

**A1 A2 Women and girls**

Lesson 4

Link: History, Social studies



## The Suffragettes

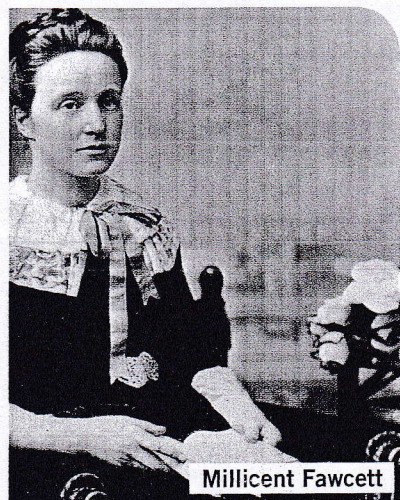
At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people thought that women were not as capable as men. It was very difficult for women to get equal rights because they couldn't vote and there were no women in parliament.

In 1897, Millicent Fawcett founded the National Union of Women's Suffrage. This movement campaigned for the right for women to vote. Politicians often said that women could not be trusted with the great responsibility of voting, but Millicent wanted to prove that they were wrong. She organised a peaceful protest. But progress was slow and women became impatient. In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia formed the Suffragette movement.

They wanted the vote for women, too, but their demonstrations were often violent and destructive: they chained themselves to buildings, they let off bombs, broke shop windows and set fire to buildings. Their aim was justified, but the methods they used only convinced men that women were not responsible and could not be allowed to vote.

When World War I began, thousands of men left their homes and jobs and went to fight. This was a chance for women to show that they were competent, and people could count on them. The Suffragettes abandoned their violent protests and worked hard in factories, offices and on the land. Finally, in 1918, women over the age of 30 got the vote. In 1928, all women in the UK over 21 could vote, just like men.

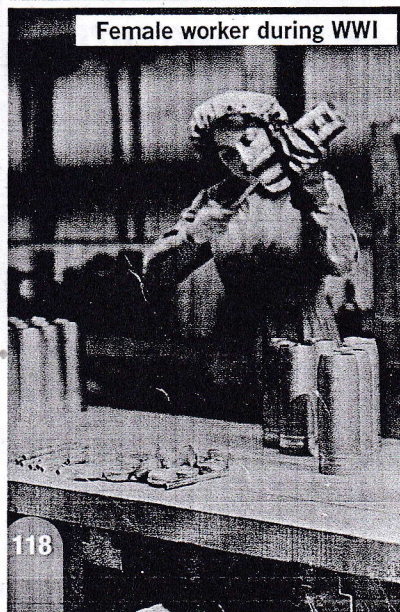
Now, a century later, women have the right to vote in most countries around the world. But there are still places where girls don't have the right to go to school.



Millicent Fawcett



Suffragette supporting vote for women



Female worker during WWI

campaigned: fece una campagna  
 trusted: ritenute degne di fiducia  
 chained themselves: si incatenarono

let off: fecero esplodere  
 aim: scopo

**1 Leggi il testo e collega gli elementi delle due colonne.**

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Millicent Fawcett  | a women showed they were capable |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Emmeline Pankhurst | b peaceful protest               |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Suffragettes       | c Suffragettes' leader           |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> World War I        | d violent protests               |

**Did you know?**

- 1893 → New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote.
- 1906 → Finland was the first country in Europe to give women the vote.
- 1920 → The USA gave the vote to women (but not Native American women).
- 1925 → Italy gave the vote to women (but only for local elections). In 1945, Italy extended this right and allowed women to stand for election.