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For two decades, leading up to the millennium, global demand for food increased steadily, along with growth in the world’s population, record harvests, improvements in incomes, and the diversification of diets. As a result, food prices continued to decline through 2000. But beginning in 2004, prices for most grains began to rise. Changes in climate are already undermining production of major crops such as wheat, rice and maize in tropical and temperate regions [...]. Undernourishment is higher again when exposure to climate extremes is compounded by a high proportion of the population depending on agricultural systems that are highly sensitive to rainfall and temperature variability. Temperature anomalies over agricultural cropping areas continued to be higher than the long-term mean throughout 2011-2016, leading to more frequent spells of extreme heat in the last five years. The nature of rainfall seasons is also changing, such as the late or early start of rainy seasons and the unequal distribution of rainfall within a season.
11 September 2018, Rome - New evidence continues to signal that the number of hungry people in the world is growing, reaching 821 million in 2017 or one in every nine people, according to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World released today. Limited progress is also being made in addressing the multiple forms of malnutrition, ranging from child stunting to adult obesity, putting the health of hundreds of millions of people at risk. Hunger has been on the rise over the past three years, returning to levels from a decade ago. This reversal in progress sends a clear warning that more must be done and urgently if the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger is to be achieved by 2030. The situation is worsening in South America and most regions of Africa, while the decreasing trend in undernourishment that characterized Asia seems to be slowing down significantly. [...] Adult obesity is worsening, and more than one in eight adults in the world is obese. The problem is most significant in North America, but Africa and Asia are also experiencing an upward trend, the report shows. Undernutrition and obesity coexist in many countries, and can even be seen side by side in the same household.

http://www.fao.org

Source 2: Article from I Love English World, July-August 2018.

There’s a farm in America that grows the best possible food: fresh, tasty and 100 percent organic. Incredibly, it uses 97 per cent less water than a conventional farm and is around 1,000 times more productive. And surprisingly, this farm is situated in the middle of Los Angeles. But it could just as easily be in the Sahara. Or even on a rocket travelling to planet Mars. And no matter where it is, it will produce its first harvest six weeks after arrival and continue producing food all year round, irrespective of seasons, temperature or weather conditions. The secret is that the farm is inside a metal box, 15 square metre shipping container. Inside, this has been fitted with high-tech equipment and all it needs to work is water and electricity, which can be solar in the right location. The Los Angeles farm has dozens of these boxes that can be stacked on top of each other, placed inside abandoned factory buildings or on any piece of unused land. “Our mission is to build a better food system”, says Kipp Stroden of Local Roots, the company behind the idea. “The best way to do that is to grow locally, everywhere, so food isn’t being transported around the world [...]. Each farm is hydroponic, which means there is no soil. Instead the plants – arranged on shelves under LED lights – are grown in water to which nutrients are added. Everything is computer-controlled to ensure optimum conditions. “Each species” likes different food, different combination of lighting intensity- so we create the perfect environment for every plant. We can create any type of environment, tropical or northern. Adapting the nutrients and light spectrum for each plant encourages them to grow much faster (one box produces the equivalent of up to two hectares of farm land) and also allows Local Roots to bring out different qualities of taste, effectively creating a synthetic terroir.

“You can sit down with a chef and say “what do you want your lettuce to taste like? Do you want it to be more peppery?” explains Eric Ellestad, co-founder and CEO of the company. Nice as it is for foodies, the greater purpose of the concept is to bring fresh food to locations where it is rare? That includes places such as Africa and the Middle East, where water is short, but also the “food deserts” of many Western cities. The containers can also help in crisis zone wherever natural disasters or wars interrupt the normal farming cycle. [...]
The UN has crafted an ambitious agenda of SDGs and targets that seek to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

Source 3: Icons of the SDGs.

https://cutt.ly/UN-SDG

Source 5: Clip de SAIH

Source 4: Song: “We are the World” by Michael Jackson & Lionel Richie.

There comes a time when we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
And it’s time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all

We can’t go on pretending day by day
That someone somewhere will soon make a change
We’re all a part of God’s great big family
And the truth, you know,
Love is all we need

We are the world,
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So, let’s start giving
There’s a choice we’re making
We’re saving our own lives
It’s true we’ll make a better day
Just you and me

And so we all must lend a helping hand
We are the world,
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So, let’s start giving
There’s a choice we’re making
We’re saving our own lives
It’s true we’ll make a better day
Just you and me

When you’re down and out
There seems no hope at all
But if you just believe
There’s no way we can fall
Well, well, well
Let’s realize that a change can only come
When we stand together as one

We are the world,
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So, let’s start giving
There’s a choice we’re making
We’re saving our own lives
It’s true we’ll make a better day
Just you and me

[Repeat with ad-libs until the end]

Lyrics by Michael Jackson & Lionel Richie
https://cutt.ly/wearetheworld
Source 1. The Irish Potato Famine. Text or audio extract.

Script: 2 versions corresponding to two levels of proficiency:

**Advanced**: The Irish Potato Famine struck in 1845 and lasted nearly six years. It not only destroyed a vital crop but it also killed more than a million people and exposed the social and economic problems facing 19th century Ireland. A mysterious fungus destroyed the potato harvest on a scale not seen before but the government’s inadequate response only made the crisis worse. During the entire famine, British officials never provided massive food aid to Ireland for fear that the constant changes in food prices would unfairly harm English landowners. In addition, poorly organised private relief efforts failed to raise funds from donors. The Irish did not help their cause either. Famers who needed cash to avoid eviction exported locally-grown weed and other food staples that could have fed their starving people. As the famine went on, the situation grew more desperate. To avoid mass starvation, the Irish lived off everything from seaweed to grass. Many pawned all they owned to buy what little food they could afford. After the harsh winter of 1846, food riots erupted and the British sent in troops to stop the unrest. To save their estate from ruins, landlords evicted the poor farmers, forcing them to migrate to Scotland or America on poorly built overcrowded vessels that became known as coffin ships.

**Intermediate**: The Irish Potato Famine started in 1845 and lasted nearly six years. It not only destroyed a vital crop but it also killed more than a million people and revealed the social and economic problems in 19th century Ireland. A mysterious disease destroyed the potato production as never before. But the British government’s inadequate reaction only made the crisis worse. During the entire famine, British officials never gave massive food aid to Ireland because they feared that the constant changes in food prices would harm English landowners. In addition, poorly organised private relief efforts failed to raise money from donors. The Irish did not help their cause either. Famers who needed cash to avoid eviction exported the local production that could have fed their starving people. As the famine went on, the situation grew more serious. To avoid mass starvation, the Irish ate everything they found including grass. Many sold all they owned to buy what little food they could afford. After the very cold winter of 1846, food revolts erupted and the British sent in troops to stop them. To save their lands and farms, land owners kicked out the poor farmers, forcing them to migrate to Scotland or to America on weak and overcrowded vessels that became known as coffin ships.
Source 2: Summary of the movie Gangs of New-York.

New York. 1862. As immigrants increase the population of New York very rapidly, lawlessness, corruption and violence are commonplace in lower Manhattan’s Five Points section. After years of prison, young Irish immigrant Amsterdam Vallon comes back and seeks revenge against the rival gang leader who killed his father 16 years before. Before long, Amsterdam’s personal revenge turns into gang warfare, as he and his fellow Irishmen fight to carve a place for themselves in their new homeland.

Released in 2002. Director: Martin Scorsese. Starring Leonardo Di Caprio, Cameron Diaz

Source 3: Map of Ireland during The Great Famine

Source 4: Extract from a memorial to the Great Hunger in Boston (US).

In a frantic attempt to outwit death nearly 2 million people fled Ireland. “Many thousands of peasants who could still scrape up the means fled to the sea, as it pursued by wild beasts, and betook themselves to America” wrote Irish patriot John Mitchel. The emigrants boarded vessels so unseaworthy they were called coffin ships. So the poet John Boyle O’Reilly called the Atlantic Ocean upon which they journeyed “a bowl of tears”.

Extract from a memorial to the Great Hunger in Boston (US)
Source 5:

Know-Nothings by name of American Party, U.S. political party that flourished in the 1850s. The Know-Nothings was an outgrowth of the strong anti-immigrant and especially anti-Roman Catholic sentiment that started to manifest itself during the 1840s. A rising tide of immigrants, primarily Germans in the Midwest and Irish in the East, seemed to pose a threat to the economic and political security of native-born Protestant Americans. In 1849 the secret Order of the Star-Spangled Banner formed in New York City, and soon after lodges formed in nearly every other major American city. Members, when asked about their nativist organizations, were supposed to reply that they knew nothing, hence the name. As its membership and importance grew in the 1850s, the group slowly shed its clandestine character and took the official name American Party. As a national political entity, it called for restrictions on immigration, the exclusion of the foreign-born from voting or holding public office in the United States, and a 21-year residency requirement for citizenship.

Extract from Encyclopedia Britannica

Source 6: Extract from a report by a Health Committee investigated a cholera epidemic in Boston.

In 1849 a Health Committee investigated a cholera epidemic in Boston. The committee reported that the disease had badly affected the Irish population in the city. The average age of Irish life in Boston does not exceed fourteen years. In Broad Street and all the surrounding neighbourhood, including Fort Hill and the adjacent streets, the situation of the Irish is particularly wretched. During their visits last summer, your committee were witnesses of scenes too painful to be forgotten, and yet too disgusting to be related here. It is sufficient to say, that the whole district is a perfect hive of human beings, without comforts and mostly without common necessaries; in many cases, huddled together like brutes, without regard to sex, or age, or sense of decency: grown men and women sleeping together in the same apartment, and sometimes wife and husband, brothers and sisters all in the same bed.

https://spartacus-educational.com/USA/Eireland.htm
Script:
O, father dear I of times hear you speak of Erin's Isle
Her lofty scenes, her valleys green, her mountains rude and wild
They say it is a lovely land wherein a prince might dwell
So why did you abandon it, the reason to me tell.
My son, I loved my native land with energy and pride
Till a blight came over all my crops and my sheep and cattle died
The rents and taxes were to pay and I could not them redeem
And that's the cruel reason why I left old Skibbereen.
'Tis well I do remember that bleak November day
When the bailiff and the landlord came to drive us all away
They set the roof on fire with their cursed English spleen
And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen
Your mother, too, God rest her soul, lay on the snowy ground
She fainted in her anguish seeing the desolation round
She never rose, but passed away from life to immortal dreams
And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen.

Source 8: A testimony from an Irish emigrant. Source: https://cutt.ly/spartacus

In 1850 an Irish settler who had been living in Wisconsin for twelve months wrote a letter to The Times in London (14th May, 1850)
I am exceedingly well pleased at coming to this land of plenty. On arrival I purchased 120 acres of land at $5 an acre. You must bear in mind that I have purchased the land out, and it is to me and mine an «estate for ever», without a landlord, an agent or tax-gatherer to trouble me. I would advise all my friends to quit Ireland - the country most dear to me; as long as they remain in it they will be in bondage and misery. What you labour for is sweetened by contentment and happiness; there is no failure in the potato crop, and you can grow every crop you wish, without manuring the land during life. You need not mind feeding pigs, but let them into the woods and they will feed themselves, until you want to make bacon of them. I shudder when I think that starvation prevails to such an extent in poor Ireland. After supplying the entire population of America, there would still be as much corn and provisions left us would supply the world, for there is no limit to cultivation or end to land. Here the meanest labourer has beef and mutton, with bread, bacon, tea, coffee, sugar and even pies, the whole year round - every day here is as good as Christmas day in Ireland.

https://cutt.ly/spartacus
Source 9: Photo of the Famine Memorial in Dublin

The Famine Memorial sculpture was created by Rowan Gillespie and was unveiled in 1997. It was built on the departure site of the Perseverance, one of the first famine ships to leave the area for America in 1846. The famine museum stands a few yards away.

www.ighm.org

Source 10:

Beginning in the 1840s, Ireland’s rotting potato crops drove hundreds of thousands of its people to flee to the United States. The discrimination that Irish immigrants encountered in their new home was hardly subtle. Instead, it was as plain as the black-and-white print that blared “No Irish Need Apply” in newspaper employment advertisements and window signs. According to one academic, however, that history, which has been handed down from generation to generation of Irish-Americans, was “a myth of victimization.” Richard Jensen, a Yale Ph.D. and a retired history professor from the University of Illinois at Chicago, wrote in a 2002 article in the Oxford Journal of Social History that although “No Irish Need Apply” (NINA) signs existed in Great Britain, “There is no evidence for any printed NINA signs in America or for their display at places of employment other than private homes.” Jensen wrote that the prejudice that existed was anti-Catholic rather than anti-Irish and that “there have been no documented instances of job discrimination against Irish men.” [...] Jensen’s argument that anti-Irish employment signs were urban legends seeped into the mainstream of academia and went largely unrefuted over the ensuing decade—until 14-year-old Rebecca Fried found out about it. According to The Daily Beast web site, the incoming freshman at Sidwell Friends School—a private school in Washington, D.C., that counts President Barack Obama’s daughters among its students—read an article her father brought home about Jensen’s research and found the purported lack of NINA ads surprising. “Just for the fun of it, I started to run a few quick searches on an online newspaper database that I found on Google,” she told The Daily Beast. “I was really surprised when I started finding examples of NINA ads in old 19th-century newspapers pretty quickly.”
The deeper Fried dug through online archives, the more she found. The teenaged historian discovered dozens of NINA newspaper advertisements printed in big cities such as New York and Boston and small towns such as Alpine, Texas, and Monmouth, Illinois. [...]

In July, the Oxford Journal of Social History, the same academic publication that printed Jensen’s 2002 article, published Fried’s rebuttal: “No Irish Need Deny: Evidence for the Historicity of NINA Restrictions in Advertisements and Signs.” A spirited back-and-forth debate between Jensen and Fried recently arose in the comments section of an article on the IrishCentral.com web site detailing the teenager’s research. “It’s a matter of whether the glass is half full or half empty,” Jensen told Fried. “I think you have a very big glass, with a couple of drops of water at the bottom, and you call it half-full.”

Christopher Klein, August 12, 2015, www.history.com

Source 11: Lithograph published in *Puck* in April 1880
Source 12: Cartoon by By Kepler, *Puck*, 1893

In 1847 alone, 37,000 Irish refugees landed in Boston, on the edge of death and despair, impoverished and sick. “Native Bostonians might have been willing to send money and food to aid the starving Irish as long as they remained in Ireland” wrote historian Thomas H. O’Connor, “but they certainly didn’t want them coming to America.” The newcomers moved in along Boston’s waterfront, packed together in damp cellars and overcrowded hovels. “Children in the Irish district,” wrote Bostonian Lemuel Shattuck seemed literally born to die.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine Boston’s Irish community unveiled a $1 million memorial park on June 28, 1998. Sculpted by Robert Shure, the memorial features two life-size sculptures: one depicting a desperate family leaving Ireland and another depicting a family arriving in Boston, filled with hope and determination.

“Despite hostility from some Bostonians and signs of “NO IRISH NEED APPLY”, the famine Irish eventually transformed themselves from impoverished refugees to hard-working successful Americans. The leadership of Boston Irish like Boyle O’Reilly, Patrick Collins and Richard Cardinal Cushing culminated in a descendent of the famine generation, John F. Kennedy, becoming the nation first Irish Catholic President in 1960. Today 14 million Americans claim Irish ancestry, leading the nation in medals of Honor winners and excelling in literature, sports, business, medicine and entertainment.”
PLASTIC SOUP
Par Michael Lionne

**Niveau :** Seconde, Première, Terminale

⏰ 6 - 8h

**Topic in French curriculum :** Sociétés et environnements : des équilibres fragiles. Fragilité des milieux océaniques
Societies and environment. Polluted oceans and endangered sealife. Sustainable development

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**Source 1.** Article “*The world’s rubbish dump: a tip that stretches from Hawaii to Japan*”, *The independent*, Tuesday 5 February 2008.
https://cutt.ly/independent

**Source 2.** Ocean Clean Up. Presentation of Ocean Clean Up.
https://cutt.ly/the-ocean-cleanup

**Source 3.** Ocean Clean Up. Further Understanding.
https://cutt.ly/ocean-cleanup
https://cutt.ly/GPGP

**Source 4.** Eating plastic. Scientists accidentally create mutant enzyme that eats plastic bottles by *The Guardian*, Monday 16th April 2018
https://cutt.ly/the-guardian
Source 1: Graph: Evolution of water consumption over the last century + table on the use of water in the world in 2016.

Combination of the previous two data in a single graph. From www.fao.org

Note to teachers: Graph made with a spreadsheet; copy the graph & double click on it to access the table and input data of the country we wish to work on; reliable data can easily be found on the FAO website (https://cutt.ly/FAO-water).

Source 2: A table with some national statistics can be added to show national differences and work on various scales.
In this History of the World in 100 Objects, we’ve just reached the beginning of the twentieth century, and until now we’ve been largely in a world of things that were made, commissioned, and owned by men. Today, on the other hand, we’ve got an object designed to carry the image of a king, but that’s been appropriated by women - disfigured and over-stamped with a slogan, as an act of female protest against the laws of the state.

« Shout, shout, up with your song!
Cry with the wind for the dawn is breaking;
March, march, swing you along,
wide blows our banner and hope is waking ... »

« ... March, march, many as one.
Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend. »

(‘March of the Women’; Ethel Smyth)
The coin in this programme is a deft act of civil disobedience, and a brilliantly inventive piece of low-budget popular propaganda. It’s a British penny with King Edward VII in elegant profile - but his image has been shockingly defaced, in what was then a criminal act. Stamped all over the King’s head, in crude capitals, are the words, « VOTES FOR WOMEN ».

« To hold it gives you a sense of connection to the suffragettes. It’s wonderful, and it’s those things from history, those objects, that just take us back to a period, to a moment, to a wonderful imaginative way of making a political statement. » (Helena Kennedy)
« It’s got shock value, it’s got an incredible level of sophistication, this is really - to me - a really clever idea. » (Felicity Powell)

This week’s programmes have been about mass production and mass consumption, and today we have the rise of mass political engagement. Power is usually not given willingly, but taken - and in both Europe and America the nineteenth century was punctuated by political protest, with periodic revolutions on the continent, Civil War in America - and in Britain, the long steady struggle to widen the suffrage. This programme’s suffragette coin stands for all those - not only in Britain but across the world - who, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries fought for the universal right to vote. Indeed many are still fighting.

This small penny takes us deeper into the now familiar story of women’s suffrage. In Britain, the process of redefining the political nation was a very slow one, beginning in the 1820s, but by the 1880s roughly 60 per cent of the male population had the right to vote. But no women. The campaign for women’s suffrage had begun shortly after the Great Reform Act of 1832, but the battle really got going at the start of the twentieth century, when the suffragette movement was born, and with it a new level of female assertiveness, and indeed violence. Here’s Dame Ethel Smyth, who composed that suffragette song, ‘March of the Women’:

« At exactly 5.30 one memorable evening in 1912, relays of women produced hammers from their muffs and handbags, and proceeded methodically to smash up windows in all the big London thoroughfares - Picadilly, Regent Street, and so on. Inspired by the knowledge that exactly at that moment Mrs Pankhurst was opening the ball with a stone aimed at a window of 10 Downing Street. »

Smyth was jailed, along with many other women. One day a prison visitor found her leaning out of a window, using her toothbrush to conduct her co-suffragettes below her, in singing their song during their yard exercise.

« ... On, on that ye have done, But for the work of today preparing. »

The British establishment was deeply disconcerted by the spectacle of respectable women deliberately committing criminal acts. It was a big step beyond the posters, pamphlets, rallies and songs that till then had been the norm. Defacing a coin of the realm was a more subtle crime - one with no evident victims - but it was an even more effective attack on the authority of a state which excluded women from political life. As a campaigning strategy it was, I think, a stroke of genius. Here’s the artist Felicity Powell, who has a special interest in subversive medals:

« The idea is incredibly clever because it uses the potential that coinage has - a bit like the internet today - to be incredibly widely circulated. And so to be able to get the message out, subversively, into the public realm, to those who would be consoled by this message as well as those who would be shocked by it, is a brilliant idea. Wish I’d thought of it ... »

« This particular coin makes full use of the fact that coins have two sides. So, there is an image of Britannia, which hasn’t been defaced. An image of a woman standing there, very strongly. But turn it over, and there is a real potential for shock value there, real subversion when you see what’s on the other side. »

On the other side is the profile of Edward VII - balding, bearded, and gazing off to the right. He’s in his sixties - the coin is dated 1903. Surrounding him, running round the edge
of the coin, is the Latin inscription, «Edward VII by the grace of God, King of all Britain, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India». A mighty set of titles, redolent of ancient rights and of recent imperial power - in fact it’s an entire political order, devised over centuries and claiming the sanction of God. But running across the top of the King’s ear, and right over his face, in wobbly capital letters, is the word VOTES. Below his ear, FOR - and through his neck, WOMEN. A campaigner has hammered the letters into the surface of the penny one by one, using a separate punch for each letter. Thirteen separate blows. The result is powerfully crude.

Our Edward VII bronze penny was struck in 1903, the year of the formation of the Women’s Social and Political Union, whose founders included Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter Christabel. There had been other peaceful female pressure groups before then, but none had achieved their goal. Thirty three years before, Emmeline’s husband had presented the first Women’s Suffrage Bill to Parliament, which did well in the Commons, until Prime Minister Gladstone had declared himself against it:

« I have no fear lest the woman should encroach upon the power of the man. The fear I have is, lest we should invite her unwittingly to trespass against the delicacy, the purity, the refinement, the elevation of her own nature, which are the present sources of its power. »

Of course, by invoking the delicacy and refinement of women, Gladstone made a calculated appeal to traditional, repressive ideas of how a lady should behave. So although the campaign for women’s votes continued, and the Bill was repeatedly brought back to Parliament, for nearly a generation most women held back from direct action, and the unladylike encroachment on the established power of men.

By 1903, the Pankhursts and others had had enough. At this point they were still calling themselves suffragists, but after a few years of activism the ‘Daily Mail’ would dub these new, feisty protestors Suffragettes - a derisory, diminutive term - suffragette as in ladette - to distinguish them from women, ladies, who stuck to peaceful means.

Under Mrs Pankhurst’s leadership the Suffragettes swung into direct action. Defacing coinage was just one tactic among many, but the choice of the penny was particularly ingenious. Pre-decimal bronze pennies, about the same size as the modern 2 coin, were big enough to carry easily legible lettering, but too numerous and too low in value to make it practical for the banks to recall them. So the message on the coin was pretty well guaranteed to circulate widely and indefinitely.

The Suffragettes also embraced the cause in person. In one famous attack, the Velazquez painting in the National Gallery known as the ‘Rokeby Venus’ was slashed by Mary Richardson, who calmly justified her action:

«I have tried to destroy the picture of the most beautiful woman in mythological history, as a protest against the government for destroying Mrs Pankhurst, who is the most beautiful character in modern history.»

Suffragettes embraced many tactics that can still shock us now. Letter bombs were placed in post boxes. When women were put in jail, they went on hunger strike. The most violent self-inflicted action was when Emily Davison was killed, as she famously threw herself in front of the King’s horse at the Derby. The Suffragettes became systematic law-breakers in order to change the law, and defacing the penny was just one element in a campaign that went far beyond civil disobedience. How permissible is this kind of violence in the pursuit of civil rights? Here’s the human rights lawyer and reformer Helena Kennedy:
« There is that issue of whether it’s ethical to break the law in certain circumstances ... and my argument would be that there are some times when in pursuit of human rights it’s the only thing that people can do. I know as a lawyer I’m not supposed to say that, but I think there are occasions when the general public would agree, that somehow one has to stand up to be counted. Obviously, there have to be limits on what we consider to be acceptable in terms of civil disobedience. There are some political acts which one would never condone, and the ethics of where it is appropriate and what is appropriate is a difficult one. The courage of these women was extraordinary, in that they were prepared to sacrifice their lives. Now of course, today, we have people who are also prepared to sacrifice their lives, and one has to consider when and where that is appropriate. And I think most of us would say that anything that involved harm of others has to be unacceptable. »

The Suffragette campaign was interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War, but the war itself provided powerful, indeed conclusive, arguments for giving women the vote. Unexpectedly, women had the chance to prove their ability in traditionally male and distinctly unladylike environments - battlefield medicine, munitions, agriculture and industry - and once the war was over, they could not be slotted back into a stereotype of delicate refinement.

In 1918 women over the age of 30 were given the right to vote, and in 1928 the Equal Franchise Act extended the vote to all women from the age of 21, on the same terms as men. And a hundred years after our penny was stamped with «Votes For Women», a new 50-pence piece was issued to mark the centenary. On the front, the Queen, a woman, and on the back another woman - a Suffragette chained to a railing with a billboard next to her, carrying the words, legitimately on the coin this time, « GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE ».

The campaign for women’s suffrage was only one among many struggles for civil and human rights that carried on throughout the twentieth century, and are still continuing around the world today. We’ll be looking at some of them next week - our last week in this History of the World - but we’ll be beginning with the revolutionary fervour that transformed Russia. I shall be looking at a plate made in Imperial St Petersburg, and painted a few years later in the same city ... revolutionary Petrograd.

Source 2. A history of the world in 100 objects. A British one penny coin from 1903, which has been defaced by the Suffragettes. The picture.

https://cutt.ly/penny-coin
Source 3. Text about the suffragettes & suffragists.

The National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) was established in 1887 by Millicent Fawcett. The Suffragists, as they were nicknamed, were mainly a middle class, law abiding group of women. To achieve votes for women they used the following tactics:

- Writing pamphlets and letters
- Held public meetings
- Sent petitions to the government
- Held peaceful demonstrations

Some people believe the Suffragists were not successful in achieving the vote for women however, they did achieve a large support which included many politicians who agreed with their peaceful methods. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters became fed-up waiting for the Suffragists to win the vote for women therefore established their own organisation: the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) was established in 1903. The Suffragettes, as they were nicknamed, were more militant (aggressive) and had a motto ‘Deeds not words’. The Suffragettes wanted to achieve maximum publicity for women’s rights. Often this meant breaking the law. The very first militant tactic used by the Suffragettes involved Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney interrupting politicians which got them thrown out of the building. They continued to demonstrate outside and got arrested. After they refused to pay a fine they were sent to prison. This had the desired effect as it made front page news.

The actions of Kenney and Pankhurst had the following results:

- Men and politicians began to take the Suffragettes seriously.
- The suffragettes realised there new tactics would get them publicity.
- Membership of the WSPU increased.

The Suffragettes militant campaign had begun. Other methods of seeking publicity involved:

- Smashing windows with toffee hammers
- Slashing famous paintings
- Post boxes set on fire
- Poured acid onto golf courses

Many Suffragettes were arrested because of their actions but this did not deter them. Hunger strikes became a way of continuing their campaign whilst in prison and showed how determined women were to win the vote. Emily Davison, a Suffragette, proved she was determined to gain the vote also. On 4 June 1913 she rushed on to Epsom race course where she was struck by the King’s race horse, Anmer. She died a few days later. Historians are unsure whether she intentionally killed herself or if she merely wanted to bring attention to the Suffragettes by running on to the course.
Source 4. Text about the official reaction and policy towards the Women’s rights movements.

The queen is keen to get the help of people in stopping this mad, wicked foolishness of ‘Women’s Rights’. Women are forgetting all they have learned about good manners. Lady Amberley (in favour of more rights) should get a good whipping. The government was alarmed at actions of the Suffragettes, worried that one would die and become a martyr for the Suffragette cause. The government introduced force feeding in an attempt to avoid these women dying. Arabella Scott was held in isolation at Perth for 36 days. Medical notes suggest she was force-fed three times within a span of 24 hours. “... my head was grabbed, my chin dragged upwards and backwards. Sometimes the food would be returned into my mouth and, unable to escape, would burst through my nose. Then my nose would be pinched and I would be ordered to swallow it again. I wouldn’t, and struggled for breath, then they would say ‘we will let you breathe when you turn purple...”

Due to the Suffragettes campaign against the use of force feeding and public outcry the government introduced the Temporary Discharge Act. This was nicknamed the Cat and Mouse Act by the WSPU. The Act allowed women on hunger strike to be released from prison until they returned to full health when they would be rearrested.

The Liberal, Conservative and Labour coalition government gave some wealthy, middle class women, over the age of 30, the vote in 1918. This measure was called the Representation of the People Act. Britain did not become a complete democracy until 1928 when men and women over the age of 21 were allowed to vote.


Kate Adie: What did WW1 really do for women? - BBC World War One : https://cutt.ly/WW1-women
More than 100 female politicians from around the world will gather in the House of Commons chamber on Thursday for a conference to celebrate the centenary of women’s suffrage in the UK. Female parliamentarians will come together to acknowledge the historical landmark in a bid to address some of the issues facing women around the globe. The fundamental aim of the event, according to the minister for women and equalities, Penny Mordaunt, who will make a speech on the day, is to “make women’s empowerment a global priority”. The event, named the International Women MPs of the World, will gather prolific politicians from across the globe, including Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the first female speaker of the Bangladeshi parliament and YaKumba Jaiteh, who is a leader of the Gambia’s female lawyers’ association. British MPs expected to be in attendance include the shadow home secretary, Diane Abbott, the leader of the Commons, Andrea Leadsom and Dawn Butler, the shadow equalities minister. In her opening speech, Mourdant will highlight what needs to be done at a governmental level in order to achieve gender equality. The day will then split into morning, mid-morning and afternoon sessions, the first of which will pay tribute to women who have helped shape the political agenda in recent years.[...].The event almost wasn’t allowed happen, after the Tory MP Christopher Chope shouted “object” when it was first mentioned in the House of Commons by Conservative MP Mims Davies in July, however, he was overruled after a spokesperson for Theresa May voiced support for the conference. Chope’s objection came just a few weeks after he sought to block a bill that would see upskirting - whereby someone takes an unsolicited photograph up a woman’s skirt - become a criminal offence. After Chope was widely criticised by campaigners, the government announced it would be taking on the bill and it’s expected to pass through parliament “soon”. But the International Women MPs of the World isn’t the only parliamentary event celebrating women’s suffrage this month. On 21 November, an event named Ask Her to Stand, will see women across the UK flock to Westminster in a bid to inspire others to stand for elected office, marking 100 years since the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918 was passed, which allowed women to be elected into the House of Commons. The event will be co-hosted by Harriet Harman, MP for Camberwell and Peckham and Labour’s former deputy leader. The trained solicitor has been a prolific campaigner for women’s rights throughout her political career and is the longest-serving female MP.[...]

Source 6. “Parliament to mark women’s suffrage centenary with landmark event on Thursday” by The Independent (Nov. 5th 2018).

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