

Emmeline Pankhurst



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Emmeline was born on the 15th July 1858 in Manchester.





She married Richard Pankhurst in 1879. He supported the idea that women should be able to vote.

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Emmeline Pankhurst set up the Women's Franchise League in 1889. She started to campaign for votes for women over 30 years old.

In 1903, she helped to set up a group called the Woman's Social and Political Union. Members of this group were named suffragettes.





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The suffragettes' motto was 'deeds not words'. They marched in the streets, published a newspaper and made speeches. Some suffragettes interrupted meetings, broke windows and went on hunger strikes.





Many people were shocked by their behaviour. Emmeline Pankhurst and other suffragettes were arrested for protesting.





She went to prison many times over the next decade.

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The First World War broke out in 1914 so Emmeline Pankhurst started to use her time and energy to help the war effort.





After the First World War ended in 1918 people decided that Emmeline Pankhurst and the suffragettes were right. Woman over 30 years old were given the right to vote. This was still not equal because the voting age for men was 21.





In 1928 the law was changed to give men and woman equal voting rights. All men and woman over 21 years old could vote. Emmeline Pankhurst died just after the change. She had campaigned for votes for women for 40 years.

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