

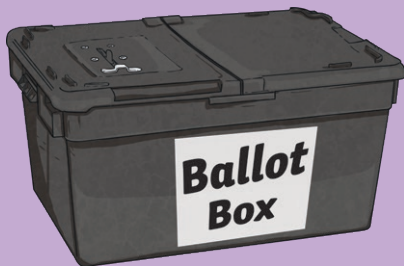
# Emmeline Pankhurst

Emmeline Pankhurst led a women's rights group known as the suffragettes. She **campaigned** for equal voting rights for men and women.

## Early Life

Emmeline was born in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1858. She was the eldest of ten children. Her parents were interested in politics. Her father, Robert, served on Salford's town council and her mother took her to her first **suffrage** meeting when she was just 14 years old.

## Voting in the 1800s



When Emmeline was born, women were not allowed to vote in elections. Only wealthier men were awarded this right. In 1867, the law was changed so that more men could vote but this law still excluded women.



## Marriage

Emmeline married Richard Pankhurst in 1879. He was also a strong supporter of women's suffrage. The couple had five children: Christabel, Sylvia, Adela, Frank and Harry. Ten years later, Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League which fought for married women to be able to vote in local elections. Richard supported Emmeline's campaigning until his death in 1898.

## The Suffragettes

In 1903, Emmeline created a new group for women with the support of her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, which focused just on voting rights. She called it the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The WSPU were more confrontational than other women's suffrage groups. Rather than carrying out peaceful marches and speeches, the WSPU chained themselves to railings, smashed windows and damaged property. Emmeline and her WSPU members soon became known as the 'suffragettes'.



### Did You Know...?

Many of the women in the WSPU were sent to prison for their activities and Emmeline was arrested several times.

## The First World War

When the First World War began in 1914, the WSPU decided to stop all campaigning and support the country. They decided that the safety and security of their country was more important than their suffrage cause.



### Did You Know...?

Over 6 million fit and healthy men were sent to war so there soon became a shortage of people to carry out vital jobs to keep the country running.

Emmeline encouraged members of the WSPU to volunteer for different roles, including working in factories or farming land. Emmeline eventually ended the WSPU in 1917. During the war, Emmeline travelled around the United States, Canada and Russia giving speeches to encourage women to start or return to work.

### A Change in the Law

In 1918, women over the age of 30 were given the right to vote as long as they or their husbands owned property. Despite being a huge change, women still did not have the same voting rights as men. Finally, in 1928, women were allowed to vote at the age of 21. This change in the law occurred just three weeks after Emmeline's death.

### Remembering Emmeline

In 2002, Emmeline was named in a list of 100 Greatest Britons. A memorial for Emmeline was erected in Victoria Tower Gardens, London in 1930 and, in 2018, a bronze statue was placed in Emmeline's home town of Manchester.



### Glossary

**campaigned:** Organised a course of action to achieve a goal.

**suffrage:** The right to vote in political elections.

# Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event with the correct year.

1903

Emmeline was named in a list of 100 Greatest Britons.

1918

Emmeline married Richard Pankhurst.

2002

Emmeline created the WSPU.

1879

Women over the age of 30 were given the right to vote as long as they (or their husbands) owned property.

2. In which town council did Emmeline's father serve? Tick one.

- ☐ Manchester
- ☐ Leeds
- ☐ Salford
- ☐ Birmingham

3. Give the names of **two** of Emmeline's children.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Look at the section of the text called **Voting in the 1800s**.

Find and copy one word which means that women were denied the right to vote.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does WSPU stand for?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **The WSPU were more confrontational than other women's suffrage groups.**

Explain what the word 'confrontational' means.

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7. Why do you think that only wealthy men were allowed to vote?

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8. Summarise what you have learnt about Emmeline Pankhurst in 25 words or fewer.

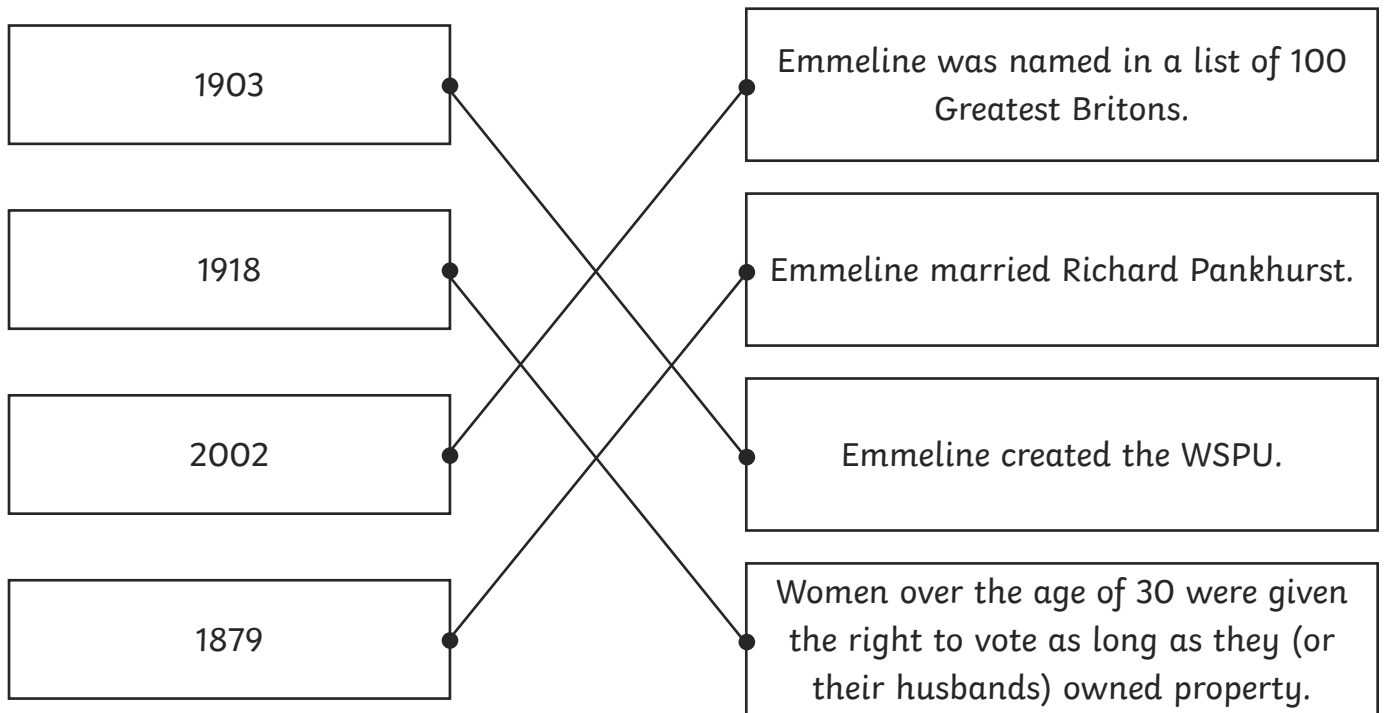
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# Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event with the correct year.



2. In which town council did Emmeline's father serve? Tick one.

- ☐ Manchester
- ☐ Leeds
- ☒ **Salford**
- ☐ Birmingham

3. Give the names of **two** of Emmeline's children.

**Accept any two of the following: Christabel; Sylvia; Adela; Frank; Harry.**

4. Look at the section of the text called **Voting in the 1800s**.

Find and copy one word which means that women were denied the right to vote.

**excluded**

5. What does WSPU stand for?

**WSPU stands for the Women's Social and Political Union.**



6. **The WSPU were more confrontational than other women's suffrage groups.**

Explain what the word 'confrontational' means.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Confrontational means to be argumentative and forceful to get your point across.**

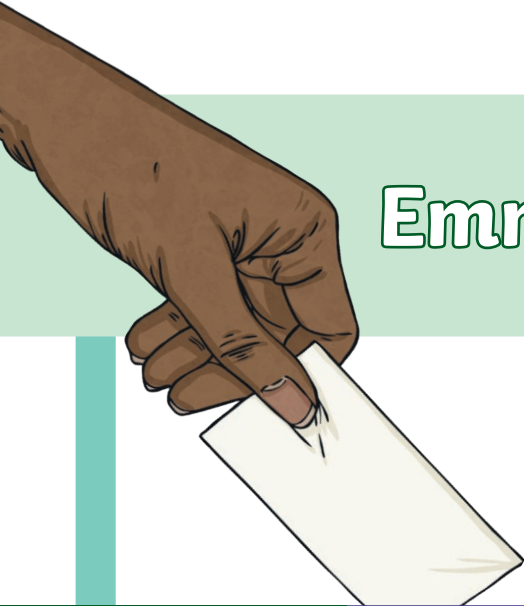
7. Why do you think that only wealthy men were allowed to vote?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think only wealthy men were allowed to vote because, in Emmeline's time, women and men were not treated as fairly. Wealthy men had more money and power so may have been more respected.**

8. Summarise what you have learnt about Emmeline Pankhurst in 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Emmeline Pankhurst was famous for starting the WSPU (also known as the suffragettes) and campaigning to help women to get the vote, like men.**

# Emmeline Pankhurst



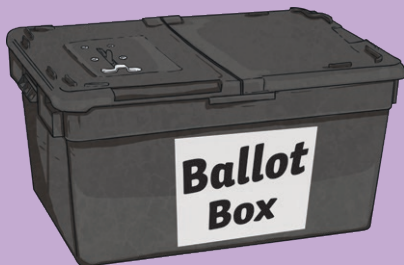
Emmeline Pankhurst was a political activist who led the suffragette movement: a campaign that helped women to win the right to vote.

## Early Life



Emmeline was born in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1858. She was the eldest of ten children. Her parents were deeply interested in politics and were anti-slavery campaigners. Her father, Robert, served on Salford's town council and her mother, Sophia, took Emmeline to her first **suffrage** meeting at the tender age of 14. This meeting ignited Emmeline's passion for the cause of women's suffrage.

## What Is Women's Suffrage?



When Emmeline was born, women were not allowed to vote. In 1866, a group of women organised a **petition** to allow women the same voting rights as men; the petition gathered over 1,500 signatures. Nevertheless, Members of Parliament (MPs) voted against changing voting rights.

## Marriage

Emmeline was 20 when she met her husband, Richard Pankhurst, a lawyer who supported many radical causes including women's suffrage. The couple had five children: Christabel, Sylvia, Adela, Frank and Harry.

In 1889, Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League which campaigned for married women to be able to vote in local elections. Richard continued to support Emmeline's campaigning until his death in 1898.



## The WSPU

In 1903, Emmeline decided to create a new women-only group focused just on voting rights called the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her two daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, played an important role in the group whose slogan was 'Deeds not words'. The WSPU were more confrontational than other groups that supported women's right to vote. Rather than carrying out peaceful marches and public speeches, the WSPU became known for holding public demonstrations, chaining themselves to railings, smashing windows and damaging property and buildings. As a result, many of the women involved were sent to prison. The women soon became known as the suffragettes: a separate group from the (more peaceful) suffragists.

In 1910, many MPs drafted a **bill** which would allow a few women the right to vote; the bill was welcomed by many who had campaigned for women's suffrage. However, the government abandoned the bill and the WSPU carried on campaigning. Emmeline was arrested several times and started hunger strikes while she was imprisoned.



## First World War

The First World War began in 1914 and the WSPU decided to stop all campaigning and support the war effort. They decided that the safety and security of their country was more important than their cause. Emmeline encouraged members of the WSPU to volunteer for different roles, including working in factories or farming land. The WSPU eventually disbanded in 1917. During the war, Emmeline spent time in the United States, Canada and Russia giving speeches which aimed to encourage women to start or return to work.



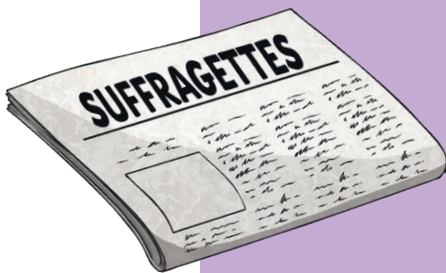
## A Change in the Law

The Representation of the People Act of 1918 meant that women over the age of 30 who met property ownership requirements were given the right to vote. Despite being a huge change, women still did not have the same voting rights as men. In 1928, only three weeks after Emmeline died, women were finally given the same voting rights as men and were allowed to vote at the age of 21.

## Legacy

Emmeline's tireless campaigning paved the way for the eventual change in voting laws which was an important milestone for women's rights. In 2002, Emmeline was named in a list of 100 Greatest Britons. In 1930, a memorial for Emmeline was erected in Victoria Tower Gardens, London. The statue depicts Emmeline pointing in the direction of the Houses of Parliament. In 2018, a bronze statue was placed in Emmeline's home town of Manchester.

## Glossary



**bill:** A draft of a proposed new law.

**petition:** A request, usually signed by many people, appealing to authority for something (such as a change in the law).

**suffrage:** The right to vote in political elections.

# Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League.
- ☐ The WSPU eventually disbanded.
- ☐ A group of women organised a petition to allow women the same voting rights as men.
- ☐ A memorial for Emmeline was erected in Victoria Tower Gardens, London.

2. How old was Emmeline when she first attended her first suffrage meeting? Tick one.

- ☐ 11 years old
- ☐ 18 years old
- ☐ 20 years old
- ☐ 14 years old

3. Look at the first paragraph of the text.

Find and copy one word which means 'a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change'.

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4. What does the WSPU stand for?

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5. Give **two** examples of the types of actions that the WSPU became known for.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain how the suffragettes were different to the suffragists.

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7. How do you think Emmeline felt about The Representation of the People Act of 1918?  
Explain your answer.

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8. Why do you think that the WSPU disbanded in 1917?

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about Emmeline Pankhurst in 30 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.
  - 2** Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League.
  - 3** The WSPU eventually disbanded.
  - 1** A group of women organised a petition to allow women the same voting rights as men.
  - 4** A memorial for Emmeline was erected in Victoria Tower Gardens, London.
2. How old was Emmeline when she first attended her first suffrage meeting? Tick one.
  - ☐ 11 years old
  - ☐ 18 years old
  - ☐ 20 years old
  - ☒ **14 years old**
3. Look at the first paragraph of the text.

Find and copy one word which means 'a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change'.

**activist**
4. What does the WSPU stand for?

**The WSPU stands for the Women's Social and Political Union.**
5. Give **two** examples of the types of actions that the WSPU became known for.

**Accept any two of the following: public demonstrations; chaining themselves to railings; smashing windows and damaging property and buildings.**
6. Explain how the suffragettes were different to the suffragists.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The suffragettes were more confrontational than the suffragists. The suffragists were peaceful and carried out marches and speeches; the suffragettes chose to damage buildings and chain themselves to railings in order to make their voices heard.**

7. How do you think Emmeline felt about The Representation of the People Act of 1918? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Emmeline would have felt relieved that women were now being given the same voting rights as men. She may also have felt proud that all of the suffragettes' campaigning had finally paid off.**

8. Why do you think that the WSPU disbanded in 1917?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the WSPU disbanded because of the First World War. Many of the members would have become involved with the war effort so their priorities may have changed.**

9. Summarise what you have learnt about Emmeline Pankhurst in 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Emmeline Pankhurst was famous for being a suffragette. She and the WSPU launched many campaigns to try and get women to be allowed to vote. She was born in Manchester.**





# Emmeline Pankhurst

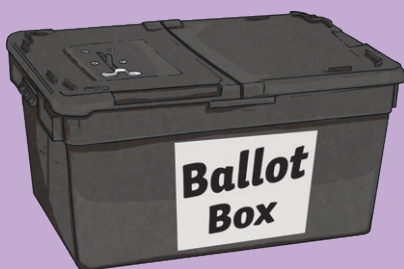
Emmeline Pankhurst was a political activist who led the suffragette movement: a campaign that helped women to win the right to vote. She was the leader of the Women's Social and Political Union.

## Early Life



Emmeline Goulden — as she was first known — was born in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1858. She was the eldest of ten children. Her parents were deeply interested in politics and believed in the abolition of enslavement — a hot topic during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her father, Robert, served on Salford's town council. Emmeline read newspaper articles to her father every day and her mother, Sophie, took her to her first suffrage meeting at the tender age of 14.

## What Is Women's Suffrage?



At the time of Emmeline's birth, women were not allowed to vote: this was a privilege only awarded to certain men in society. In 1866, a group of women organised a petition to allow women the same voting rights as men; the petition acquired over 1,500 signatures. Nevertheless, Members of Parliament (MPs) voted against changing voting rights. As a result, several suffrage groups from across Britain merged to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS).

## Marriage

Emmeline was 20 when she met her husband, Richard Pankhurst, a lawyer who supported many radical causes including women's suffrage. Emmeline and Richard married and had five children: Christabel, Sylvia, Adela, Frank and Harry. In 1889, Emmeline and Richard founded the Women's Franchise League which focused on the rights of married women to vote in local elections. Richard continued to support Emmeline's wish for suffrage until his death in 1898.

## Campaigning

In 1903, Emmeline decided to create a new women-only group focused solely on voting rights: she called it the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her two daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, played an important role in the group whose slogan was 'Deeds not words'. The WSPU were more militant than other groups that supported women's right to vote; they became known for holding public demonstrations, chaining themselves to railings, smashing windows and damaging property and buildings. As a result, many of the women involved were sent to prison. The WSPU soon became known as the 'suffragettes': a group distinct from the (more peaceful) NUWSS suffragists who, by contrast, relied on peaceful marches and public speeches.

In 1910, many MPs drafted a bill — a draft for new laws — that would allow a select number of women the right to vote; the bill was welcomed by many who had campaigned for women's suffrage. However, the government abandoned the bill and the WSPU resumed their campaigns. Emmeline was arrested several times and started hunger strikes while she was imprisoned.



## First World War

At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the WSPU abruptly ceased all militant tactics in order to support the war effort; they decided that the safety and security of their country was more important than their cause. Emmeline encouraged members of the WSPU to volunteer for different roles, including working in factories or farming land. This change in focus led the WSPU to eventually disband in 1917.

During the war, Emmeline spent a lot of time in the United States, Canada and Russia giving speeches which aimed to encourage women to start or return to work in order to support the war effort.



## A Change in the Law

In 1918, women over the age of 30 who met property ownership requirements were given the right to vote. However, this was still only around two-thirds of the total population of women in the UK. Despite being a huge change, women still did not have the same voting rights as men. Eventually, in 1928, only three weeks after Emmeline died, her campaign finally achieved success: women were finally given the same voting rights as men and were allowed to vote at the age of 21.

## Legacy

Emmeline's tireless campaigning facilitated the eventual change in voting laws which was an important milestone for women's rights. A poll by the BBC in 2002, named Emmeline as number 27 in a list of 100 Greatest Britons. In 1930, a memorial for Emmeline was erected in Victoria Tower Gardens, London. The statue depicts Emmeline gesturing in the direction of the Houses of Parliament. In 2018, a bronze statue was placed in Emmeline's home town of Manchester.

# Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each section of the text to its main content.

A Change in the Law

Summarises Emmeline's family background.

Campaigning

Gives information about the legal changes which affected women's voting rights.

First World War

Summarises the change in focus that led to the WSPU's disbandment.

Early Life

Gives information about the formation of the WSPU and its activities.

2. Why did the WSPU stop all militant tactics in 1914? Tick one.

- ☐ The police told them to stop.
- ☐ Women were awarded the right to vote.
- ☐ They decided to concentrate on the war effort.
- ☐ Emmeline was imprisoned.

3. What does the NUWSS stand for?

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4. Look at the section of the text called **Campaigning**.

Find and copy one word which shows that the WSPU often used confrontational or violent methods in support of their cause.

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5. What proportion of the total population of women in the UK were awarded the right to vote in 1918?

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6. Why do you think that the WSPU adopted the slogan 'Deeds not words'?

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7. **Emmeline's tireless campaigning facilitated the eventual change in voting laws which was an important milestone for women's rights.**

Why do you think that the author describes Emmeline's campaigning as 'tireless'?

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8. Do you agree with the actions that the suffragettes took in honour of their cause? Explain your answer.

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9. **Emmeline encouraged members of the WSPU to volunteer for different roles, including working in factories or farming land.**

Why do you think that women were needed to carry out these roles during the First World War?

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10. Discuss why you think that Emmeline was listed as one of the 100 Greatest Britons.

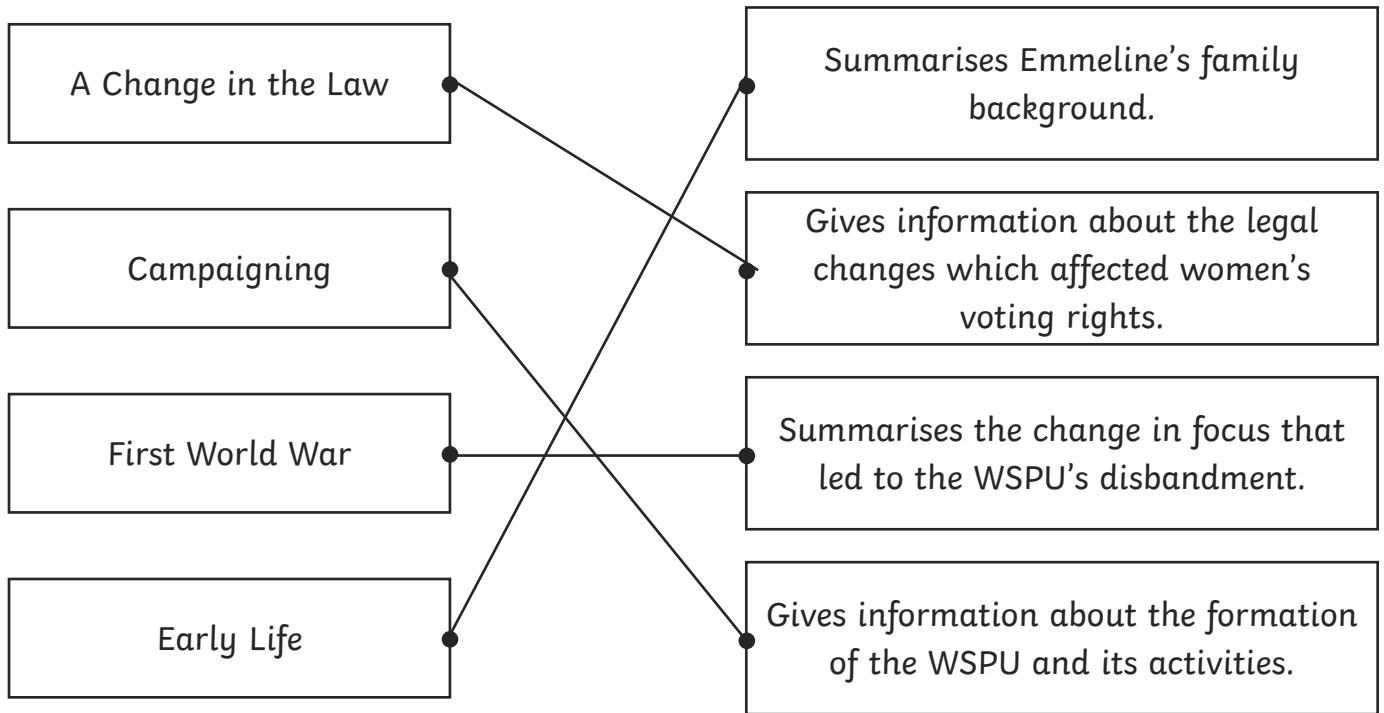
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# Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each section of the text to its main content.



2. Why did the WSPU stop all militant tactics in 1914? Tick one.

- ☐ The police told them to stop.  
☐ Women were awarded the right to vote.  
☒ **They decided to concentrate on the war effort.**  
☐ Emmeline was imprisoned.

3. What does the NUWSS stand for?

**The NUWSS stands for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**

4. Look at the section of the text called **Campaigning**.

Find and copy one word which shows that the WSPU often used confrontational or violent methods in support of their cause.

**militant**

5. What proportion of the total population of women in the UK were awarded the right to vote in 1918?

**Two-thirds of the total population of women in the UK were given the right to vote.**

6. Why do you think that the WSPU adopted the slogan 'Deeds not words'?



**Pupils' own responses, such as: The slogan 'Deeds not words' implies that the WSPU campaigned using action rather than more peaceful means, such as speeches and literature.**

7. **Emmeline's tireless campaigning facilitated the eventual change in voting laws which was an important milestone for women's rights.**

Why do you think that the author describes Emmeline's campaigning as 'tireless'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Emmeline's campaigning is described as tireless because it went on for many years. She was also imprisoned for her activities but still continued with her campaigning.**

8. Do you agree with the actions that the suffragettes took in honour of their cause? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I believe that it is only fair that both women and men should be allowed to vote so I think that the action, even though it was destructive at times, was the right thing to do. This is because it drew attention to their cause and helped to bring about a change in the law.**

9. **Emmeline encouraged members of the WSPU to volunteer for different roles, including working in factories or farming land.**

Why do you think that women were needed to carry out these roles during the First World War?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that women were needed to carry out these roles because many men had been sent to fight in the war. This meant that there was a shortage of people to carry out these vital roles and keep the country running.**

10. Discuss why you think that Emmeline was listed as one of the 100 Greatest Britons.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Emmeline was listed as one of the 100 Greatest Britons because her campaigning meant that women were allowed a say in how the country is run. This was also an important milestone for women's rights.**