

The United States in the 1920s

**The New Woman:
Flappers and the Suffragettes**

Learning Objectives

Describe a “Flapper”

Identify and describe key events of the Women’s Suffrage Movement

Memorize and recite the 19th Amendment

The Suffrage Movement

Origins of the Movement

“It was not until 1848 that the movement for women’s rights launched on a national level with a convention in Seneca Falls, New York, organized by abolitionists Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902) and Lucretia Mott (1793–1880). Following the convention, the demand for the vote became a centerpiece of the women’s rights movement.

Stanton and Mott, along with Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) and other activists, formed organizations that raised public awareness and lobbied the government to grant voting rights to women. After a 70-year battle, these groups finally emerged victorious with the passage of the 19th Amendment.”

“Trouble” brews

“During America’s early history as a nation, women were denied some of the key rights enjoyed by male citizens. For example, married women couldn’t own property and had no legal claim to any money they might earn, and no female had the right to vote. Women were expected to focus on housework and motherhood, not politics.

Many American women were beginning to chafe against what historians have called the “Cult of True Womanhood”; that is, the idea that the only “true” woman was a pious, submissive wife and mother concerned exclusively with home and family. Put together, these factors contributed to a new way of thinking about what it meant to be a woman and a citizen in the United States.”

Declaration of Sentiments

“In addition to their belief that women should be afforded better opportunities for education and employment, most of the Seneca Falls delegates agreed that American women were autonomous individuals who deserved their own political identities.

A group of delegates led by Stanton produced a “Declaration of Sentiments” document, modeled after the Declaration of Independence, which stated: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” What this meant, among other things, was that the delegates believed women should have the right to vote.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment>



Short Summary courtesy of Youtube

The Silent Sentinels

“The Silent Sentinels were a group of women in favor of women's suffrage organized by Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party. They protested in front of the White House during Woodrow Wilson's presidency starting on January 10, 1917. The women protested for six days a week until June 4, 1919 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed both by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The name Silent Sentinels was given to the women because of their silent protesting. Using silence as a form of protest was a new principled, strategic, and rhetorical strategy within the national suffrage movement and within their own assortment of protest strategies.

Throughout this two and a half year long vigil many of the women were harassed, arrested, and unjustly treated by local and US authorities, including the torture and abuse inflicted on them before and during the November 14, 1917 Night of Terror.”





Night of Terror

“On the Night of Terror, November 14, 1917, a group of 33 returning prisoners, including at least one 73-year-old woman, were greeted by W.H. Whittaker and many prison guards wielding clubs.[1] W.H. Whittaker ordered the nearly forty guards to brutalize the suffragists. They beat Lucy Burns, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head, then left her there for the night. They threw Dora Lewis into a dark cell and smashed her head against an iron bed, which knocked her out. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, who believed Lewis to be dead, suffered a heart attack. According to affidavits, guards grabbed, dragged, beat, choked, pinched, and kicked other women.

Newspapers carried stories about how the protesters were being treated.[4] The stories angered some Americans and subsequently created more support for the suffrage amendment. On November 27 and 28, all the protesters were released, including Alice Paul after spending five weeks in prison. Later, in March 1918, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals declared that all the suffrage arrests, trials, and punishments had been unconstitutional. Lucy Burns, co-founder of the NWP, had only just finished her previous 60 day sentence, and was identified by Whittaker as the ringleader of the group. She was then manacled to her cell bars, hands above her head, and remained that way until morning; later, her clothing was removed and she was left with only a blanket. Co-founder Alice Paul remained strong despite the brutality. She went on to start a hunger strike, until she was put in solitary confinement in the psychiatric ward, and force-fed raw eggs through a tube down her throat.”

Summary Courtesy of Wikipedia.





Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Lucretia Mott



Alice Paul

Susan B. Anthony



Click to see list of Women's Rights Activists:

<http://www.biography.com/people/groups/movement-suffrage-female>

The 19th Amendment

Stats

“Ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote—a right known as woman suffrage. At the time the U.S. was founded, its female citizens did not share all of the same rights as men, including the right to vote.”

The Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Flappers

What is a Flapper?

“Flappers were a generation of young Western women in the 1920s who wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, listened to jazz, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior.

Flappers were seen as brash for wearing excessive makeup, drinking, treating sex in a casual manner, smoking, driving automobiles, and otherwise flouting social and sexual norms.

Flappers had their origins in the liberal period of the Roaring Twenties, the social, political turbulence and increased transatlantic cultural exchange that followed the end of World War I, as well as the export of American jazz culture to Europe.”

Summary Source: Wikipedia



1920'S FASHION



Flapper Costume

1928



Slip Dress

Sleeveless or drop waist
slip dress with beading,
sleeves hemline, fringe, or
soft draping to one side.

Headband

Beading forehead band,
hair combs, fans, feather
wreaths, beaded shell caps,
or fancy ribbon hair.

Jewelry

Long pearl or bead necklace,
long drop earrings, and arm
bangles. Gold, silver, black
and green.

Shoes

Fancy gold, silver or black T-
strap shoes and pumps with
a moderate heel to dance the
night away!

Fan

Feather fan, the larger
the better!

Stockings

Nude or pastel colors to
match the dress with a seam
down the back.

Authentic flappers of the 1920's were not fringe covered,
fishnet clad, showgirls. Real flappers were trendy young
women who danced the night away in the most fashion
forward clothing of the day. By 1927 hemlines rose to the
knee with more and more skin revealed with low
necklines and open backs. Everything sparkled from the

beading on a silky slip dress to the crystal forehead
band and the glittering gold heels. Night time was a time
to let loose and throw off the cares of the world.
Create your own 1920s flapper costume at
www.vintagedancer.com/flapper

1920'S FLAPPER DRESSES



Create Your Costume at : www.VintageDancer.com/1920s



Review

What was a “Flapper” girl?

What was the Women’s Suffrage Movement?

Memorize and recite the 19th Amendment.