Emmeline Pankhurst and the Suffragettes

Start thinking
1. Do women have the same rights as men in your country?
2. At what age can you vote in an election in your country?
3. Do you know when women started voting in your country?

Comprehension check
1. Watch the video clip and choose the correct answers.
   1. How old was Emmeline Pankhurst when she joined the fight to win votes for women?
      a. 13
      b. 14
      c. 15
      d. 16
   2. How long did Emmeline spend in prison the first time the police arrested her?
      a. a few days
      b. a week
      c. a month
      d. a year
   3. How old was Emmeline when she died?
      a. 69
      b. 79
      c. 89
      d. 99

2. Watch again and number the events in Emmeline Pankhurst’s life (1–9) in the order they happened.
   1. They used ‘civil disobedience’ in their campaign.
   2. Her husband died.
   3. Emmeline died.
   4. She worked with the government.
   5. All women won the right to vote.
   6. She hid from the police.
   7. Emmeline got married.
   8. The Pankhurts started a suffragette group.
   9. The police arrested Emmeline.

3. Match the words (1–7) to their meanings (a–g).
   1. __ statue
   2. __ suffragette
   3. __ right
   4. __ demonstration, protest
   5. __ disobedience
   6. __ extreme
   7. __ attitudes

   a. opinions
   b. radical, dramatic
   c. sculpture of a person or animal
   d. a woman campaigning for the ability to vote
   e. an ability that should be given to people
   f. refusing to listen or do what you are meant to do
   g. a public event to show your disagreement with something

4. Watch again and match the years (1–8) to the events (a–h).
   1. __ 1832
   2. __ 1857
   3. __ 1908
   4. __ 1910
   5. __ 1913
   6. __ 1914
   7. __ 1917
   8. __ 1928

   a. People’s attitudes to women changed.
   b. One of the suffragettes died.
   c. Some women won the right to vote.
   d. The women’s suffragette movement started.
   e. All women won the same rights to vote as men.
   f. Emmeline Pankhurst was born.
   g. There were big demonstrations for women’s rights.
   h. The police arrested 156 women at a demonstration.

5. Complete the summary with the words from the box.

   The fight to win the __________ for women began in 1832, and Emmeline Pankhurst was born 25 years later. She joined the __________ when she was 14 years old and later she formed her own group with her daughters.

   The police arrested Emmeline after she organised a __________ in London and she spent a month in __________. When she came out, the protests became more violent and one __________ died during a horse race. The First World War changed __________ to women, and Emmeline started working with the __________. They passed a law in 1917 that gave some women some __________. Unfortunately, Emmeline died in June 1928, just one month before all women finally won the right to vote.
Language check

6 Complete the sentences with the correct positive or negative Past simple form of the verbs from the box.

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1 The fight to win votes for women _________ in 1857.
2 When Emmeline was born, women _________ vote.
3 Emmeline _________ the suffragette movement when she was fourteen.
4 Richard Pankhurst _________ a journalist.
5 Emmeline _________ to prison for a month.
6 In later years, the suffragettes were more violent and they _________ windows.
7 Emmeline _________ with the government after the start of the First World War.
8 Women _________ the right to vote before Emmeline died.

7 Write sentences in the Past simple using the words given.

1 in 1857/men/ha _________ the right to vote

2 Emmeline/marry/Richard Pankhurst/at 21

3 in 1908/there be/big demonstrations/for women’s rights

4 Emmeline/organise/a demonstration/in London

5 civil disobedience/not be/a success

6 the group/become/more violent/after 1910

7 women/not win/equal rights/in 1917

Talk about it

8 In pairs. Which of the following causes do you agree with most? Choose one or more, and talk about it. Why should people support a campaign to help this cause? Give your opinions and reasons.

- We should fight for equal rights for all people in this country.
- We should put an end to child labour in the world.
- We should all take responsibility for looking after our planet and wildlife.

> A I think we should all put an end to child labour. If we don’t, children around the world in poorer countries, will never live the life they deserve.

B I agree. If we continue to buy cheap goods, children will always have to work for very little money in some countries.

Extension

9 In pairs. Look at photos A and B and answer the questions.

Photo A

1 What is happening in the picture?
2 How do you think the people are feeling?
3 Are there demonstrations in your country? What about?
4 What other ways can people protest about something?

Photo B

1 What is happening in the picture?
2 How do you think the woman is feeling?
3 Are there demonstrations in your country? What about?
4 What other ways can people protest about something?