

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

<p>Introduction – getting the children engaged with voting rights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Don't say too much about the project by way of introduction. Just say that we are going to talk about inspiring people.2. Ask the children to name three people that they find inspiring today. (Might be a sports person, you-tuber, author, activist, musician). Make sure you include suggestions from girls and boys. Write three nominees on white board.3. Ask children to tell a little more about what's inspiring about their nominee4. Recap who the three people are. Say we are now going to vote for who we think is the most awesome. BUT....5. Only the boys can vote. (shrug at the outrage that will follow!) Count the vote.6. Ask, is that fair? Why not? What are you going to do to convince me?7. Listen to their suggestions. Tell them that you are convinced. Now let the girls and boys vote. Recount and write down the new scores.8. Ask which outcome is more representative of the whole class?	<p>Duration Running time Dur: 5 mins RT: 0 - 5 mins</p>
<p>Overview of suffragettes and Representation of the People Act</p> <p>Talk about how in the late 1800s, women in Britain were not allowed to vote. The suffragettes protested about this, some violently. Protests ceased during the First World War and women helped with the war effort. Once the war was over parliament debated, many felt that women had proven their worth, others felt they didn't want to return to the days of the suffragettes protest. The Representation of the People Act was passed. This meant that women over the age of 30 could now vote and men over 21. (The age differential was to balance out the fact that there were now many more women than men because of the war). It wasn't until 1928 that age was changed so that men and women of 21 and over could vote (Equal Franchise Act) Further information and facts about changes over last 100 years are at the bottom of this document. (Equal Pay Act 1975) etc</p>	<p>Dur: 5 mins RT 5 – 10 mins</p>

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

<p>What Makes Someone Inspiring?</p> <p>Gaining the vote meant that over time other rights came into place. Women could now go to university, they could own property, become lawyers, have their own bank account. This meant that women's contribution to society changed. To celebrate 100 years since the start of this change South Gloucestershire Council asked local people who they wanted to nominate as inspiring women. Around 60 women were nominated across areas such as: Social Justice; Politics; Culture; Sport; STEM - Science, Technology Engineering and Maths ; Public Service. We're going to look at some of these women and what they have achieved, but first we want to talk about what makes someone inspiring. What attributes might they have?</p> <p>You could show the class a short film about an inspiring person of your choice, or follow this link https://vimeo.com/showcase/6234336 or go to the southglos.gov.uk/ww2stories page and follow the link on Rose's story. Rose was a young girl living on a smallholding in Elberton near Thornbury during the Second World War. When she was 15 she met and fell in love with a German Prisoner of War and despite opposition from her family and community, they eventually married. (Alternatively you might also watch Hella Hewison's film from the same collection – Hella was a German Jewish refugee who came on her aged 14 on kindertransport to escape Nazi persecution. She became the first non-British nurse at Southmead Hospital.)</p>	<p>Dur: 10 mins RT: 10 – 20 mins</p>
<p>After watching the film ask the children to list all the qualities they think the person has. (With Rose I started them off with saying that I thought she was strong. The children often add 'kind, determined, resilient....') Write suggestions on a white board</p>	<p>Dur: 5 mins RT: 20 – 25 mins</p>
<p>Show the Inspiring Women powerpoint. Look at a couple of the examples of the women nominated. Invite the children to call out any more qualities that the women on the slides have which we haven't mentioned already. Add to white board.</p>	<p>Dur 5 mins RT 25 – 30 mins</p>

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

<p>Group the children in pairs or however you think they will work best. Hand out the selection of printed primary school nominees. (There are 25 nominees in the areas of: sport; art and culture; public service; politics; STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths); and social justice.) If each group has two or three nominees, they and choose which one they would like to focus on.</p> <p>Ask them to write down the qualities they think this person would have. Ask if there are any that we haven't written on the board so far?</p>	<p>Dur 10 mins RT: 30 – 40 mins</p>
<p>At the end of this go around the groups. Ask them who they chose and to tell the rest of the group a little about them. Ask if there were any other qualities</p>	<p>Dur 10 mins RT: 40 - 50 mins</p>
<p>If there is any remaining time or you would like to extend this to a second session you can look at our suggested classroom activities (such as writing interview questions for the person, or creating a poster.)</p>	
<p>Conclude that you perhaps some of these women wouldn't have been able to do what they did if there had never been the vote 100 years ago, and that life for all women have changed by this.</p> <p>Also say that being an inspiring person takes the qualities that we have talked about today. And being inspiring doesn't mean you have to do anything big like win the olympics or start a charity. But it is nearly always about showing qualities like determination, kindness and courage.</p>	

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

Further information about suffragettes and changes in equality since 1918

In the late 1800s some suffragettes used violent means to make their points. Some went on hunger strike, some broke windows and started fires, and went to prison. There were others in the movement who didn't agree with violence and campaigned in different ways.

However the First World War began in 1914. Millions of men went to fight and women stepped up to help with the war by working in factories making weapons, working on farms etc. The suffragettes ceased their campaign and got behind the war effort.

Before the war only men over the age of 21 who owned a home were allowed to vote. This meant that millions of men that were returning from the war weren't able to vote and women who had helped with the war effort and helped to win the war by doing this, were not allowed to vote. Politicians knew this wasn't fair, so there was a huge debate in Parliament and a new law or act was passed. This was called the Representation of The People Act 1918.

From now on a man over the age of 21 could vote, whether or not they were a property owner. Women over the age of 30 could vote as long as they were a registered property occupiers or married to a registered property occupier. (this disparity was due to there being more women than men after the First World War). The Act made things much fairer but not completely fair. It wasn't until 1928 that another act of parliament changed things again and men and women over 21 could all vote.

All these acts of parliament were very complicated and they were only the start of things becoming more equal. Women's rights have advanced since suffrage, but there's still a long way to go. Women's suffrage was a pivotal moment in the battle for equality, but in 1918 women still faced many forms of discrimination.

While 8.4 million women gaining the vote in 1918 represented significant progress for the feminist movement, gender inequality was still prevalent in the era and beyond.

Many laws and societal attitudes meant women faced barriers and prejudice throughout society - in work, education and marriage.

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

Hold property on the same terms as men. In 1918, women could not inherit property on the same terms as men. The Law of Property Act 1922 changed that and meant a husband and wife could inherit each other's property.

Legislation passed four years later meant women could finally hold and dispose of property on the same terms as men.

Serve on a jury. Women were unable to serve on a jury or as a magistrate until the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 was passed.

However, juries remained overwhelmingly male over the next 40 years before rules concerning jury qualification were reformed in the Seventies.

Become an accountant or lawyer. The Sex Discrimination Removal Act 1919 changed the law on women being disqualified from certain professions on the grounds of sex. It gave women access to the legal profession and accountancy for the first time and meant they could also hold any civil or judicial office or post.

Dr. Ivy Williams was the first woman to be called to the Bar in England in 1922 and the first woman to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law in Oxford in 1923.

Sit in the House of Lords. The Life Peerages Act 1958 entitled women to sit in the House of Lords for the first time. Baroness Swanborough, Lady Reading and Baroness Barbara Wooton are the first to take their seats.

It wasn't until 1975 that women could open a bank account in their own name. Single women still couldn't apply for a loan or credit card in their own name without a signature from their father, even if they earned more, as recently as the mid-Seventies.

Working women were also refused mortgages in their own right in the Seventies, unless they could secure the signature of a male guarantor.

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War in South Gloucestershire

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 made it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training. However, horrendously sexist adverts objectifying women from the era highlight the disparaging attitude towards women that still existed. The Equality Act 2010 would eventually replace a number of different anti-discrimination laws. It was not until 2013, a 200-year-old law forbidding women to wear trousers in Paris was finally revoked.

Have a right to equal pay A strike by 187 female workers at a Ford car factory in Dagenham in 1968 is cited as being instrumental in the passing of the **1970 Equal Pay Act**. The machinists walked out and went on strike for three weeks in protest against their male colleagues earning 15 per cent more than them. Former Labour Party MP Shirley Summerskill said the women played a "very significant part in the history of the struggle for equal pay".

Be refused service for spending their own money in a pub. Women could also be refused service for spending their own money in a pub up until a law change in **1982**.

Work on the London Stock Exchange. Women were admitted to the London Stock Exchange for the first time in the institution's history in 1973 following campaigning by women in the financial sector.

Obtain a court order against a violent husband. The 1976 Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act provided legal protection to female victims of domestic violence.

The Equal Pay (Amendment) Act 1983 allowed women to be paid the same as men for work of equal value. However, equal pay is still an issue today, with women losing out on nearly £140bn a year due to gender pay gap. In 2017, women effectively worked "for free" for 51 days of the year because of the gender pay gap. Women are also paid less than half than men at some of Britain's major companies, according to recent gender pay gap figures.

Women can still be forced to wear heels by their employer. Calls for a ban on "sexist" dress codes which force women to wear high heels to work has been rejected by the Government. It means that employers can continue to insist that female employees wear heels, providing it is considered a job requirement and men are made to dress to an "equivalent level of smartness".