


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?		Summarise your learning		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.											
						Chartist	A man who wanted to gain political rights and influence the working classes.											
						Patriarchal	A system of government controlled by men.											
						Domestic	The running of a home, house, or family.											
						Suffragette	A member of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) who used violent methods to get the vote.											
Topic 2: What rights did Victorian women have in the 19 th century?		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	1857–86	Acts passed giving women more rights over their property and earnings.	Suffragist	A member of the National Social and Political Union who campaigned for the vote by non-violent means.										
									1918	The Representation of the People Act gave the vote to all men over 21 and women over 30 who had property.	Militancy	The use of violent methods in support of a political or social cause.						
													1928	Equal Franchise Act gave the vote to all women over 21.	Campaign	A planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to achieve something such as social or political change.		
																	Franchise	The right to vote in public elections.
Who or what were these people/events?																		
Millicent Fawcett	Founder of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (1897). Campaigned peacefully for the vote for women.																	
Emmeline Pankhurst	Founder of the Women’s Social and Political Union (1903). Favoured the use of violent and extreme methods to achieve their aims quickly.																	
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.																	

