

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

*United States Declaration of Independence*

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As the foundational documents of our nation were drafted, Abigail Adams repeatedly reminded her husband, John, that he and the other men drafting these documents should "Remember the Ladies." Unfortunately, it was many years before the ladies were "remembered" and guaranteed equal rights in the United States.

Beginning in the early 1800s, there were many advocates of equal rights for men and women. The first women's rights convention in the United States was held July 19-20, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York. Many participants in this convention signed a "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" that outlined the main issues and goals for the emerging women's movement.

The American Civil War disrupted suffrage activity as women turned their energies to "war work." But when the war ended, political activism resumed. The American Equal Rights Association, dedicated to universal suffrage, was one outcome of this activism. The Fourteenth Amendment, an outcome of the Civil War, was ratified in 1868. It defined "citizens" and



National Woman's Party activists...  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/npc2007001204>

"voters" as "male." The ladies remained unremembered.

Though slow, progress was made in securing the vote for women. By 1913, only nine states — all in the West — gave women the vote. In 1917 women won the vote in a tenth state, New York. President Wilson gave support to women's enfranchisement in 1918. Legislative support for women's voting rights produced the Nineteenth Amendment, passed in both the House and Senate in a special session held in May-June 1919. On August 26, 1920, after ratification by the necessary 36 states, the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted.

The National Woman's Party created a special flag to publicize and commemorate the ratification process. A star was placed on the flag for each state in which women were enfranchised. A new star was added for each state that ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. Alice Paul, a key leader of the National Woman's Party, was frequently photographed sewing on the new stars. These photographs provided rich promotional for the party's ratification campaign.

When the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified, the flag was proudly unfurled from the balcony of the National Woman's Party headquarters, Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, DC.

"I always feel.... the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."

-Alice Stokes Paul, suffragist and author of the Equal Rights Amendment (1885-1977)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Teachers may use these Library of Congress primary source documents to support teaching about women's suffrage in the United States. The set provides evidence for a study of the chronology of the women's suffrage movement. It can also be used to stimulate comparisons between the suffrage movement in the U.S. and in England. This set also supports the teaching of state's voting history, especially for states with early voting rights for women.

This primary source set documents evidence from popular culture, as well as the causes and effects of the women's suffrage movement. This set includes images, song sheets, articles, statistical documents, political cartoons and sound files.



Revised  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98502833/>

The women's suffrage movement lends itself well to "scrapbook" strategies. Students may find creating a scrapbook a highly engaging way to organize their research and will hone their critical thinking skills as they consider which items to include and which to leave out of their product. Teachers can organize the items in this set, or in other materials they gather, in scrapbook format, providing their students with an engaging learning experience enhanced by rich visual images to explore.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/94507639/>



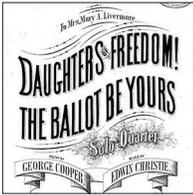
### Collection Connection: By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/suffrage-pictures/>

## PRIMARY SOURCES WITH CITATIONS



National Woman's Party activists watch Alice Paul sew a star onto the NWP Ratification Flag, representing another state's ratification of the 19th Amendment. Photograph, ca.1919. From Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/npc2007001204>



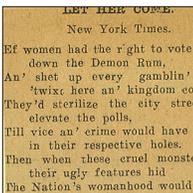
Christie, Edwin, composer. "Daughters of Freedom." Sheet music. Boston: Ditson & Co., 1871. From Library of Congress, Music for the Nation: American Sheet Music. <http://www.loc.gov/item/sm1871.02334>



"Music for the Nation" Singers, performers. "Daughters of Freedom." Sound file. Recorded at the Library of Congress, September 23, 1998. From Library of Congress, Music for the Nation" American Sheet Music, 1870-1885, In Performance—Choral Works from the Collection. <http://www.loc.gov/item/sm1871.7102334>



"Sojourner Truth." Print. n.d. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911. <http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller001306>



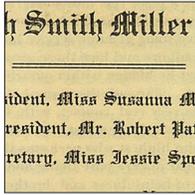
Let Her Come. New York: New York Times, n.d. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911. <http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller001994>



Knobe, Bertha Damaris. "Woman-Suffrage Map of the World." Map. New York: Harper's Weekly, April 25, 1908. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911. <http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller001165>



"Alice Paul Describes Force Feeding." London, England: December 1909. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911. <http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller003904>



Miller, Elizabeth Smith. Elizabeth Smith Miller Study Class Outline of Work for 1909. Leaflet. [Geneva, NY]: Geneva Political Equality Club, 1909. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911.

<http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller001209>



Gustin, E. W. Election Day! Political cartoon. c1909. From the Library of Congress, By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97500226/>



Votes for Women Broadside. Women's Political Union. Broadside. New York, January 28, 1911. From the Library of Congress, Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911.

<http://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller002522>



"National Anti-Suffrage Association." Photograph. [1911?] From the Library of Congress, By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97500067/>



The Home Loving Women Do Not Want the Ballot. Poster. San Francisco: Louis Roesch Co., October 1911. From the Library of Congress, Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party.

<http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000333>



[Suffrage Parade, New York City.] Photograph. American Press Association, May 6, 1912. From the Library of Congress, By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97500068/>

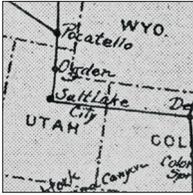


Official Program: Woman Suffrage Procession, Washington, D.C. Program cover. March 3, 1913. From Library of Congress, By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/94507639/>



Mayer, Henry, artist. The Awakening. Illustration. Puck: volume 77, no. 1981, February 20, 1915, pages 14-15. From the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. <http://loc.gov/pictures/item/98502844/>



[Map of] Route of Envoys Sent from East by the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage, to Appeal to Voting Women of the West. Map. April 1916. From Libraof Congress, Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party. <http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000270>



["Suffragists Protest Woodrow Wilson's Opposition to Woman Suffrage."] Photograph. Chicago: Burke & Atwell, October 20, 1916. From Library of Congress, Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party. <http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000288>



"Part of the Vast Billboard Campaign of the Woman's Party." Photograph. 1916. From Library of Congress, Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party. <http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000345>



"Helena Hill Weed, Norwalk, Conn. Serving 3 day Sentence in D.C. Prison for Carrying Banner, 'Governments Derive their Just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.'" Photograph. July 6-8, 1917. From the Library of Congress, Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party. <http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000060>



Stapler, Martha G., editor. "Votes for Women A Success: North America Proves It". Map. The Women's Suffrage Year Book 1917. New York: National women Suffrage Publishing Co., [1917]. From the Library of Congress, Votes for Women: Selections from the national American Women Suffrage Association Collection, 1848-1921. <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=rbnawsa&fileName=n7468//rbnawsan7468.db&recNum=2>

Note: Above item is included in the "untitled section" of the Women's Suffrage Year Book 1917. Bibliographic record for entire document will be found at: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbnawsa.n7468>

