



ARTIFACT ACTIVITY: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

A free [Online Learning](#) activity aligned with
Common Core & State Content standards for K-5th grades

OVERVIEW:

In this activity, learners will use object based thinking to analyze an artifact from California history. They will then create a plan to research questions they have about the artifact. This activity features topics explored in our forthcoming Centennial Women's Suffrage Exhibit.

APPROPRIATE FOR:

K-5th grades

OBJECTIVES:

In this activity, learners will:

- Use object based thinking to analyze an artifact
- Create a research plan to learn more about the artifact
- Learn about the history of women's suffrage in California

DIRECTIONS:

Use the questions provided to analyze the historic photo and then design a research question to pursue.

TIME:

1 hour

MATERIALS:

- Photograph on page 3

STANDARDS:**Common Core***Reading - Key Ideas and Details*

K-5 Ask and answer questions about key details in a source

Reading - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

K-5 Use illustrations and details to describe the main ideas of a source

History-Social Science California State Content Standards*Research, Evidence, and Point of View*

K-5 Students pose relevant questions about events they encounter in historical documents, eyewitness accounts, oral histories, letters, diaries, artifacts, photographs, maps, artworks, and architecture.

Grade Level Content Area Connections

K.1 Students understand that being a good citizen involves acting in certain ways.

2.3 Students explain governmental institutions and practices in the United States and other countries.

2.5 Students understand the importance of individual action and character and explain how heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others' lives

- 3.4 Students understand the role of rules and laws in our daily lives and the basic structure of the U.S. government.
- 4.5 Students understand the structures, functions, and powers of the local, state, and federal governments as described in the U.S. Constitution.

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PART 1: ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

DIRECTIONS:

View the photograph of the artifact and analyze it using the following questions.






Photograph by Hamilton Henry Dobbin

Questions:

1. What title would you give the photograph?

2. Analyze the artifact using the chart below:

 <p>Step 1: See <i>What observations can you make? What details can you point out?</i></p>	
 <p>Step 2: Think <i>What background knowledge can you add to your understanding? What do you think you can learn from it?</i></p>	
 <p>Step 3: Wonder <i>What questions do you have about this piece? What more do you need to know to gain understanding?</i></p>	

PART 2: ARTIFACT RESEARCH

3. Choose one of your *wonder* questions to research further:
 - a. Where is the best place to find more information?
 - b. What related questions do you want to answer about this topic?
 - c. What did you learn through your research?

About this artifact:

This photograph shows the first women voting in the state of California in 1912. Voting rights are something people in this country have fought for since the beginning of our nation's history. When the United States was founded in 1776, the founders dreamed of a country where the government would be elected by the people, rather than ruled by a king. It was a bold idea at the time, but unfortunately, the founders did not include all people in their vision. Women, enslaved people, Native Americans, and other people who did not own property could not vote. Over time, the rules of our government, as written in the Constitution, have changed to include more people.

In the 1800s, women across the United States began to organize to gain the right to vote. Organizing to gain the right to vote is called *suffrage*. In 1911, suffragists in California were successful in getting Proposition 4 passed, which allowed women to vote. On a national level, women didn't gain the right to vote until 1920 when the 19th Amendment was passed and women's right to vote was written into the U.S. Constitution. It took even longer to confirm the voting rights of African Americans and Native Americans. There are groups today who are still fighting for their rights to vote in U.S. elections. To learn more about the struggle for women's suffrage in California, visit the California State Archives' online exhibit:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/on-the-road-to-ratification/dgly74IMkNyklA>.