

Women's Suffrage Movement

8th Grade U.S. History
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The Women's Suffrage Movement took its first major stand at the Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York on July 19-20, 1848. While women were given the right to vote in some states, the United States government did not allow women the right to vote until 1920 with the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. For nearly 80 years, women fought for their suffrage.

In this assignment you will answer questions about 5 documents related to the Women's Suffrage Movement. After completing the questions you will use the information from the documents to complete the final activity. Be sure to cite specific evidence from at least 3 of the documents.

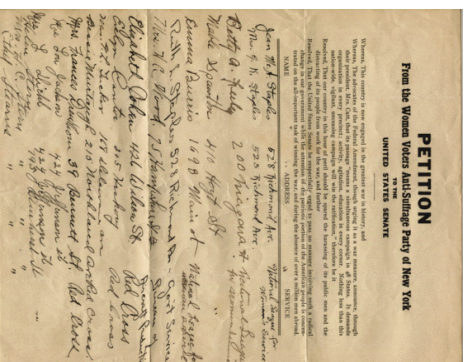
Write a letter to President Wilson asking him to promote Women's suffrage.

The following is the last paragraph of the Declaration of Sentiments signed at the Seneca Falls Convention on July 20, 1848. Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.

"Resolved, therefore, that, being invested by the Creator with the same capabilities, and the same consciousness of responsibility for their exercises. It is demonstrably the right and duty of woman, equally with man, to promote every righteous cause by every righteous means, and especially in regard to the great subjects of morals and religion. It is self-evidently her right to participate with her brother in teaching them, both in private and in public, by writing and by speaking, by any instrumentalities proper to be used, and in any assemblies proper to be held; and this being a self-evident truth growing out of the divinely implanted principles of human nature, any custom or authority adverse to it, whether modern or wearing the hoary sanction of antiquity, is to be regarded as a self-evident falsehood, and at war with mankind."

1. What is "the right and duty of woman?"
2. With whom is woman equal?
3. What famous historical American document uses many of the same words as the Declaration of Sentiments?
4. Why did the women use words from the answer to number 3 in their Declaration?

The image on the left is a copy of the petition submitted to the U.S. Senate by the Women Voters Anti-Suffrage Party of New York. On the right is the wording of the petition. Answer the questions following the petition.



"Whereas, This country is now engaged in the greatest war in history, and

Whereas, The advocates of the Federal Amendment, through urging it as a war measure, announce, through their president, Mrs. Carl, that its passage "means a simultaneous campaign in 48 States. It demands organization in every precinct: activity, agitation, education in every corner: Nothing less than this nation-wide, vigilant, unceasing campaign will win the ratification," therefore be

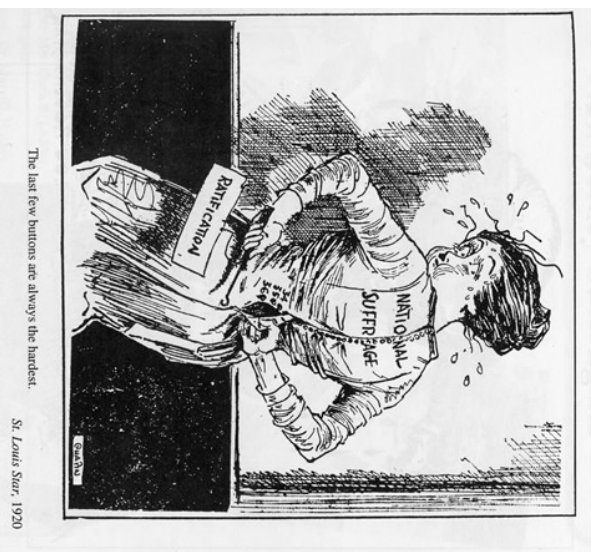
Resolved, That our country in this hour of peril should be spared the harassing of its public men and distracting of its people from work for the war, and further

Resolved, That the United States Senate be respectfully urged to pass no measure involving such a radical change in our government while the attention of the patriotic portion of the American people is concentrated on the all-important task of winning the war, and during the absence of over a million men abroad."

1. Are the women that signed this petition for or against a woman's right to vote?
2. What great event is United States engaged in when the petition was signed? (Be specific)
3. What should the country be "spared of" in this "hour of peril"?
4. What is the Women Voters Anti-Suffrage Party urging the Senate to do?

Analyze the political cartoon "The Last Few Buttons" and answer the following questions.

"The Last Few Buttons"



1. What year was the political cartoon printed?
2. What appears to be happening in the cartoon?
3. Explain the caption below the cartoon.

Read the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution, passed in 1920, and answer the following questions>

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1. The right of a citizen of the United States to vote cannot be denied on account of what?
2. Who has the power to enforce this law?
3. Which group of people now have the right to vote that did not have the right before the 19th amendment?

Read the quote about the passage of the 19th amendment and answer the following questions.

"On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment—giving women the right to vote—was ratified, ending more than seventy years of political pressure by suffragists. Ironically, the amendment came three years after the first woman, Jeannette Rankin, had been elected to the House of Representatives, and eight years after Julia Clifford Lathrop was named director of the Children's Bureau, representing the first time a woman headed a federal agency. Also in 1920, the League of Women Voters was organized to educate women about politics and promote the status and rights of women. Three years later, the first version of women's equal rights amendment was submitted to Congress."

(Bruun, Erik and Jay Crosby eds. Our Nations Archives, p556.)

1. For how many years did the suffragists pressure for the right to vote?
2. How many years were there between the first woman who was elected to the House of Representatives and the ratification of the 19th amendment?
3. What was organized in 1920?