

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

Read the passage and then answer the questions below to show that you know the difference between a 'suffragist' and a 'suffragette'.

The term suffrage means the right to vote in political elections. So while the terms 'suffragette' and 'suffragist' both mean fighting for a right to vote, they have two very different methods for achieving this goal.

In South Australia the original campaigners for women's rights were known as 'suffragists'. These women believed in peaceful, constitutional campaign methods such as rallies, petitions and lectures. In Australia this was sufficient to allow South Australian women to win the right to vote.

While women in New Zealand had won their right to vote as early as 1893, women in England felt disenfranchised. In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst founded the British Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Coined suffragettes by the media, they stormed parliament, chained themselves to railings, smashed windows and carried out a nationwide bombing and arson campaign. When imprisoned they went on hunger strikes where they did not eat for many days forcing the government to force feed them. One suffragette Emily Davison was killed when she ran in front of the King's horse at the 1913 Epsom Derby. This event made headlines around the world but did little to give women the vote. World War 1 from 1914 to 1918 led to women over 30 being given the right to vote in the Representation of the People Act of 1918 but it took another 10 years for the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act of 1928 to give all English women the right to vote at age 21.

In your own words explain the difference between a suffragette and a suffragist.

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How many years after Australian women were given the right to vote did English women receive the same rights?

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Why do you think it took so long?

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Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning.

