

The Suffragettes:

Abigail Adams (1744–1818)—Because her husband was often away, Abigail Adams had much responsibility. She was an early voice for women's rights and tried to influence her husband, President John Adams, to give more legal rights and protection to women.

Susan Brownell Anthony (1820–1906)—Susan B. Anthony spent her adult life working for women's rights and suffrage. She and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were co-founders of the National Woman Suffrage Association. The two also collaborated on the first three volumes of *A History of Woman Suffrage*. Anthony wrote the fourth alone.

Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1919)—Carrie Chapman Catt was an activist for women's rights and peace. She worked for many years as an organizer for the National American Woman Suffrage Association and became president of the organization in 1900. After the passage of the nineteenth amendment, Catt founded the League of Women Voters. After 1913, her efforts were devoted to the peace movement.

Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)—Julia Ward Howe was an author, poet, reformer, and lecturer. She spent most of her life fighting for justice. In 1861 she wrote *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* to inspire Union soldiers to fight to end slavery.

Lucretia Mott (1793–1880)—Lucretia Mott helped found two anti-slavery organizations before helping to organize the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY. Lucretia Mott wrote about the way women were restricted by lack of education and political rights. In 1864 she and others founded Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Alice Paul (1885–1977)—Alice Paul founded the National Women's Party in 1913. She fought for the Equal Rights Amendment, which has never been ratified. She was an avid protester and was often jailed for her civil disobedience.

Anna Howard Shaw (1847–1919)—Anna Howard Shaw earned two college degrees. She was ordained in 1880 as a Methodist minister. In 1888 she met Susan B. Anthony and was soon working tirelessly with her.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902)—Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped to organize the first woman's rights convention. She wrote the "Declaration of Sentiments," which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. Stanton also worked to put an end to slavery. In 1896, she and Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Lucy Stone (1818–1893)—Lucy Stone worked hard to attend college and pay the fees. She was the first woman in Massachusetts to earn a college degree. Lucy Stone was an early activist for women's rights. When she married Henry Blackwell, they agreed she'd keep her own last name. She was probably the first woman to do so. Lucy Stone co-founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA).

The Seneca Falls Convention

The Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, marked the start of the long struggle to obtain the vote for women in the United States. Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane C. Hunt, and Mary Ann McClintock were the organizers of the convention. An announcement advertising the event appeared on July 14, 1848, in the *Seneca County Courier*, a small semi-weekly journal:

Woman's Rights Convention—A Convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of July current; commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. During the first day the meeting will be exclusively for women, who are earnestly invited to attend. The public generally are invited to be present on the second day, when Lucretia Mott, of Philadelphia, and other ladies and gentlemen, will address the Convention.

1. Where and when was the convention to be held?

2. Judge the decision to allow only women during the first day.

The following is an excerpt from *The History of Woman Suffrage*, written by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Mathilda Gage.

On the first attempt to frame a resolution; to crowd a complete thought, clearly and concisely, into three lines; they felt as helpless and hopeless as if they had been suddenly asked to construct a steam engine. The ladies resigned themselves to a faithful perusal of various masculine productions.

After considering many documents, the women finally decided to base their resolution on the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men and women are created equal..." The document also discussed the lack of women's rights and men's unreasonable authority over women. The Seneca Falls Convention inspired other women's groups all over the country to seek action in obtaining the right to vote.

1. Analyze the choice of the Declaration of Independence as their model. Judge the decision to base their resolution on this document.

2. What important change did they make?

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony was already working hard for abolition and temperance when she first met abolitionist and woman's rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It was the beginning of a long and close working relationship and friendship between the two. They focused their energies on woman's rights and suffrage. Although they were about the same age, they were different in many ways. Stanton was a married woman; Anthony remained single. Anthony travelled more widely in her cross-country and international speaking tours; therefore, she received more public criticism than Stanton. There were other contrasts as well.

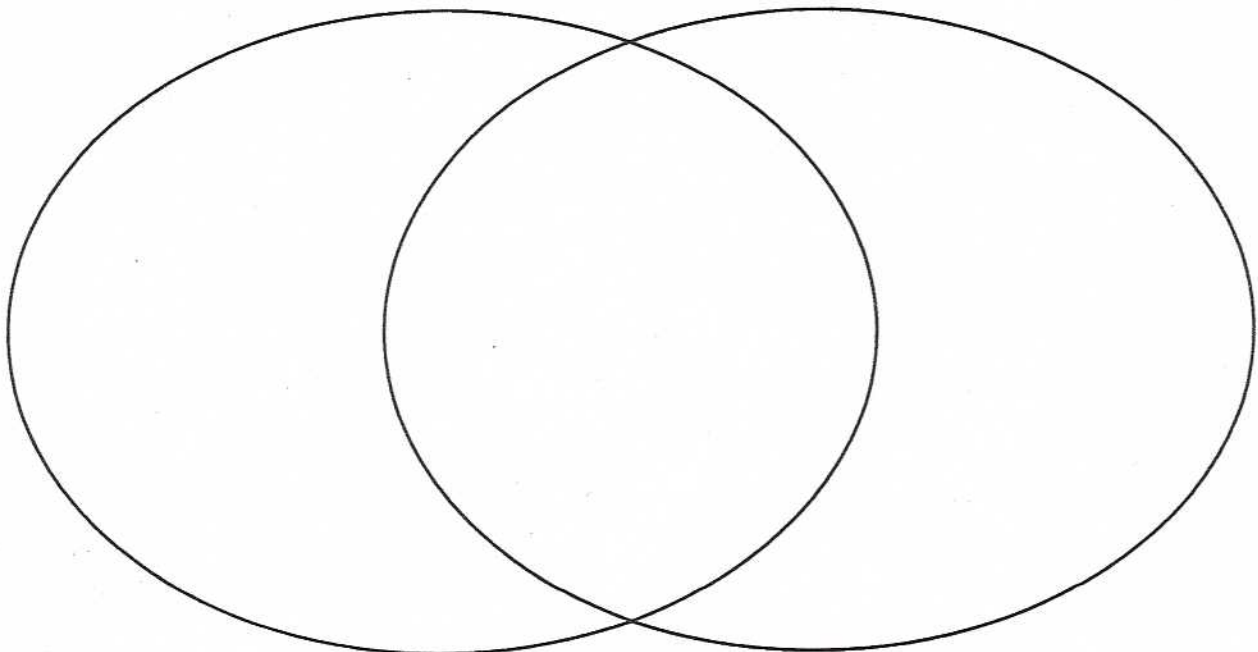
The photograph on the left portrays Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left) and Susan B. Anthony (right).

Source: Library of Congress

The following is an excerpt from Elizabeth Cady Stanton's memoirs:

In writing we did better work together than either could do alone. While she is slow and analytical in composition, I am rapid and synthetic. I am the better writer, she the better critic. She supplied the facts and statistics, I the philosophy and rhetoric, and together we have made arguments that have stood unshaken by the storms of thirty years. Our speeches may be considered the united product of two brains.

Create a Venn diagram based on the information in the above memoir.



A Special Partnership

Together Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony published *The Revolution*, a radical women's rights newspaper. Along with Mathilda Gage, they also collaborated on three volumes of *A History of Woman's Suffrage*.

After the Civil War, former slaves were given the right to vote in the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution. Stanton and Anthony were dismayed that women were still excluded from voting, and stepped up their efforts to create awareness of the injustice. They formed the National Woman Suffrage Association and continued their joint struggle for women's rights.

When Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in 1902, Susan B. Anthony stated, "I am too crushed to speak."



Source: National Archives and Records Administration

1. Why did these two famous women work so well together?

2. Why is cooperative effort sometimes better than individual effort?

3. Research both women. In your opinion, which woman contributed more to the cause of equal voting rights? Give your reasons.

Taxation Without Representation

Lucy Stone owned a small property in New Jersey for which she was assessed property taxes. She refused to pay the taxes. In her letter to the tax collector, she explained her reasons for this refusal. As a result of this behavior, her letter was published in the *Orange Journal* and some of her personal property was sold at a tax sale.

1. What was her reason for not paying the tax?

2. What theory of government did she rely on in her argument?

3. What did Lucy Stone hope would result from her action?

4. What other information can you learn from her letter?

5. Compare the suffragettes' feelings to those of the Colonists when the Stamp Act was passed.

Orange, N. J.
December 18, 1858

Mr. Mandeville, Tax Collector, Sir:

Enclosed I return my tax bill without paying it. My reason for not doing so is that women suffer taxation, and yet have no representation, which is not only unjust to one-half of the adult population, but is contrary to our theory of government. For years, some women have been paying their taxes under protest, but still taxes are imposed, and representation is not granted. The only course now left us is to refuse to pay the tax. We know what the immediate result of this refusal must be.

But we believe that when the attention of men is called to the wide difference between their theory of government and its practices, in this particular, they cannot fail to see the mistake they now make, by imposing taxes on women, while they refuse to grant them the right of suffrage, and that the sense of justice which is in all good men, will lead them to correct it. Then shall we cheerfully pay our taxes—not till then.

Respectfully,

Lucy Stone

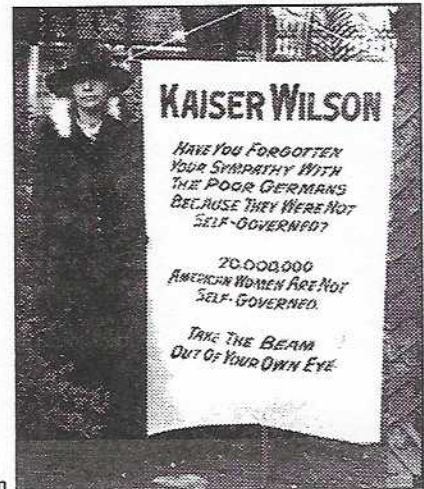
Picketing the White House

An amendment for woman's suffrage was introduced in Congress in 1878. Suffragists worked in many ways to bring pressure on politicians. President Wilson was openly opposed to this amendment. In 1917 and 1918 women picketed the White House. They marched outside the grounds for six months. The women were heckled and many were arrested. The photographs below show some of these women during the picketing campaign.

Photo #1: November 19, 1918

1. What is meant by calling the President "Kaiser Wilson?"

2. What information is given in the photograph?



Source: National Archives and Records Administration



Source: National Women's Party Collection

Photo #2: College Day in the Picket Line, February 1917

1. What questions are asked of the President?

2. What in the picture tells you the women are serious about what they are doing?

3. What is the importance of these photographs?

The Nineteenth Amendment

The amendment that guarantees women in America the right to vote is shown below. This is a copy of the joint resolution of the sixty-sixth Congress; it proposed the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution. The amendment was ratified by two-thirds of the states and finally signed into law on August 26, 1920. None of the leaders of the woman suffrage movement were invited to witness the signing, and no photos were taken. Susan B. Anthony died fourteen years before the nineteenth amendment was added to the Constitution.

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May,
one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.*

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE ———"

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

J. H. Lile

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thos. R. Marshall

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

Examine the resolution document.

1. What is the date of the resolution?

2. How long did it take to get the amendment ratified?

3. What portion of each state legislature was needed to pass the new law?

4. Divide into groups and research the campaign for ratification of the amendment. Which state was the first to ratify? Which was last? Which states did not ratify? Was it difficult to achieve ratification? Explain.

5. Why, do you think, were no women invited to the signing ceremony?