

# Emmeline Pankhurst

2018 marks the 100 year anniversary of women in the UK first being able to vote. What do you know about the campaign for votes for women? Maybe you've heard of one of the leading campaigners, Emmeline Pankhurst, who was the leader of the Women's Social and Political Union.

## Who Was She?

Emmeline Goulden was born in Moss Side, Manchester in 1858. Her parents were involved in politics. At the young age of 14, she was introduced to the women's suffrage movement which supported the right of women to vote. At the age of 21, she married Richard Pankhurst who was 24 years older than her. He was a barrister who supported women's right to vote and they had four children together. In 1889, Emmeline and Richard started the Women's Franchise League which campaigned for women to be allowed to vote in local elections. When the organisation broke apart, she tried to join the Independent Labour party but at first was refused as she was a woman.



### Did You Know?

Emmeline worked as a Poor Law Guardian in a workhouse and was shocked at the terrible conditions there.

## Who Were The Suffragettes?

In 1903, five years after the death of her husband, Emmeline Pankhurst started the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her daughters Christabel, Sylvia and Adela also became part of the group. The WSPU were more aggressive than other groups that supported women's right to vote. Instead of peaceful marches and public speeches, the WSPU held demonstrations, smashed windows and set buildings on fire. Their violent actions meant that these women were the first to be called 'Suffragettes'. Many of their protests were illegal and several of the suffragettes, including Emmeline Pankhurst, went to prison. Whilst in prison,

the suffragettes often went on hunger strike and refused to eat to raise further awareness of their fight. Emmeline Pankhurst was imprisoned several times and force-fed whilst on hunger strike herself.



## Did you know?

In 1913, a suffragette called Emily Davison died when she was trampled by the King's horse at the Epsom Derby. She was trying to hang a suffragette banner on the horse.

## What Changed In 1914?

The beginning of the First World War in 1914 changed Emmeline's political focus. She turned to the war effort and called for the suffragettes to do the same. They encouraged women to work in factories producing ammunitions for the soldiers and supported the young men fighting. Emmeline Pankhurst died just weeks before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote by Parliament in July 1928. Two years later, a statue was built in London's Victoria Tower Gardens to remember the great suffragette.



## Did you know?

Emmeline Pankhurst supported the White Feather Movement which wanted to make men who didn't volunteer to fight feel ashamed and join up to fight in the First World War.

# Questions

1. How many years ago did women first receive the right to vote in the UK?

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2. How old was Emmeline Pankhurst when she first became interested in women's suffrage?

Tick one.

21 ☐

14 ☐

24 ☐

3. Why was she refused membership of the Independent Labour Party?

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4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst establish in 1903? Tick one.

☐ The Independent Labour Party

☐ The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

☐ The Women's Social and Political Union

5. How was Emmeline Pankhurst's organisation different from other suffragists?

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6. What did Emmeline Pankhurst support during the First World War? Tick one.

☐ Young men joining the armed forces

☐ Equal votes for women

☐ Men standing for election

7. How is Emmeline Pankhurst remembered in London?

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8. What was the aim of the White Feather Movement? Tick one.

- ☐ to give white feathers to everyone who could vote
- ☐ to make men who didn't volunteer to fight feel ashamed
- ☐ to encourage women to work in factories

# Answers

1. How many years ago did women first receive the right to vote in the UK?

**Women first received the right to vote in the UK 100 years ago.**

2. How old was Emmeline Pankhurst when she first became interested in women's suffrage?

Tick one.

21 ☐

14 ☒

24 ☐

3. Why was she refused membership of the Independent Labour Party?

**She was refused membership of the Independent Labour Party because she was a woman.**

4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst establish in 1903?

☐ The Independent Labour Party

☐ The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

☒ **The Women's Social and Political Union**

5. How was Emmeline Pankhurst's organisation different from other suffragists?

**The WSPU were more aggressive than other suffragists. Instead of peaceful marches and public speeches, the WSPU held demonstrations, smashed windows and set buildings on fire. Many of their protests were illegal.**

6. What did Emmeline Pankhurst support during the First World War? Tick one.

- ☒ **Young men joining the armed forces**
- ☐ Equal votes for women
- ☐ Men standing for election

7. How is Emmeline Pankhurst remembered in London?

**Emmeline Pankhurst is remembered with a statue in London's Victoria Tower Gardens.**

8. What was the aim of the White Feather Movement? Tick one.

- ☐ to give white feathers to everyone who could vote
- ☒ **to make men who didn't volunteer to fight feel ashamed**
- ☐ to encourage women to work in factories

# Emmeline Pankhurst

2018 marks the centenary of women in the UK first being entitled to vote. How much do you know about the campaign for votes for women? Maybe you've heard of one of the leading campaigners, Emmeline Pankhurst, who was the founder and leader of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), one of the main groups in the fight for women's suffrage.

## Who Was She?

Emmeline Goulden was born in Moss Side, Manchester in 1858 to parents involved in radical politics. As the eldest of ten children, Emmeline had the task of reading the newspaper to her father at breakfast. This led to her early interest in politics. At the young age of 14, she was introduced to the women's suffrage movement which supported the right of women to vote. Although her father was in support of votes for women, she later recalled hearing him say it was a pity she wasn't a boy. This cemented her belief in the campaign for women's equality. At the age of 21, she married Richard Pankhurst who was 24 years older than her and a friend of the MP and suffragist, John Stuart Mill. He was a barrister who supported women's right to vote and had written documents on the subject. Together they had four children, Christabel, Sylvia, Frank and Adela. In 1889, Emmeline and Richard started the Women's Franchise League which campaigned for women to be allowed to vote in local elections. When the organisation broke apart, she tried to join the Independent Labour party but was initially refused as she was a woman despite her friendship with its leader, Keir Hardie.



## Did You Know?

Emmeline worked as a Poor Law Guardian in a workhouse and was shocked at the terrible conditions there. She was convinced that women in particular got a rough deal in the workhouse.

## Who Were The Suffragettes?

In 1903, five years after the unexpected death of her husband, Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her daughters Christabel, Sylvia and Adela were active in the organisation which was more militant than other organisations in support of votes for women.

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Founded on the motto, 'deeds, not words', the WSPU went to great lengths in pursuit of their cause. Instead of the peaceful marches and public speeches of other suffragists, the WSPU held demonstrations, smashed windows and set buildings on fire. Their violent actions meant that these women were the first to be called 'suffragettes'. Many of their protests were illegal and several of the suffragettes, including Emmeline Pankhurst, went to prison. Whilst in prison, the suffragettes often went on hunger strike and refused to eat in an aim to raise further awareness of their fight. Emmeline Pankhurst was imprisoned several times and force-fed whilst on hunger strike. The WSPU was not connected with any political party and only women could be members.



## Did you know?

In 1913, a suffragette called Emily Davison died when she was trampled by the King's horse, Anmer, at the Epsom Derby. It is believed that she was trying to drape a suffragette banner on the horse.

## What Changed In 1914?

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Emmeline's focus quickly changed. She turned her focus to the war effort and called for the suffragettes to do the same. They encouraged women to work in factories producing munitions for the soldiers and encouraged young men to enlist in the armed forces. When the bill was passed in 1917 to grant women over 30 the vote, Pankhurst closed down the WSPU and a year later the bill became law. Emmeline Pankhurst died just weeks before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote by Parliament in July 1928. Two years later, a statue was unveiled in London's



## Did You Know?

Emmeline Pankhurst supported the White Feather Movement which aimed to make men who didn't volunteer to fight feel ashamed and join up to fight in the First World War. This movement would give a white feather to men not in uniform in an attempt to shame them.



# Questions

1. How many years ago were women first able to vote in the UK?

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2. Find and copy a word which is a synonym for 'allowed'.

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3. What first sparked Emmeline's interest in politics?

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4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1889? Tick one.

- ☐ The Women's Franchise League
- ☐ The Independent Labour Party
- ☐ The Women's Social and Political Union

5. How did the suffragists campaign for women's suffrage?

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6. Which organisation was founded in 1903 and by whom?

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7. What does the motto, 'deeds, not words' tell you about the Women's Social and Political Union?

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8. Draw lines to complete the sentences.

Whilst in prison,
Emmeline Pankhurst died
In 1928,

women over 30 could vote for the first time.
Pankhurst went on hunger strike.
shortly before the Equal Franchise Act was passed

9. How is Emmeline Pankhurst remembered in London?

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10. Tick the correct box related to each statement in the table:

	True	False
Emmeline Pankhurst had 5 children.		
Richard Pankhurst was 24 years older than his wife.		
Emmeline Pankhurst was first introduced to the women's suffrage movement aged 21.		
Emmeline Pankhurst is commemorated with a statue in Paris.		
Emmeline Pankhurst was shocked by the conditions in the workhouse.		

For those statements which are false, write the correct statement below:

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# Answers

1. 1. How many years ago were women first able to vote in the UK?

**Women first received the right to vote in the UK 100 years ago.**

2. 2. Find and copy a word which is a synonym for 'allowed'.

**entitled**

3. What first sparked Emmeline's interest in politics?

**Emmeline's interest in politics was first sparked by reading the newspaper to her father at breakfast.**

4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1889? Tick one.



**The Women's Franchise League**



The Independent Labour Party



The Women's Social and Political Union

5. How did the suffragists campaign for women's suffrage?

**The suffragists campaigned peacefully and legally for women's suffrage, through marches, speeches and lobbying MPs to put forward bills in Parliament.**

6. Which organisation was founded in 1903 and by whom?

**The Women's Social and Political Union was founded in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst.**

7. What does the motto, 'deeds, not words' tell you about the Women's Social and Political Union?

**Children's own responses, such as: The motto tells us that they believed their actions would have more impact than speeches and parliamentary bills.**

8. Complete the sentences.

Whilst in prison, women over 30 could vote for the first time.  
 Emmeline Pankhurst died Pankhurst went on hunger strike.  
 In 1928, shortly before the Equal Franchise Act was passed

9. How is Emmeline Pankhurst remembered in London?

**Emmeline Pankhurst is remembered with a statue in London's Victoria Tower Gardens.**

10. Tick the correct box related to each statement in the table:

	True	False
Emmeline Pankhurst had 5 children.		✓
Richard Pankhurst was 24 years older than his wife.	✓	
Emmeline Pankhurst was first introduced to the women's suffrage movement aged 21.		✓
Emmeline Pankhurst is commemorated with a statue in Paris.		✓
Emmeline Pankhurst was shocked by the conditions in the workhouse.	✓	

For those statements which are false, write the correct statement below:

**Emmeline Pankhurst had 4 children.**

**Emmeline Pankhurst was first introduced to the women's suffrage movement aged 14.**

**Emmeline Pankhurst is commemorated with a statue in London.**

# Emmeline Pankhurst

2018 marks the centenary of women in the UK first being entitled to vote. How much do you know about the campaign for votes for women? Maybe you've heard of one of the leading campaigners, Emmeline Pankhurst, who was the founder and leader of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), one of the major organisations in the fight for women's suffrage.

## Who Was She?

Emmeline Goulden was born in Moss Side, Manchester in 1858 to parents involved in radical politics. As the eldest of ten children, Emmeline had the task of reading the newspaper to her father at breakfast which led to her early interest in politics. At the young age of 14, she was introduced to the women's suffrage movement which supported the right of women to vote and became interested in the cause. Despite her father's support of votes for women, she later recalled hearing him say it was a pity she wasn't a boy which cemented her belief in the campaign for women's equality. She realised that women were essentially seen as less important than men. At the age of 21, she married Richard Pankhurst who was 24 years older than her and a friend of the MP and suffragist, John Stuart Mill. He was a barrister who supported women's right to vote and had been involved in women's suffrage Parliamentary bills and had published works on the subject. Together they had four children, Christabel, Sylvia, Frank and Adela. In 1889, Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League which campaigned for women to be allowed to vote in local elections. When the organisation broke apart, she sought membership of the Independent Labour party but was initially refused, in spite of her friendship with its leader Keir Hardie, as she was a woman.



## Did You Know?

Emmeline worked as a Poor Law Guardian in a workhouse and was shocked at the terrible conditions there. She was convinced that women in particular got a rough deal in the workhouse and described heavily pregnant women scrubbing the floors.

## Who Were The Suffragettes?

In 1898, Emmeline was forced to move to a smaller house after Richard Pankhurst died. Five years after the unexpected death of her husband, in 1903, she founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her daughters Christabel, Sylvia and Adela were active in the organisation which was more militant than other organisations supporting women's suffrage. Founded on the motto, 'deeds, not words', the WSPU went to great lengths in pursuit of their cause. Instead of the peaceful marches and public speeches of other suffragists, the WSPU held demonstrations, smashed windows and set buildings on fire. As a result of their militant activities, they came to be called 'suffragettes'. Many of their protests were illegal and several of the suffragettes, including Emmeline Pankhurst, went to prison repeatedly. Whilst in prison, the suffragettes often went on hunger strike and refused to eat in an aim to raise further awareness of their fight. Emmeline Pankhurst was imprisoned several times and force-fed whilst on hunger strike herself. The WSPU was not connected with any political party and only women could be members. Whilst other organisations supported universal adult suffrage, meaning equal votes for all men and women, the WSPU wanted to keep the requirements of property ownership necessary for votes at the time. This was criticised as being not votes for women, but votes for ladies.



### Did You Know?

In 1913, a suffragette called Emily Davison died when she was trampled by the King's horse, Anmer, at the Epsom Derby. It is believed that she was trying to drape a suffragette banner on the horse. Since 2017, the banner has been on display in the Houses of Parliament.

## What Changed In 1914?

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Emmeline's political focus quickly changed. She turned to the war effort and called for the suffragettes to do the same. The WSPU encouraged women to work in factories producing munitions for the soldiers and encouraged young men to enlist in the armed



forces. When the bill was passed in 1917 to grant women over 30 the vote, Pankhurst dissolved the WSPU and a year later the bill came into force. Later on, in 1918, she changed her political views and became a Conservative Party candidate. Emmeline Pankhurst died just weeks before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote by Parliament in July 1928. Two years later, a statue was unveiled in London's Victoria Tower Gardens to commemorate the leader of the suffragettes.



## Did You Know?

Emmeline Pankhurst supported the White Feather Movement which aimed to make men who didn't volunteer to fight feel ashamed and join up to fight in the First World War. This movement would give a white feather to men not in uniform in an attempt to shame them.

# Questions

1. How many years ago were women first able to vote in the UK?

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2. Which event in Emmeline's childhood had a profound effect on her belief in women's equality?

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3. Which organisation did Richard and Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1889?

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4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1903 and what were they known as?

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5. What does the motto, "deeds, not words" tell you about the WSPU?

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6. What changed Emmeline Pankhurst's focus in 1914 and how did it change it?

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7. Summarise Emmeline Pankhurst's life after her husband died.

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8. From what you have read in the text, would you have supported the suffragists or the suffragettes? Explain your answer.

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9. 'Emmeline Pankhurst died just weeks before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote by Parliament in July 1928.' Why do you think the author chose to include the word 'just' in this sentence?

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10. Do you think that the White Feather Movement was similar or different in its aims and methods to the Women's Social and Political Union? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

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# Answers

1. How many years ago were women first able to vote in the UK?

**Women first received the right to vote in the UK 100 years ago.**

2. Which event in Emmeline's childhood had a profound effect on her belief in women's equality?

**The event in Emmeline's childhood that had a profound effect on her belief in women's equality was overhearing her father saying it was a pity she hadn't been born a boy and realising that women were seen as less important than men.**

3. Which organisation did Richard and Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1889?

**Richard and Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Franchise League in 1889.**

4. Which organisation did Emmeline Pankhurst found in 1903 and what were they known as?

**Emmeline Pankhurst founded The Women's Social and Political Union, also known as the suffragettes.**

5. What does the motto, "deeds, not words" tell you about the WSPU?

**The motto tells us that they believed their violent actions would have more impact than speeches and parliamentary bills.**

6. What changed Emmeline Pankhurst's focus in 1914 and how did it change it?

**The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 turned Emmeline Pankhurst's focus to the war effort, encouraging women to work in factories producing munitions and encouraging young men to enlist in the armed forces.**

7. Summarise Emmeline Pankhurst's life after her husband died.

**Children's own responses, which may include the following points:**

- **After her husband died, Emmeline Pankhurst was forced to move house.**
- **She founded the Women's Social and Political Union.**
- **She went to prison repeatedly for her militant activities as a suffragette, and went on hunger strike.**
- **She dissolved the WSPU when women over 30 were granted the vote.**

- **She changed her political views and became a Conservative Party candidate.**
- **She died just before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote.**

8. From what you have read in the text, would you have supported the suffragists or the suffragettes? Explain your answer.

**Children's own responses.**

9. 'Emmeline Pankhurst died just weeks before all men and women over the age of 21 were granted the vote by Parliament in July 1928.' Why do you think the author chose to include the word 'just' in this sentence?

**Children's own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include the word 'just' because it emphasises how Emmeline Pankhurst would only have needed to live a little while longer to see her goal achieved.**

10. Do you think that the White Feather Movement was similar or different in its aims and methods to the Women's Social and Political Union? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

**Children's own responses, such as: I think that the White Feather Movement was different in its aims and methods to the WSPU because they only gave feathers to people, they were not violent and did not do anything illegal like setting buildings on fire for their cause; I think that the White Feather Movement was similar in its aims and methods to the WSPU because both of their campaigns were designed to persuade people to act differently and there were unpleasant consequences if they didn't, such as shame for men who didn't join the Army, and damage to buildings and property if people didn't support women's suffrage.**