



Saltaire Stories
Past, Present and Future



Deeds or Words?

The Campaign for Women's Votes

National Curriculum links:

History: Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day

Citizenship: The development of the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom

Citizenship: The operation of Parliament, including voting and elections



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Context:

Before 1918, voting was almost exclusively limited to men who owned property. By the late 19th century, a national movement had been established to win the vote for women.

These campaigns were peaceful at first but struggled to win mainstream support. Many prominent politicians were opposed to the idea of women voting.

In 1903, the campaign for women's suffrage took a new turn, with supporters splitting into factions over the approach they should take. These two factions became known as the suffragettes and the suffragists.

Isabel Salt was a prominent campaigner in the local area. She delivered many speeches in support of the suffragist cause. The suffragists opposed the more militant methods employed by the suffragettes.

Lesson Idea:

Provide pupils with the speeches by Emmeline Pankhurst and Isabel Salt. Ask them to identify which cause they are speaking in support of and what means they support in the campaign for the vote.

Ask pupils to decide for themselves and write an argument in favour or in opposition to the suffragette movement.

Did the suffragists or the suffragettes do more to support the cause?

Further Lessons:

Future lessons could explore the effect the First World War had on encouraging the suffrage movement and other franchise movements in the UK and globally.

You will need:

[Speech 1 \(Emmeline Pankhurst\)](#)

[Speech 2 \(Isabel Salt\)](#)