

## Knowledge Map: How did the electorate change in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries?

<b>Summary:</b>	At the start of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century only a limited number of men in Britain could vote. These men would all have been wealthy landowners. This meant that any laws that were passed favoured them. However other men were becoming fed up of poor working conditions and low wages. Influenced by revolutions abroad, protests intensified. Over the course of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century the electorate was extended to include many more men, but no women were allowed to vote. The suffragists campaigned peacefully, but some women grew tired of the slow pace and the suffragettes resorted to more militant tactics. During World War One many women contributed to the war effort and some women were given the vote in 1918.
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### Why did people begin to protest for change at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century?

#### Summary

Between 1750 – 1900 the Industrial Revolution had led to huge change in Britain. The population had grown rapidly and cities such as Manchester had seen huge growth. It became clear the government no longer represented all the people. People in Britain became inspired to campaign for change as a result of revolutions and rebellions in America, France and Ireland.

#### Key knowledge

1.	<b>The American Revolution</b>	The people of America were angry at being under British control, particularly when they raised taxes. By 1787 America was independent.
2.	<b>The French Revolution</b>	The French commoners became angry at the monarchy having 'absolute' power and overthrew them turning France into a republic.
3.	<b>The Irish Rebellion</b>	The Irish rebelled against the British rule in Ireland, in particular how few could vote. The rebellion was unsuccessful.

### How democratic was Britain by 1832?

#### Summary

A range of different groups began to protest against their living and working conditions and their lack of representation. In 1832 the Great Reform Act gave more men the vote, but still had many limitations.

#### Key knowledge

4.	<b>The Peterloo Massacre</b>	People in Manchester were angry they did not have the vote and gathered to hear Henry Hunt speak. The authorities were afraid of a revolution, and armed guards charged the crowd, injuring nearly 700 people.
5.	<b>The Luddites</b>	British weavers and textile workers, who were afraid that machines would take their jobs, took part in riots at factories, destroying machines.
6.	<b>Swing Riots</b>	Agricultural workers became angry about their low wages, poor living conditions and the introduction of new machinery so attacked workhouses, buildings and machinery.
7.	<b>The Great Reform Act 1832</b>	This broadened the electorate and gave 200,000 extra people (men) the vote. It also gave newly industrialised cities such as Manchester and Birmingham an MP. However only 4% of the population, and no women, could vote.
8.	<b>The Chartists</b>	They were a group of people who didn't think the Great Reform Act went far enough, and presented petitions for change. They wanted all men to receive the vote, and a secret ballot. The Chartist movement failed but led to a fear of unrest. Many of their ideas were included in later Reform acts.

### How did women gain the right to vote?



#### Summary

By the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century more men had been given the vote but women were seen as inferior in terms of their role and the responsibilities they were given. The suffragists, and then suffragettes campaigned for women's right to vote. However some historians argue it was their actions during the war that led to the first women gaining the vote in 1918.

#### Key knowledge

9.	<b>The Match Girls</b>	A group of women who worked at the Bryant and May factory. They went on strike due to the poor and dangerous working conditions, for example the illness 'Phossy Jaw'. Eventually working conditions improved and white phosphorous was banned.
10.	<b>Position of women in 1900</b>	Women were seen as inferior to men, and were expected to perform domestic duties. They were not allowed to vote, as they were seen as too emotional. Some working class women did work, but this tended to be in poorly paid and low skilled jobs such as domestic service, and seamstresses.
11.	<b>Suffragists (NUWSS)</b>	The suffragists were an organisation led by Millicent Fawcett who campaigned peacefully for the right to vote, using methods such as petitions and leaflets.
12.	<b>Suffragettes (WSPU)</b>	An organisation established by Emmeline Pankhurst, who were frustrated by the slow progress of the suffragists. Their motto was 'deeds not words'. They used militant tactics including arson, window smashing and getting arrested. Many people did not support their actions as they felt they were too violent.
13.	<b>Role of Women in World War One</b>	The suffragettes put their actions on hold during the war to focus on the war effort. They worked in roles such as nursing, bus conductors and mechanics. Women worked in munitions factories making explosives. They also worked as farmers in the Women's Land Army.
14.	<b>Representation of the People Act</b>	In 1918 this gave all men over the age of 21 the vote, and women over the age of 30 who owned property the vote. In 1928 this was extended so that all women over the age of 21 were given the vote.

#### Key words

<b>Electorate</b>	People in a country or area who can vote.	
<b>Democracy</b>	Where the people vote for their leader.	
<b>Suffrage</b>	The right to vote.	
<b>Revolution</b>	Overthrowing the government or monarchy.	