

Knowledge organiser: How did people in Britain win the rights that we enjoy today?

Industrialisation, the increase in the population, and migration to towns and cities led to new ideas about who should be involved in the government of Britain. This set the country on the path to becoming a democracy. By 1928, all adult men and women had the right to vote. This unit will look at the SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE between campaigns for democracy.	Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
Topic 1: How democratic was Britain in the 19th century?	1819	‘The Peterloo Massacre’. A public meeting in Manchester to demand reform of Parliament. About 15 people were killed and 400–700 injured when magistrates ordered the cavalry to end the meeting.	Democracy	A system of government in which citizens choose their representatives by voting.
	1832	Parliamentary Reform Act redistributed seats to ensure that new towns and cities were represented. Small boroughs lost MPs. New MPs created. Electorate increased. One in five men had the vote	Chartist	A man who wanted to gain political rights and influence the working classes.
	1857–86	Acts passed giving women more rights over their property and earnings.	Patriarchal	A system of government controlled by men.
	1918	The Representation of the People Act gave the vote to all men over 21 and women over 30 who had property.	Domestic	The running of a home, house, or family.
	1928	Equal Franchise Act gave the vote to all women over 21.	Suffragette	A member of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) who used violent methods to get the vote.
Summarise your learning				
Topic 2: What rights did Victorian women have in the 19th century?	Government was not democratic in 1830: only 1 in 10 men could vote; women could not vote; new industrial towns and cities were not represented whilst some small boroughs, with tiny populations, had multiple MPs. Pressure for reform, most notably from the Chartists who aimed to gain political rights and influence for working class men, began the process of making Britain more democratic.		Suffragist	A member of the National Social and Political Union who campaigned for the vote by non-violent means.
Topic 3: How did women campaign for the right to vote?	Married Victorian middle and upper-class women were depicted as ‘the Angel in the House’ – the perfect, obedient wife and mother. Working-class women worked in factories, coalmines or as domestic servants. There were some exceptional women who challenged the stereotype, e.g. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson who became the only female member of the British Medical Association.	Who or what were these people/events?	Militancy	The use of violent methods in support of a political or social cause.
Topic 4: How much more democratic was Britain by 1928?	The Suffragists wanted the vote for property-owning women and used peaceful tactics. However, progress was slow, so the Suffragettes favoured more militant methods of protest. The Suffragettes were supported by women from other parts of the British Empire, primarily Indian women.	Millicent Fawcett Emmeline Pankhurst	Founder of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (1897). Campaigned peacefully for the vote for women. Founder of the Women’s Social and Political Union (1903). Favoured the use of violent and extreme methods to achieve their aims quickly.	Campaign
Topic 4: How much more democratic was Britain by 1928?	By 1930, Britain had become a democracy in comparison with the position in 1800, although there remained aspects of representation that needed further reform.	Sophia Duleep Singh	Woman of Indian and German-Ethiopian ethnicity who was a prominent British suffragette. She was a member of the Women’s Tax Resistance League, refusing to pay taxes in protest until women were awarded the vote.	Franchise
			Protest	A public expression of objection, disapproval or dissent towards an idea or action, typically a political one.

