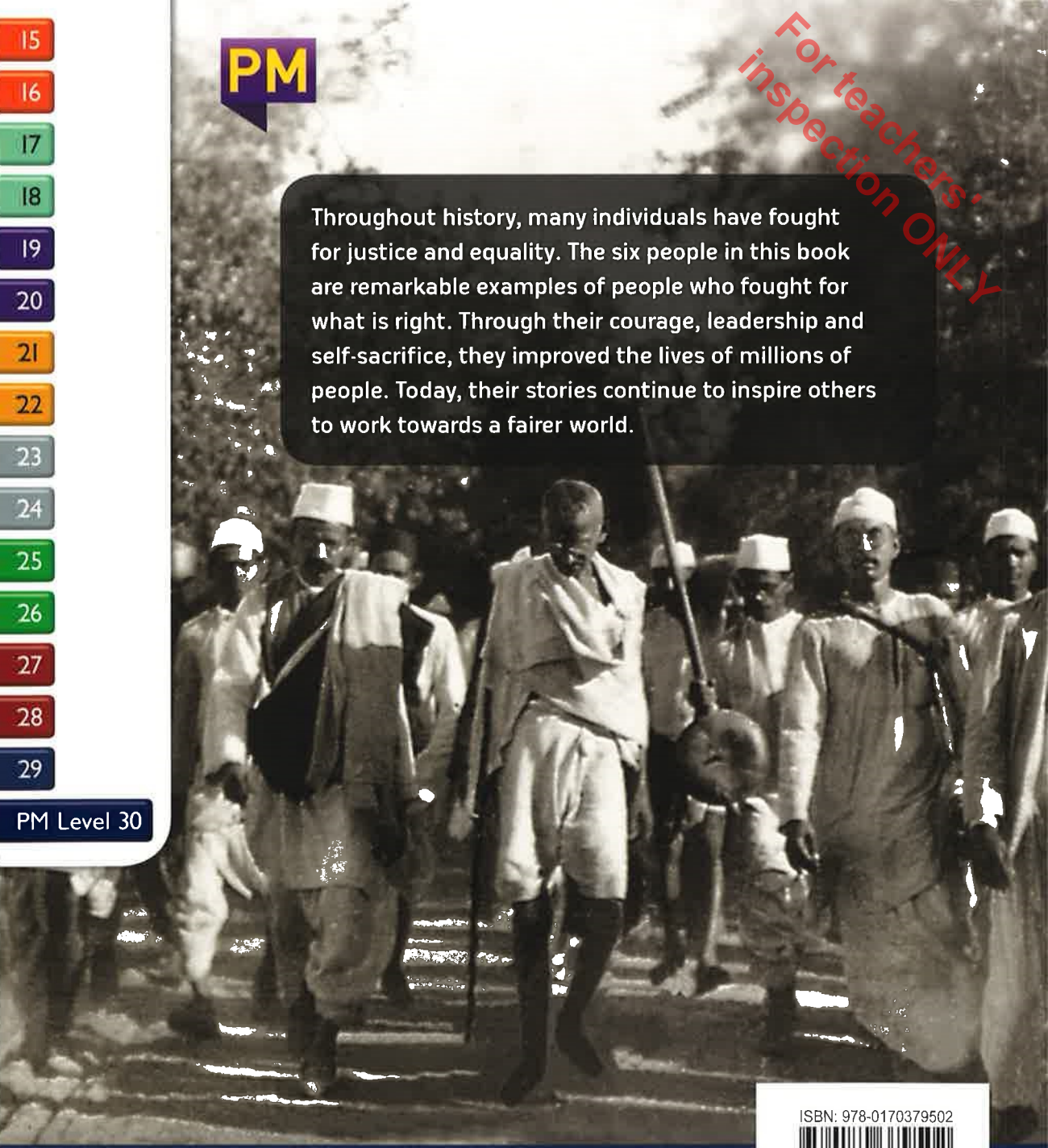
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Throughout history, many individuals have fought for justice and equality. The six people in this book are remarkable examples of people who fought for what is right. Through their courage, leadership and self-sacrifice, they improved the lives of millions of people. Today, their stories continue to inspire others to work towards a fairer world.



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