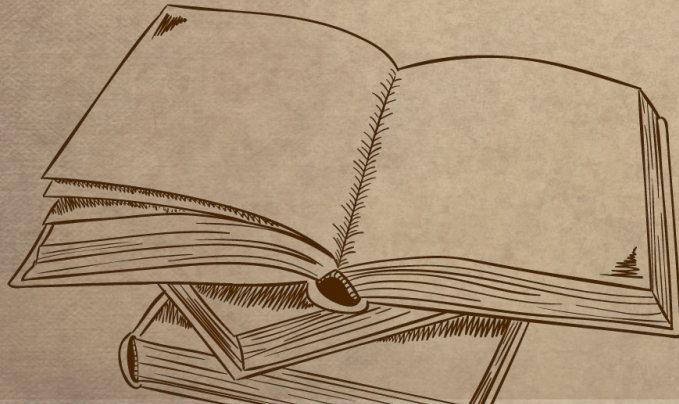
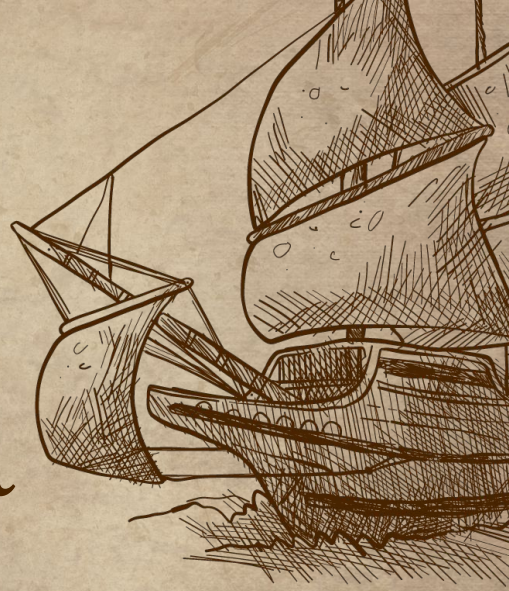


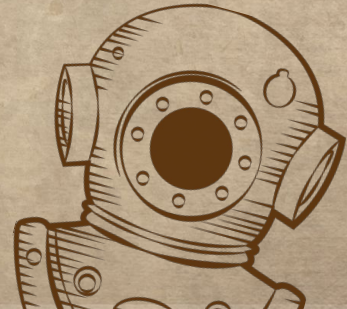


# THE EXTENSION OF SUFFRAGE

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A virtual museum by Clara  
Thorp 7X



# WELCOME TO THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM ABOUT SUFFRAGE.

This museum is about how people got the right to vote and why it has not  
always been the same for everyone.

# CONTENTS

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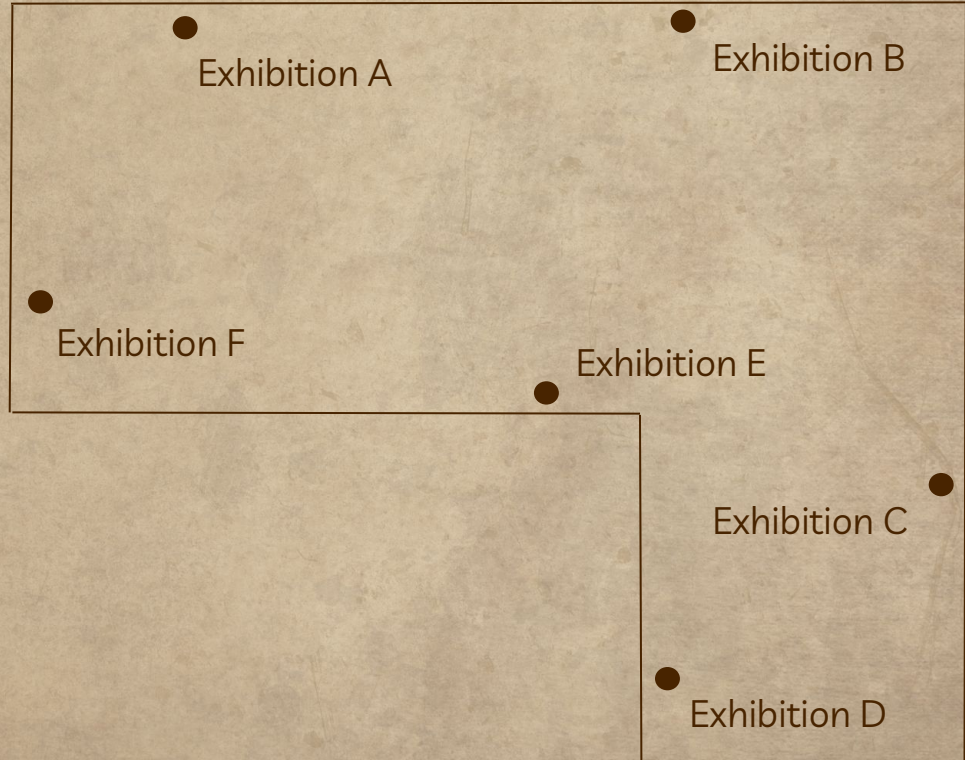
Exhibit-B

Exhibit-C

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Exhibit-F



# THE PETERLOO MASSACRE

The Peterloo Massacre took place at St Peter's Fields on 16th August 1819. Working class people, mainly cotton workers, were going to St Peter's fields to ask the government for the right to vote led by a man called Henry Hunt. They carried home-made flags in their hands for the protest although they came in peace because they did not want to fight. Unfortunately the people at St Peter's fields were alarmed by this so they called the Manchester Magistrates. The Manchester Magistrates were rich men who volunteered as soldiers. They went and attacked the crowd of protesters who were defenceless and hadn't brought any weapons. The day ended in disaster: around 18 people were killed and many more were injured. Hunt was arrested and put in prison for two years. The government was spooked by this large number of people so they made a group of laws called The Six Acts which included no mass gatherings and no flag carrying. Many people who had heard about this event were appalled by the bloodshed in Peterloo and their opinion quickly changed about the government.



Exhibit A- Political Cartoon by George Cruikshank

# HOW MPs WERE ELECTED

One of the reasons for the Peterloo Massacre was that the way that MPs were elected was not very fair. Hardly any people were given the right to vote; only rich men who owned property. Some places did not have any MPs to represent them such as Manchester. No women were given the right to vote because they were seen as the property of men. Lots of people wanted this to change because they thought their lives would be improved so they held protests to support it. Unfortunately, the government did not listen to many of these protests and they were laughed at so nothing changed. The events of Peterloo seemed to have been a failure as soldiers were cleared of any wrongdoings and the government made laws to stop any future protests. In 1832, there was a Great Reform Act and this enabled another small proportion of men to vote, however, this was still only around 8% of the population of England.

Exhibit B

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# THE CHARTISTS

Working men were upset with the government because their work used to be well paid but now, as technology improved, their work was not respected any longer. This caused thousands of men to be thrown out of work. The government increased the number of people who were allowed to vote but instead of increasing democracy, they were blocking it from poorer people. The chartists were a group of people who wanted votes for all and payment of MPs. This group was led by William Cuffay. At first they were trying to do it peacefully but Parliament didn't listen so they started to try to do it by force. Unfortunately there were police spies among them so their plans did not work and they could not stage their Rebellion.



Exhibit C- William Cuffay

# CHANGES IN VOTING FOR MEN

From 1867 to 1884 Some changes were made and lots more men could vote. In 1867, all men over all working men over a certain age were allowed to vote as long as they owned property. This doubled the amount of men who were allowed to vote to around 2 million. In 1872 was made secret so that people wouldn't feel pressured to vote for a certain candidate. In 1884 all men over the age of 21 were allowed to vote; this meant that two-thirds of men were allowed to vote overall. These changes were made because now trains brought daily newspapers all over the country so that men had opinions on politics and were more interested. The Conservatives party extended the vote so more people would vote for them and the Liberal Party to this too. Unfortunately, still no women were allowed to vote. Lots of people still campaigned and held protests for everyone to be allowed to vote regardless of whether they were a man or a woman. They also wanted the age restriction to be lowered.

Exhibit D

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# CAMPAIGNS FOR VOTES FOR WOMEN

At St Peters field in 1819, women were also there to campaign for men's votes because they thought that their fathers and husbands votes would have an income on their wages. However, women wanted to have the right to vote and be independent. There were lots of groups and individuals that stood for this such as Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill who presented petitions with signatures from people who also wanted this, including Florence Nightingale's signature. Unfortunately the petition was laughed at and the government didn't change the laws. The Langham Place group tried to find work for women and they publicized the issues through *English Woman's Journal*. They had worked with John Stuart Mill when his petition had failed but they carried on similar ideas, after. Lydia Becker and the Manchester Suffrage Society organised other women to add their names to the list of people who were allowed to vote in 1868. Unfortunately, people did not support her and she could not make her work effective.

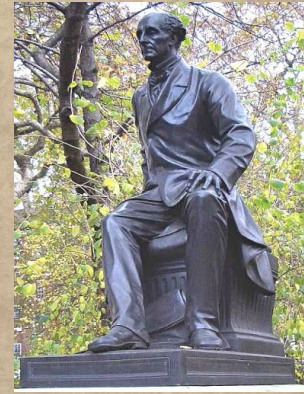


Exhibit E- Harriett Taylor Mill and Statue of John Stuart Mill

# THE SUFFRAGETTES

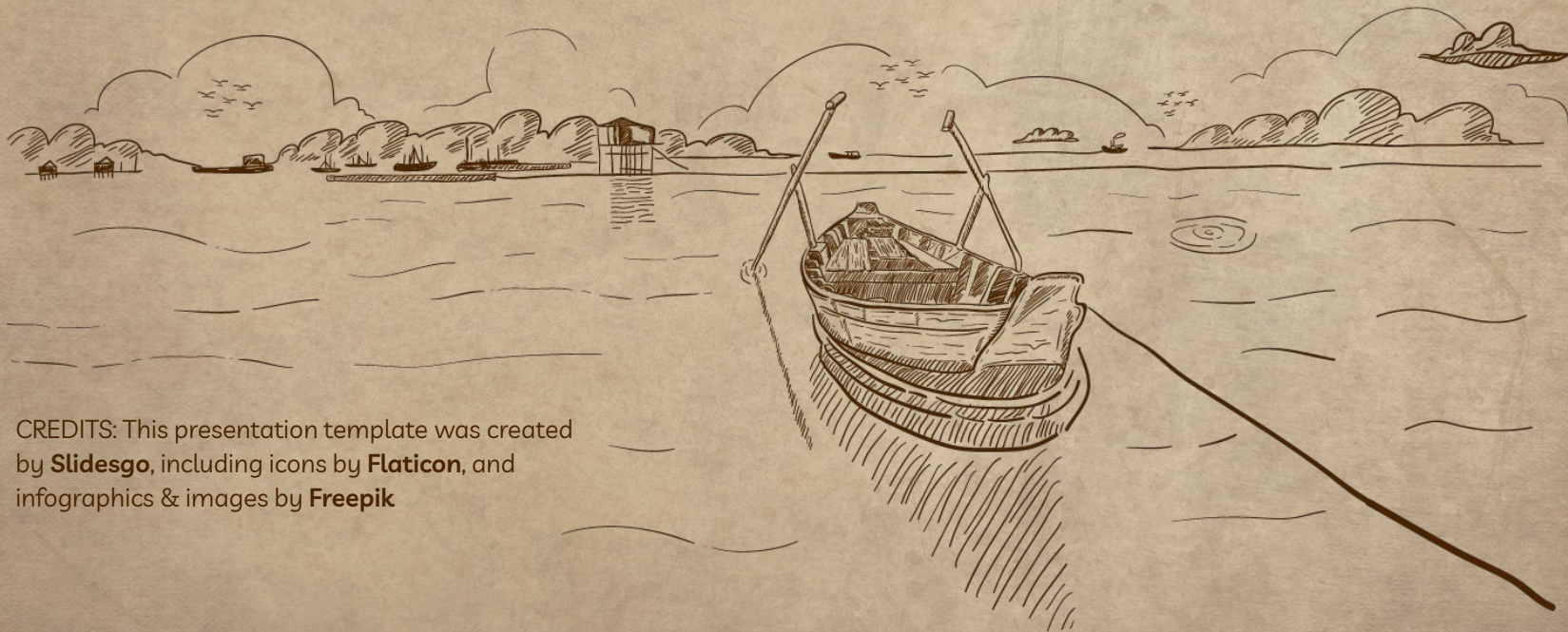
Even after so many campaigns and protests, women still had not got their vote so Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters formed a group called The WSPU, also known as the suffragettes. This group of women was a strong supporter of women's suffrage and they took direct action. They deliberately broke the law to get publicity and they use colour schemes and slogans to get their point across. This was unlike any other method that anyone had tried. The suffragettes were imprisoned many times because of their actions but the government still refused to change the laws as their actions were seen as unladylike. By 1914, the suffragettes had gained a lot of publicity and sympathy for the way that they were treated in prison; they had encouraged many women to help their campaigns but unfortunately, not many women were prepared to put themselves in danger in this way. 1914 was the year of the start of WWI. The WSPU worked alongside the government to get as many women as possible involved with the war effort. They held a march so they could have the right to serve the war. While men fought on the front line, women took over their jobs in factories. This included producing weapons and working in hospitals. By the end of the War, the government decided to give some women the right to vote as long as they were over the age of 30 and they owned property. People still held campaigns as they wanted the vote to be on the same basis as men so by 1928, all adults were allowed to have the same vote without even having to have ownership of any property and the age restriction was lowered to 18 years old.



Exhibit F- Suffragette Flag

After years of campaigning, people's years work had finally paid off and, over 50 years of protests and campaigns, everyone was allowed to vote on the same basis.

# THANKS



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