

Summary of the Unit: In this unit will we explore different groups of people throughout the past who have had to protest to enjoy equal rights in our society. We will consider why they have needed to protest, the methods that they have used and the improvements in equal rights that their protests achieved.



What was voting like in 1815?

- just 214,000 people - less than 3% of the total population could vote.
- No women, men under 21 or people who didn't own land were allowed to vote.
- The Boroughs were not equal in size Some boroughs and had a small number of people in them while large cities like Manchester had no MPs at all.
- There was no secret ballot

The 1832 Reform Act

In 1832, after riots and political conflict, Parliament passed the 1832 Reform Act:

- 56 rotten boroughs were abolished.
- 22 new boroughs were created, in new towns such as Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds.
- But it is important to realise that this did **not** make Britain a democracy. Only 200,000 more people were given the vote the Reform Act of 1832 increased the electorate from around 366,000 to 650,000, which was about 18 per cent of the total adult-male population in England and Wales. The vast majority of the working classes, as well as women, were still excluded from voting and the Act failed to introduce a secret ballot.

Year 7 History Knowledge Organiser Summer 2: The History of Protest

Did the Suffragette's violent methods work?

Suffragists	Suffragettes	YES	NO
<p>Established: 1866, there were branches around the country</p> <p>Full name: National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS)</p> <p>Leader: Millicent Fawcett</p> <p>Aim: achieving votes for women</p> <p>Members: Men and women could join</p> <p>Protest methods: Peaceful methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They held meetings Peaceful marches Wrote letters and petition Made posters and leaflets 	<p>Established: 1903</p> <p>Full name: Women's Social and Political Union</p> <p>Leader: Emmeline Pankhurst.</p> <p>Aim: achieving votes for women</p> <p>Members: only women were allowed to join</p> <p>Protest methods: Violent methods and civil disobedience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaining themselves to railing Criminal damage, burning golf courses, cutting telephone wires Smashing windows Hunger strikes 	<p>The violent and aggressive response of the police towards Suffragettes made people feel sympathy for the women.</p> <p>It became front page news. The tactics of the Suffragettes was brought to the public's attention</p> <p>Asquith (the PM) was already against votes for women, so the violence made the situation worse</p> <p>The violent methods showed that women were determined to get the vote.</p>	<p>It gave the government an excuse. They said they would not give in to terrorists.</p> <p>The press reacted negatively to violence but positively to other campaigns</p> <p>By 1914, the Suffragist (NUWSS)membership was growing rapidly.</p> <p>Violence supported the view that women were hysterical</p>

