THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE WORKSHEET

The women's suffrage movement was the fight for the right of women by law to vote in national and local elections. Women's voting rights became an issue in the 19th century, especially in Britain and the U.S. In the U.S. the women's suffrage movement arose from the antislavery movement, abolitionism, and from the support of some very determined women.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, New York, November 12, 1815. She studied law under her father, who later became a New York Supreme Court judge. During this period she became a strong supporter of women's rights.

Elizabeth and her husband, Henry Brewster Stanton, became active members of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Stanton met Lucretia Mott in London as delegates to the World Anti-Slavery Convention. Both women were furious when they were refused permission to speak at the meeting. Stanton later recalled: “We resolved to hold a convention as soon as we returned home, and form a society to advocate the rights of women.”

In 1848, Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls. Stanton wrote the Declaration of Sentiments that would define the meeting. Taking the Declaration of Independence as her guide, Stanton stated that “all men and women had been created equal” and went on to list eighteen grievances on the part of men toward women. This was the same number of charges submitted against the King of England.

Susan B. Anthony was born February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. She was brought up in a Quaker family with long activist traditions. After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in temperance (the movement against alcohol). Like Stanton in the abolitionist cause, Anthony was not allowed to speak at temperance rallies because she was a woman. Susan B. Anthony was convinced by her work for temperance that women needed the vote if they were to influence public affairs. She was introduced to Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851 and attended her first women's rights convention in 1852.

Anthony traveled and lectured across the nation for the vote. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, women's rights to their own property and income, and women's labor organizations. Anthony, three of her sisters, and other women were arrested in Rochester in 1872 for voting.

Sojourner Truth was born in 1797 as Isabella, a Dutch-speaking slave in rural New York. Separated from her family at age nine, she was sold several times before ending up on the farm of John and Sally Dumont. As was the case for most slaves in the rural North, Isabella lived isolated from other African Americans, and she suffered from abuse at the hands of her masters. Dumont promised Truth freedom in 1826, “if she would do well and be faithful.” However, he changed his mind, claiming a hand injury had made her less productive. She was infuriated. Late in 1826, Isabella escaped to freedom.

In 1828, Isabella moved to New York City and soon after became a preacher. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Her faith and preaching brought her into contact with abolitionists and women's rights supporters, and Truth became a powerful speaker on both subjects. She traveled as a lecturer after the publication of The Narrative of Sojourner Truth, which detailed her suffering as a slave. Her speeches were based on her life as a woman and a former slave.

During the Civil War, Sojourner Truth took up the issue of women's suffrage. She was befriended by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but disagreed with them on many issues, most notably Stanton's threat that she would not support the black vote if women were denied it. Women would not gain the right to vote until August 18, 1920 when the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution long after these brave women died.
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1. What was the women’s suffrage movement? _______________________________________________
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2. What is abolitionism? __________________________________________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What made Elizabeth Cady Stanton furious and want to fight for women’s rights? ____________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What document did Stanton base her Declaration of Sentiments on? _________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________

5. What made Susan B. Anthony want to fight for women’s rights? ____________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________

6. What happened to Anthony and her sisters when they voted in 1872? _______________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________

7. What brought Sojourner Truth in contact with women’s rights crusaders? ____________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

8. What did Sojourner Truth and Elizabeth Cady Stanton disagree on? _________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

9. When did women finally get the right to vote? ____________________________________________

10. What gave women the right to vote? _____________________________________________________