

ACTIVITY 1

CREATED EQUAL

Suffragette, opening this fall, is a stirring drama that empowers all who are striving for equality in our own day and age. After decades of peaceful protest had achieved nothing in the struggle to gain the vote for women in Great Britain, a group of women became rebels as their only route to change.



Photo by Cintia Barenho

1. DISCOVERY

Use these resources to learn more about the political struggle portrayed in *Suffragette*. What are some parallels and differences between the Suffragettes and activists for social justice today?

- **Learn about the leader of the Suffragette movement, Emmeline Pankhurst:**
www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pankhurst_emmeline.shtml
- **Examine artifacts of the Suffragettes:**
http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/london/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8680000/8680305.stm
- **Learn why London was called "Suffragette City":**
www.museumoflondon.org.uk/explore-online/pocket-histories/suffragette-city-how-did-votes-women-campaign-affect-london-19061914/
- **Tour the Suffragette exhibit at The Museum of London:**
<http://collections.museumoflondon.org.uk/Online/group.aspx?g=group-18146>
- **Learn about the Women's Social and Political Union:**
www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-role-of-british-women-in-the-twentieth-century/womens-social-and-political-union/
- **Explore primary sources on the Suffragettes at the British Library:**
www.bl.uk/learning/histcizen/21cc/struggle/suffragettes1/suffragettes.html

2. DISCUSSION

How do women's rights in the era of *Suffragette* compare to women's rights today? Indicate whether the statements listed below were true or false for women in Great Britain in the first decades of the 20th century. Then take a second look and indicate which are true or false for women in the U.S. today. Discuss how and where the struggle for equality has achieved its goals or must continue.

	True	False
1. Working class women were expected to marry young, care for their home and children, and help support the family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Women did not have universal access to free and public education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Women could not file for divorce without their husband's consent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. In wartime, women were prohibited from working in munitions factories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Women were forbidden to organize to promote their cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Authorities could force-feed women prisoners who engaged in hunger strikes to promote their cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Men who assaulted women protesters were rarely, if ever, punished.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The law transferred a woman's wealth and property to her husband when she married.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Women received pay equal to men for their work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Women were allowed custody of their children if they divorced their husband.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Are the statements above true or false today for women in Nigeria? India? Saudi Arabia? Brazil? What would a Suffragette say on the subject of worldwide women's rights today?
- How will issues related to equality for women impact the next Presidential election in the United States?
- What public policies, if any, are necessary to help women in the United States and why?
- How could social media be used to help bring about those public policies?
- Why was a peaceful approach to securing women's rights successful in the United States but not in Great Britain?
- In what part of the world are women's rights most at risk and why? What can be done to help them? What can be done to change this?



Photo by Al Jazeera English

SUFFRAGETTE

MOTHERS DAUGHTERS REBELS

Movie Website: SuffragetteTheMovie.com

Social Action Website: FightsNotOver.com

Social Action Essay Contest Website: <http://suffragette-myvoice.com>

IN THEATERS THIS FALL