**WALT: How the Vote for Women was won?**

WILFs:

4 - Describe the work of the WSPU and NUWSS

5 - Explain how the vote was won.

6 - Compare the WSPU and NUWSS tactics.

7 - Evaluate the impact of WW1.

Votes for women was a **gradual process**. Many women saw the vote as the vital achievement that would give them a say in the laws affecting their lives.

**The Suffragists**

The **NUWSS** (National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies) was led by **Millicent Fawcett** and was formed in **1897.** The group was made up of mainly middle class women and campaigned **peacefully**. The organisation built up support in Parliament.

**The Suffragettes**.

The **WSPU** (Women’s Social and Political Union) was led by **Emmeline Pankhurst** and was formed in **1903.** The group was made up of middle class women but it was more **militant**. They held marches, chained themselves to railings, attacked policemen, broke windows and went on hunger strike. **Emily Davison** ran out in front of the Kings Horse in 1913 and was killed.

* Women got respect when they did a variety of war work both at home an overseas
* Many MPs were impressed they dropped their campaign at this time and supported them
* Prime Minister Herbert Asquith supported them and he was succeeded by David Lloyd George who agreed.
* Labour Party (who always supported them voting) had MPs in the wartime government
* The times newspaper supported Votes for Women

**Why did women get the vote?**

The Suffragettes

At the time, the Suffragettes caused a lot of anger and it has been **argued that they lost support for the cause.** Certainly, women had not been given the vote by 1914, even after a lot of Suffragette violence. However, some historians argue that, although they could not be seen to give in to Suffragette violence, politicians **could not face a return to Suffragette violence after the war**, and that is why they gave women the vote.

The War

During the war, women served the nation and did men's work in many ways. When they were given the vote in 1918, almost every person who supported the motion in Parliament said that they deserved it because of their **conduct during the war** - they had proved that they could go to war' with the men. The problem with this argument is that only women who were householders over the age of 30 (6 million women) got the vote in 1918; women over 21 did not get the vote until 1928.

Sylvia Pankhurst

In June 1914, she famously took a delegation of working class women to lobby Prime Minister Asquith who did not think that working class women were intelligent enough to have the vote. This proved to Asquith that working class women were intelligent enough to vote.

The Suffragists

Some historians argue that the long-term persuasion of the Suffragists won the vote. In 1916, Lloyd George, who supported women's suffrage, replaced Asquith as prime minister, and many pro-suffrage MPs who had been young men before 1914 now held influential places in the government. So the women won by patient persuasion, after all.