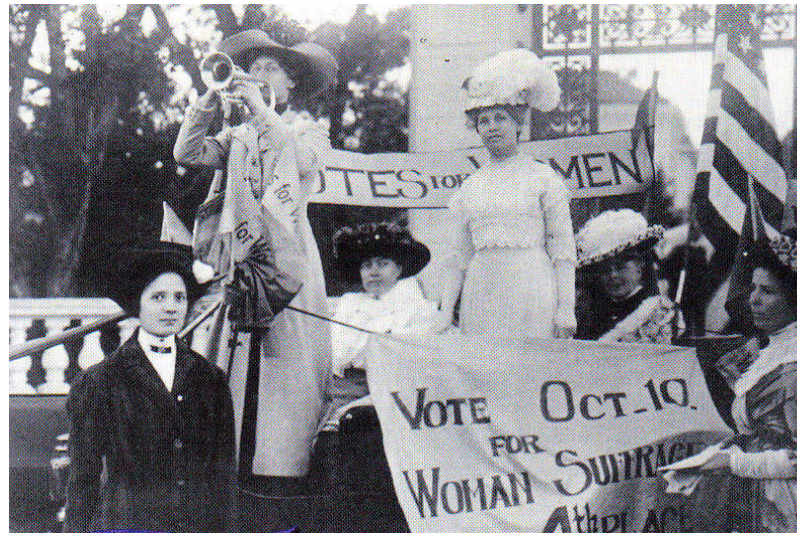


MOTHER LEFT DOROTHY HOME ALONE WHILE SHE WENT TO THE VOTING BOOTH TO REGISTER

Women's Lives & the Struggle for Equality: Resources from Local Libraries

Carol Inskeep / Urbana Free Library / cinskeep@tufl.info

Cartoon from the Champaign News Gazette on September 29, 1920 (above); Members of the Chicago Teachers' Federation participate in a Suffrage Parade (right); Five thousand women march down Michigan Avenue in the rain to the Republican Party Convention hall in 1916 to demand a Woman Suffrage plank in the party platform (below).

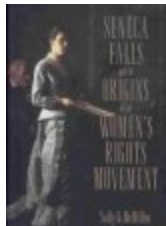


General History of Women's Suffrage



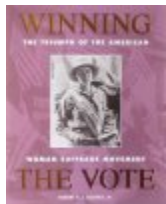
Failure is Impossible: The History of American Women's Rights by Martha E. Kendall. 2001. **EMJ**

From Booklist - This volume in the *People's History* series reviews the history of the women's rights movement in America, beginning with a discussion of women's legal status among the Puritans of Boston, then highlighting developments to the present. Kendall describes women's efforts to secure the right to own property, hold jobs, and gain equal protection under the law, and takes a look at the suffrage movement and legal actions that have helped women gain control of their reproductive rights. She also compares the lifestyles of female Native Americans and slaves with those of other American women at the time. Numerous sepia photographs and illustrations show significant events and give face to important contributors to the movement. The appended list of remarkable women, a time line, and bibliographies will further assist report writers.



Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement by Sally G. McMillen. 2008. **S**

A very readable and engaging account that combines excellent scholarship with accessible and engaging writing. McMillen describes the birth of the movement at the 1848 Seneca Falls, NY, convention, its growth over the next decade, and the post—Civil War dissention that split the movement into two competing national organizations, the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman's Suffrage Association (AWSA). She highlights the lives of four leaders—Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucy Stone. Highly recommended. (**Remember the Ladies: The First Women's Rights Convention** by Norma Johnston is a good resource for students through middle school.)



Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement by Robert P. J. Conney, Jr. 2005. **JS**

This incredible volume – of interest to students, as well as researchers – covers the seven decades of activism that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment. It includes an amazing range of archival photos, cartoons, posters, and original documents reflecting views from all sides on women's issues. See also **Women's Suffrage in America** by Elizabeth Frost-Knappman and Kathryn Cullen-DuPont – an *Eyewitness History* volume with extensive reprinting of primary sources. Excellent for 8th – 12th grade research projects.)



With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote by Ann Bausum. 2004. **MJS**

Bausum exposes the grit, fiery determination, and radical tactics of the women's suffrage movement. She devotes the bulk of the book to the events of 1906 to 1920, when a new group of young women emerged who were willing to truly suffer for suffrage. Vintage photographs depict key figures in the movement speaking, protesting, parading, picketing, and going to jail. Bausum's careful research is evident throughout, with sources thoroughly cited and a text studded with original source quotations. (See also the recently re-released **Jailed for Freedom: American Women Win the Vote**, a chronicle of the final struggle for the vote, written in 1920 by Doris Stevens.)

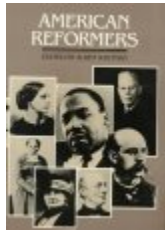


Women of Conscience: Social Reform in Danville, Illinois / 1890 – 1930 by Janet Duitsman Cornelius and Martha LaFrenz Kay. 2008. **S**

This fascinating book – just out last year – chronicles women's activism and social service in church groups, literary study groups, and benevolent societies here in Central Illinois. A remarkable range of issues are addressed: racism, prison reform, public health, school improvement, temperance, and more. Highly recommended.

See also the DVD of **One Woman, One Vote**, a 1995 PBS *American Experience* documentary which chronicles the struggle for women's suffrage. This excellent program focuses on the final push for suffrage, using dramatic footage of the radical tactics used by women activists and the dramatic and sometimes shocking crackdown by police and officials.

Life Stories of Suffragists - Collections



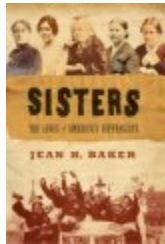
American Reformers edited by Alden Whitman. 1985. **JS**

Brief biographical sketches of 504 men and women who worked for reform throughout US history. In addition to suffragists, the book profiles activists from every significant progressive movement in US history. The entries describe not only the political work and historical significance of each person, but also bring each one to life with personal biographical information.



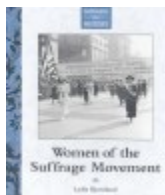
Defining Moments: Women's Suffrage by Jeff Hill. 2006. **S**

From *School Library Journal* - This admirable offering includes a lively discussion of the history of the movement, the personalities involved, and the strategies used to finally obtain the vote. It opens with a list of "Important People, Places and Terms" and a chronology with page references, followed by a narrative overview, biographical sketches, and primary documents.



Sisters: The lives of America's Suffragists by Jean Baker **S**

From *Booklist* - This fascinating collective biography features in-depth sketches of five indispensable leaders of the American suffrage movement. Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frances Willard, and Alice Paul--stalwarts in the struggle to extend fundamental rights and freedoms to females--are profiled in turn. Although these women are identified with the famous movements they founded and the radical causes they espoused, Baker breathes new life into her subjects.



Women of the Suffrage Movement by Lydia Bjornlund. 2003. **MJS**

Short volume (128 p.) which gives an excellent brief overview of the long struggle for suffrage. The unique approach includes chapters on early pioneers for suffrage, national organizers, militant suffragists, African American women in the struggle, anti-suffragists, and women writers and orators.

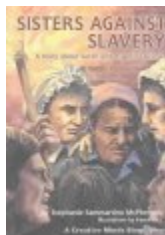
Notable Individual Biographies



Anne Hutchinson: Puritan Protester by Darlene R. Stille. 2006. **EM**

Part of a series of Colonial period biographies, this book explores the life of one of the first known people to protest on principle in American history.

Hutchinson was a religious heretic and outspoken woman at a time of severe constraints around both religious freedom and women's rights. The same age group could also use the amazing book, **Good Women of a Well-Blessed Land: Women's Lives in Colonial America** by Brandon Marie Miller.



Sisters Against Slavery: A Story about Sarah and Angelina Grimke by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson. 1999. **EM**

By any standard, the Grimke sisters were extraordinary women. Born into a wealthy slaveholding family in the late 18th/early 19th century South, they distinguished themselves from their South Carolina contemporaries, not only by developing an early hatred of slavery, but also by acting upon it when they reached young womanhood. Their efforts and public speaking and political organizing broke new ground for women and would help lay the groundwork for later activism for women's rights. For older students, see also **Angelina Grimke: Voice of Abolition** by Ellen H. Todras.



You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? by Jean Fritz. 1995. **EM**

Fritz applies her gift for creating engaging, thorough historical literature to a larger-than-life historical figure. Stanton was a radical among radicals, and this objective depiction of her life and times, as well as her work for women's rights, makes readers feel invested in her struggle. An appealing, full-page black-and-white drawing illustrates each chapter. See also the picture book,

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone, as well as many other biographies for older readers such as

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Leader of the Fight for Women's Rights by Cynthia Salisbury.



Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns. 1999. **JS**

From *Library Journal* - This book, a companion to a documentary film by Burns and Paul Barnes, tells the story of the century-long struggle for woman suffrage. The book centers around the movement's earliest leaders, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Brilliantly chronicled, their tireless 50-year campaign for the right to vote is set in the context of other social movements,

from abolition to temperance to economic justice. Students might also use **The Susan B.**

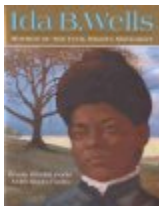
Anthony Women's Voting Rights Trial: A Headline Court Case by Judy Monroe.



I Stayed for the Women: A Story about Lucy Stone by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson. 1992. **E**

One of the few biographies of this distinguished early suffragist is useful but not outstanding. A lengthy biography **Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality** by Andrea Moore Kerr is for older readers, but brings Stone to life. She is also profiled in **Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists** (see above).

Elementary school students might also use series books such as **Women in 19th Century America** by Fiona Macdonald or **19th Century Girls and Women** by Bobbie Kalman to learn more about this period. Both include great illustrations and explore issues of the time.



Ida B. Wells: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement by Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin. 2000. **MJS**

From *School Library Journal* - This stellar biography of one of history's most inspiring women offers an excellent overview of Wells' life and contributions.

Born a slave, she went on to become a schoolteacher, probation officer, journalist, and activist who fought for the right of black women to vote, helped to create the NAACP, and almost single-handedly halted the horrific practice

of lynching. See also the new picture book by Phillip Dray, **Yours for Justice, Ida B. Wells: The Daring Life of a Crusading Journalist**.



Alice Paul and the American Suffrage Campaign by Katherine H. Adams and Michael L. Keene. 2008.

Unfortunately Alice Paul – the militant feminist who was key in the final push to finally secure the right to vote - is almost completely overlooked in literature for students. This recently released academic (but very readable) biography chronicles Alice Paul – the first person to picket the White House, the first to attempt a national political boycott, the first to burn the president in effigy, and the first to lead a successful campaign of nonviolence.

Age Key: E – Elementary / M – Middle School / J – 7th, 8th & 9th grade / S – High School