

## The Suffragettes

### Who were the Suffragettes?

By 1903, some women became so frustrated that men wouldn't give them the vote that they decided to form a new organisation. They were called the SUFFRAGETTES and they were prepared to use violent and aggressive methods to get what they wanted. However, the Suffragettes hoped that whatever tactics they used, no one would be physically hurt except perhaps themselves. The leader of the Suffragettes was a woman called EMMELINE PANKHURST.

- 1) What were some women angry about?
- 2) What was the name of the group that some women organised?
- 3) What were these women prepared to use to get what they wanted?
- 4) Who was the leader of this group?

### What did the Suffragettes do?

For over ten years the Suffragettes tried to get Parliament to change the law and allow women to get the vote. At the start of their campaign they held large meetings, shouted at politicians and wrote petitions to Parliament, but this did not make much difference. So the methods changed and became more militant (more aggressive). They smashed windows, burned post boxes and bombed and burned buildings. Some women were arrested and went to prison. When they were in prison Suffragettes went on HUNGER STRIKE and refused to eat. Eventually the women were FORCE-FED. A tube was forced down their throat and liquid was poured down. It was very painful.

5) The \_\_\_\_\_ tried to get Parliament to change the \_\_\_\_\_ to allow women to get the \_\_\_\_\_.

6) HEADS

TAILS

The first way that the Suffragettes protested

were smashing windows and burning houses.

This method

more militant tactics.

So instead the Suffragettes used

and were force-fed.

This meant that they

was by using meetings and petitions.

Some women went on Hunger strike

had very little success.

**Source A**



**Source B**



**Source C**



**Source D**



7) Look at the Photographs above which show examples of the militant actions of the Suffragettes and match the captions below to the correct photo. Write out the source letter and the captions into your book.

- 1) A painting of Thomas Carlyle, from the National Portrait Gallery which was damaged by a Suffragette who slashed it three times with a knife.
- 2) Five Suffragettes holding a broken window in its frame, the woman on the left is Adela Pankhurst, daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst.
- 3) A racecourse stand set on fire and destroyed by the Suffragettes in 1913.
- 4) A Suffragette struggling with a policeman at a demonstration in London in 1910.

8) Write a paragraph to explain the militant tactics of the Suffragettes.