

VOTES FOR WOMEN



In the nineteenth century, few people could¹ vote in the UK and they were all men. In 1432, Henry VI had decided that only male landowners² could vote. This law remained unchanged for four centuries. Thus, women and many men couldn't participate in elections in the country.

In 1832, the law changed. The Representation of the People Act allowed³ men who paid more than £10 a year to rent⁴ property to vote too. However, in those days, £10 was a huge sum of money that only a few could afford⁵ to pay. Still, only one man in every seven could vote.

One woman decided to change the law⁶. When Emmeline Pankhurst was born in 1858, not a single woman had the right to cast a vote in an election. She didn't think this was fair. She wanted everybody to vote in political elections.

1. have the possibility 2. proprietor 3. permit 4. louer 5. have enough money 6. rule

HOW INTERESTING !

The right to vote is also called « suffrage ». Women who fought for this right were called « Suffragettes ». They finally won the right to vote in 1918.

Kay Barnham,

HISTORY VIPS : Emmeline Pankhurst, 2017, Wayland



I. Read the text.

a. Tick the right answer.

1. In the 19th century in Britain, only men had the right to ... read vote
2. In 1832, men could vote if... they had £10 in the bank they paid £10 a year for rent
3. Emmeline Pankhurst wanted... all men to vote all adults to vote

b. Circle all the things that you learnt from the text.

Henry VI was King in 1432.

£10 wasn't a big sum of money.

Emmeline Pankhurst was born in 1832.

One man in every seven could vote after 1832.

No woman could vote at the time.

Emmeline Pankhurst thought it was not fair.

c. Match the following sentences.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Henry VI had decided | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | only men who paid a £10-rent could vote. |
| When Emmeline Pankhurst was born | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | every woman could vote. |
| Emmeline Pankhurst's fight was that | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | only men who were owners could vote. |

d. From the story you got, recap the history of suffrage in Great Britain.

At first, Henry VI decided that only could vote. In 1832,
Act said that men who paid a £10-rent could vote. Because it was a amount of money, few men could vote.
Emmeline Pankhurst thought it was and decided to fight for the universal right to vote.