

IT HAPPENED HERE **NEW JERSEY**

Alice Paul

Target Age: High School and Middle School
Time Period: 20th Century
Featured County: Burlington
NJ 350th Theme: Liberty

“Mr. President, how long must women wait to get their liberty? Let us have the rights we deserve.” - Alice Paul

NJ Common Core Standards:

Social Studies: 6.1.12.A.6.b, 6.2.12.A.3.a, 6.3.12.D.1
Language Arts Literacy: 3.1 Reading, 3.2 Writing
Social Studies Skills: Critical Thinking, Presentational Skills

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What were the changing and evolving attitudes towards Liberty and the Women’s Rights Movement in New Jersey and throughout the nation?

BACKGROUND:

On March 3, 1913, the day before another resident of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson, was sworn in as president, Alice Paul led a march in Washington, D.C. to demand equal voting rights for women. Some 8,000 women endured jeers and occasional violence as they paraded through the nation’s capital in an event that was hailed as a milestone in the suffrage movement.

Alice Paul was a seminal figure in the campaign for equal rights in the United States. She was born near Moorestown and raised in the Quaker tradition of non-violence and equality. In 1905, she earned a college degree from Swarthmore College, and later earned advanced degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. As part of her education, Alice enrolled in the London School of Economics from 1908 to 1909. During this time she became involved with the British Women’s Suffrage Movement. While in England, Alice was inspired and influenced by British Feminist Emmeline Pankhurst. Once she returned to this country after completing her studies, she founded the National Woman’s Party in 1914 to pressure political leaders to support suffrage. Her relentless energy and passion for the cause of equal rights for women gained her much notoriety.

Shortly after the march down Pennsylvania Avenue, Paul and several other women were arrested and imprisoned for their protests outside the White House. They went on hunger strike and were force-fed before their eventual release. Their tactics and devotion to the cause paid off. Shortly after the march, Congress began to reconsider a constitutional amendment for women’s suffrage and the cause gained greater public support. Paul’s aggressive tactics were instrumental in building support for the suffrage movement, and eventually President Wilson reversed his position and advocated for the change. After achieving success in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment, which enshrined a woman’s right to vote, Alice Paul spent the rest of her life fighting for equal rights for women.

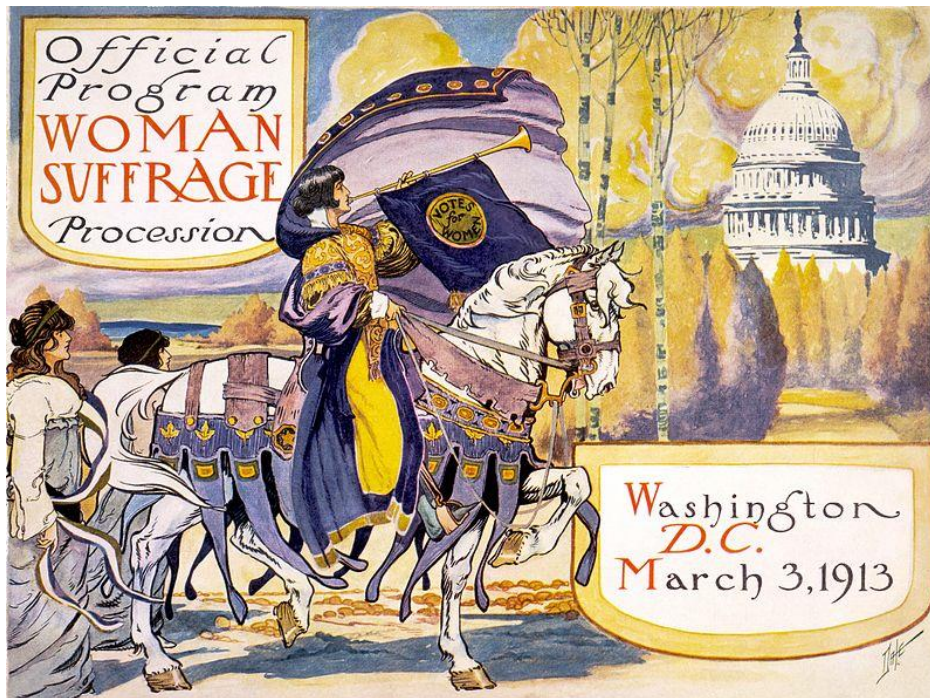
ACTIVITY:

Based on the primary document picture prompts, consider the following questions for discussion and activities. This can be completed as a class, in small groups, or individually.

- What were the tactics and methods used by Women Suffragists in attempting to gain the right to vote?
- How effective were these tactics and which were more effective?
- Would these tactics gain public support for the cause of women's suffrage?
- Which is the best form of protest, violent or non-violent?

Document A

March on Washington for women's suffrage the day before the Inauguration of President Wilson.



Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-12512.

Document B

Text drawn from "Alice Paul Sews Suffrage Flag," Facts on File Inc.

Alice Paul Sews a Suffrage Flag



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-npcc-01204.

Alice Paul sewing stars on a suffrage flag in 1920. Several years earlier, in 1917, Alice Paul led a picket line with a banner reading, "The time has come to conquer or submit for there is but one choice—we have made it." Her group received six months in prison.¹

¹ "Alice Paul Sews a Suffrage Flag," Facts on File Inc.

<http://www.fofweb.com/History/MainPrintPage.asp?iPin=CWAHp171&DataType=Women&WinType=Free>

Document C

Alice Paul was a member of the British Women's Social and Political Union. This poster was a protest of suffragists being force-fed in England. Similar strategies were later used in the United States.



Courtesy of the Museum of London; Image 001313 The Modern Inquisition: c. 1910.

Document D

Suffrage Demonstration, 1912, New York City.



Image courtesy of Records of the Office of War Information; National Archives Identifier: 593556.

Document E
Group Mailing

Alice Paul and other Suffragists write letters advocating for the right to vote for women.



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mnwp.160066>.

MISS ALICE PAUL ON HUNGER STRIKE; Suffragist Leader Adopts This Means of Protesting Against Washington Prison Fare. NOW IN JAIL HOSPITAL Threatens to Starve to Death Unless Better Food Is Provided for Six Companions.

New York Times, November 7, 1917.

Full article:

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F50E16F8395B11738DDDAE0894D9415B878DF1D3>

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

#1: Place the students into small groups of three to five students. The students will imagine themselves in 1918 advocating for women's suffrage. Each group will determine the best form of protest for their cause and create an event to bring about this change. Each group will determine the details in order to be successful and develop a poster advertising this event.

#2: Alice Paul worked tirelessly for the cause of women's suffrage and devoted her entire life to seeing that women gained the right to vote in the United States. Ask the students to consider to what cause they would devote their lives. In an essay, the students will consider the following:

- To what cause would they be willing to devote their life's work?
- What arguments would they use to convince others to support their cause?
- What tactics would they utilize to advance their cause?
- What factors must be considered in order to achieve their objectives?

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Places You Can Visit

Alice Paul Institute, Inc. at *Paulsdale*
PO Box 1376 (mailing),
128 Hooton Road (street),
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054
856-231-1885 phone

Additional Teaching Resources

Movie: Iron Jawed Angels (2004)

Alice Paul: Suffragist and Agitator

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/politics-reform/resources/alice-paul-suffragist-and-agitator>

For More Information

The Alice Paul Institute

<http://www.alicepaul.org/alicepaul.htm>

PBS – American Experience – Alice Paul

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/peopleevents/p_paul.html

National Women's History Museum – Alice Paul

<http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/alice-paul/>

Mary Walton, *A Women's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2010)

CREDIT INFORMATION:

Pg. 2: Official Program: Women Suffrage Procession. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-12512.

Pg. 3: Alice Paul Sews a Flag. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-npcc-01204.

Pg. 4: The Modern Inquisition: c. 1910. Courtesy of the Museum of London; Image 001313.

Pg. 5: Suffrage Demonstration, 1912, New York City. Courtesy of Records of the Office of War Information; National Archives Identifier: 593556.

Pg. 6: Group Mailing. Manuscript Division, Library of Congress,
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mnwp.160066>.

Pg. 7: *Miss Alice Paul on Hunger Strike; Suffragists Leader Adopts This Means of Protesting Against Washington Prison Fare. Now in Jail Hospital Threatens to Starve to Death Unless Better Food is Provided for Six Companions. New York Times, November 7, 1917.*

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