

Springboard^{into} Comprehension 5

Main Idea	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve The Nelson Mandela Story
Compare and Contrast	Animals under Threat Soccer v Ballet
Fact and Opinion	The Great Rainbow Hill Council Debate The Smith Family Diaries
Cause and Effect	It's Just Not Right Save Our Planet!
Bias and Prejudice	Changing Times
Figurative Language	What's Up? Sports Mad Magazine The Highwayman



RA 10.5–11.5



Information Report

Changing Times



Written by Gordon Coutts

Changing Times

Contents

Introduction	2
The Right to Vote	4
The Choice to Fight	8
The Tactics of War	12
Civil Rights in the United States . . .	16
Fight for Freedom	20
Conclusion	23
Glossary and Index	24

Written by Gordon Coutts

Introduction

We have perhaps all been the victims of prejudice at some point. Most people can think of a time when someone held a prejudiced opinion about them. Throughout history, many people have suffered prejudice on a large scale. Prejudice has led people to do awful things to other people. Some people have denied others their rights. Some have humiliated and mocked others. Some have even injured and killed other people. Can you think of any examples of prejudice? Read on to find out more.

In the early 1900s, women in the United Kingdom had to fight for the right to vote.



Richard Wright wrote essays and books about the struggles of growing up as a black man in the United States in the early 1900s.



Martin Luther King Jr led the battle for equal rights for black Americans.



The black people of South Africa spent more than 50 years under the oppression of white South Africans.



The Right to Vote

How old do you have to be for the right to vote in an election? You will probably have to wait a few years until you are old enough. Imagine if you could never vote. You would have no say in what happened in your country. These days, men and women in most countries have the right to vote. However, in the past, this was not always the case. Many people struggled to gain the right to vote, or **suffrage**.

In 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the right to vote. Nine years later, Australia did the same. However, in the United Kingdom, women still faced a long and hard fight. This was because men still thought women were inferior to them.

When they saw what New Zealand and Australia had done, women in the United Kingdom decided to act. On October 10, 1903, the Women's Social and Political Union held its first meeting. The union decided things were so bad it would have to go to severe lengths to get suffrage for women. These women called themselves **suffragettes**.



Kate Sheppard led the movement in New Zealand to win the right to vote for women.

The women began a planned series of actions, or a **campaign**, to get noticed and create headlines. Many women **chained** themselves to railings. Some extreme, or **militant suffragettes** smashed windows or set fire to buildings, **including** some that members of the government owned. In 1913, one woman, Emily Davison, died after she ran onto the racetrack at the Epsom Derby and was trampled by a horse.

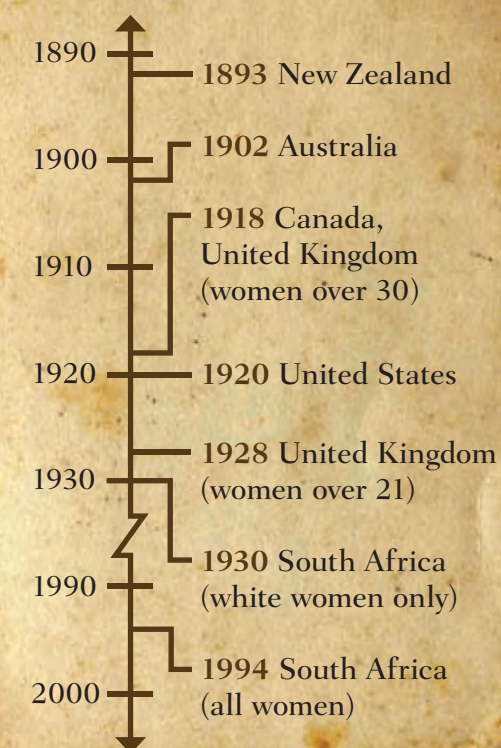
The police arrested many militant suffragettes. They charged them with damaging property and other crimes. In prison, some women went on hunger strikes.

The suffragettes put their campaign on hold when World War I began in 1914. To help the war effort, women went to work in fields and factories. When the war ended in 1918, the government could see the vital role women had played. So, they gave women aged over 30 the right to vote. Women still did not have the same rights as men, though. All men aged over 21 could vote. It was not until 1928 that all women in the United Kingdom aged over 21 got suffrage.



Emily Davison on the track at the Epsom Derby

Women's Suffrage



Leading suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst was arrested outside Buckingham Palace in 1914.



"The inferiority of women is a hideous lie which has been enforced by law and woven into the British constitution."

Christabel Pankhurst, militant suffrage activist and daughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst

"When I saw the kind of people who had votes and my mother had none — it didn't seem fair, to say the least."

Suffragette Leonora Cohen

"One sometimes hears people who took part in the suffrage campaign pitied. But for me, and for many other young women like me, militant suffrage was the very salt of life. The knowledge of it had come like a draught of fresh air into our padded, stifled lives. It gave us release of energy, it gave us that sense of being of some use in the scheme of things...It gave us hope of freedom and power and opportunity. It gave us scope at last, and it gave us what normal healthy youth craves — adventure and excitement."

Suffragette Margaret Haig



In 1909, suffragettes rode through London promoting their magazine *Votes for Women*.