



The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by
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Welcome to my museum

Here we shall walk you through a timeline of the extension of suffrage!!

Starting with the demonstrations in St Peters and finishing with the eventual success of votes for all



Peterloo 1819

So called because it took place on St Peter's field and was so violent it was compared to the battle of Waterloo a few years earlier.

- 60,000 people demonstrated demanding the right to vote for all
- A peaceful protest turned into a bloody massacre, 15 people killed and 1600 injured.
- Tory government strongly opposed to granting voting rights to the uneducated.



Massacre at St Peter's or "BRITONS STRIKE HOME"!!!
London Post & Observer 1819 by C. May 111 Chiswick

Initially it was seen as a failure, the government introduced laws to prevent similar protests taking place. Journalists who had written in support of the protesters and criticised the soldiers were arrested...

Midterm impact of Peterloo (1832)



Henry 'Orator' Hunt - peoples champion Peterloo

Peterloo contributed significantly to political change.

- Journalists reported in newspapers which spread the word about the massacre up and down the country.
- People began to realise that it was important for ordinary people to have a voice in politics in England.
- The Great Reform Act was published in 1832

Peterloo was hugely influential in ordinary people having the right to vote...

Chartist movement 1837



The great reform act extended the great franchise only very slightly to a small number of middle class men.

- In 1837 a group of working men came together led by William Lovett to campaign for reform and wanted votes for all not just middle class and land owners.
- There were secret ballots so people didn't feel pressure to vote for a certain party.
- Chartism got poorer people interested in politics and inspired further protests and challenges to the establishment.

William Lovett

The biggest step forward was the 1832 reform allowing all men over 21 in the countryside to vote...

First women's campaign 1851



Although women were at St Peters field in 1819 votes for women were not included in those demands.

- The first campaigners were harriet taylor mill and her brother john stuart mill.they campaigned for the equality of women.
- In 1867 John Mill ran the first debate on women's suffrage in parliament.
- He tried to persuade Parliament to include some women in these acts by compiling petitions to demonstrate how many women wanted the vote

this set the stage for campaigning movements, which would take the fight forward into the twentieth century.

Later womens campaigns 1897-1914



Millicent Fawcett

Suffragettes - A group of women that committed crime such as torching buildings setting off bombs and ripping famous art work so they could get noticed.

- The Women's Franchise League is formed and aims to win the vote for married women as well as single and widowed women
- Millicent Fawcett was part of a group that campaigned to protect vulnerable women and wanted to vote so they could improve women's lives.

Woman campaigned until the 1st world war.....

World war 1(1914)



Britain declares war on Germany. During the war years an estimated 2 million women replaced men over as they took over professionally males jobs.

- The Pankhurst and WSPU worked with the government to get women involved in the war effort.
- This contributed to create the women's army auxiliary corps in 1917.
- Women who joined the WAAC fulfilled support roles in the army, freeing up men to fight in the front lines.

1918 saw women vote in a general election for the first time...

Women win the vote



1928

The Equal Franchise Act is passed giving women equal voting rights with men. All women aged over 21 can now vote in elections. Fifteen million women are eligible

1929

On 30 May women aged between 21 and 29 vote for the first time. This general election is sometimes referred to as the Flapper Election