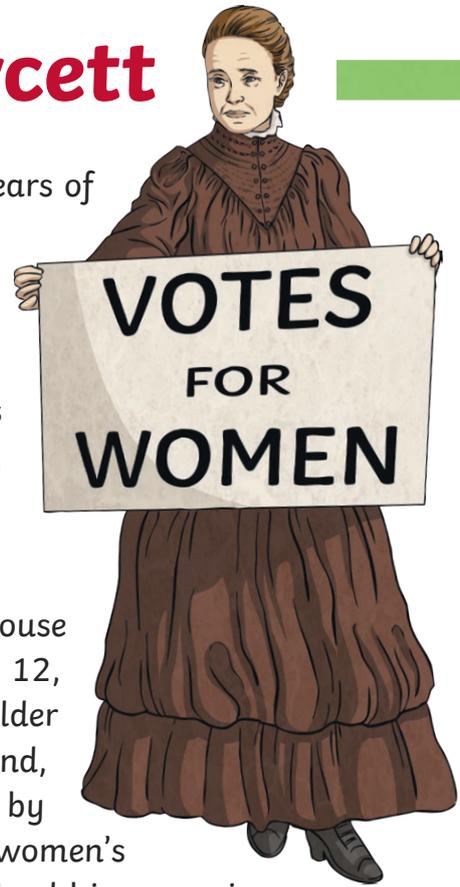


# Millicent Fawcett

In 2018, celebrations are planned to mark 100 years of women's right to vote in the UK. The campaign for women's suffrage was long and many women dedicated their lives to it. One of these was Millicent Fawcett, the leader of the suffragist movement. Unlike the suffragettes, the suffragists believed in peaceful law-abiding ways of gaining women the vote.



## Who Was She?

Millicent Garrett was born in 1847 to a warehouse owner and successful businessman. At the age of 12, Millicent was sent to London to be educated. Her older sister, Elizabeth, introduced her to early feminists and,

at the age of 19, Millicent heard a speech by John Stuart Mill, an MP who supported women's suffrage. She was so impressed that she joined his campaign.



## Did You Know?

In 1918, the Representation of the People Act was passed and women voted in a general election for the first time.

## Leader of the Suffragist Movement

In 1866, Millicent Fawcett became the secretary of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. She began speaking at events in support of votes for women. After a short time out of public life, Millicent returned to her campaigning and joined William Gladstone's Liberal party. In 1897, she was elected president of the National Union

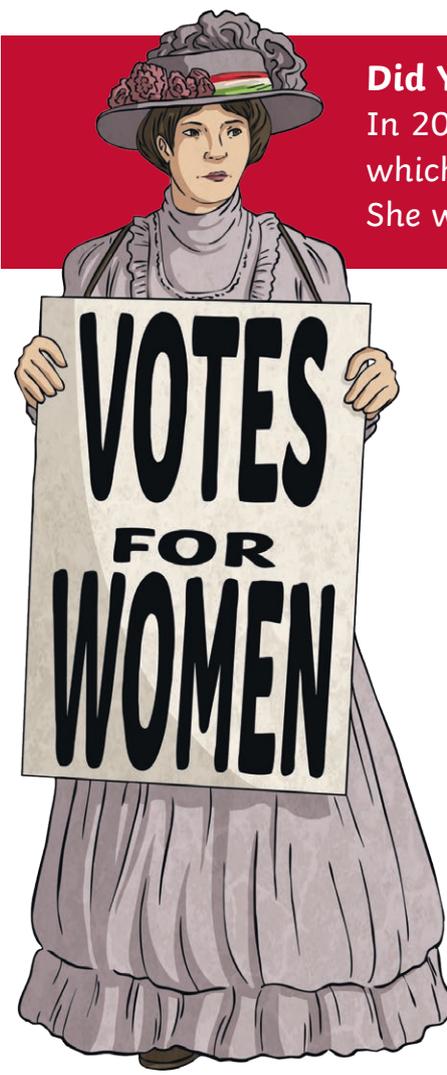
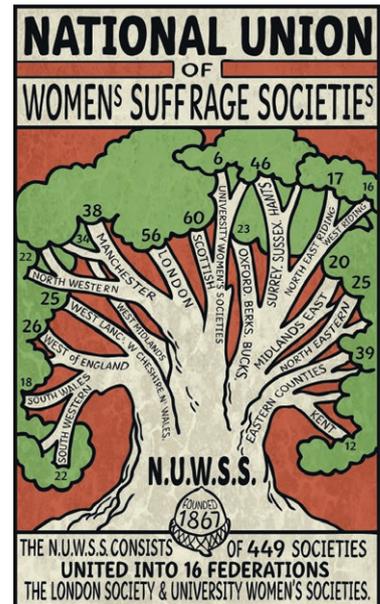
of Women's Suffrage Societies. They demanded the vote for women by holding public meetings, petitions, writing to politicians, publishing newspapers and giving out information about their cause. Millicent and the NUWSS were disappointed by the Liberal government who refused to consider giving women the vote. The lack of progress created a divide



in the NUWSS and the militant suffragettes began their violent action. Fawcett, however, still believed in peaceful campaigning. She continued her work even through the First World War, which she saw as an opportunity for women to work at home in traditionally male jobs.

### After the Vote

Once the goal was achieved, the NUWSS broke up and Millicent Fawcett retired from her public campaigning but continued to support women's rights. In 1928, she was in parliament to witness women being granted equal votes with men with the Equal Franchise Act. She considered herself very lucky to have seen the success of her life's work. Millicent died a year after she witnessed women being granted equal votes.



### Did You Know?

In 2017, a statue of Millicent Fawcett was commissioned which will be unveiled in Parliament Square in 2018. She will be the first woman represented among 11 men.

# Questions

1. What did Millicent Fawcett's father do?

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2. Why did she first go to live in London? Tick one.

- to be educated
- to become a doctor
- to meet John Stuart Mill
- to get married

3. Whose speech inspired the 19-year-old Millicent Fawcett?

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4. Which was the first suffrage organisation that Fawcett joined? Tick one.

- the Suffragettes
- the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies
- the London Society of Women's Suffrage
- the Liberal party

5. Name two ways the NUWSS campaigned for women's suffrage.

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6. What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War? Tick one.

- stop campaigning
- enlist in the armed forces
- take on traditionally male jobs
- send their husbands to fight

7. What did Millicent Fawcett witness in 1928?

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8. How will Millicent Fawcett be commemorated in 2018?

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# Answers

1. What did Millicent Fawcett's father do?  
**Millicent Fawcett's father was a warehouse owner and successful businessman.**
2. Why did she first go to live in London? Tick one.  
 **to be educated**  
 to become a doctor  
 to meet John Stuart Mill  
 to get married
3. Whose speech inspired the 19-year-old Millicent Fawcett?  
**John Stuart Mill's speech inspired Millicent.**
4. Which was the first suffrage organisation that Fawcett joined? Tick one.  
 the Suffragettes  
 **the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies**  
 the London Society of Women's Suffrage  
 the Liberal party
5. Name two ways the NUWSS campaigned for women's suffrage.  
**Accept any two of the following: holding public meetings; petitions; writing to politicians; publishing newspapers; giving out information about their cause.**
6. What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War? Tick one.  
 stop campaigning  
 enlist in the armed forces  
 **take on traditionally male jobs**  
 send their husbands to fight
7. What did Millicent Fawcett witness in 1928?  
**She witnessed the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act being passed which gave men and women over 21 the vote.**
8. How will Millicent Fawcett be commemorated in 2018?  
**Her statue will be unveiled in Parliament Square.**

# Millicent Fawcett

In 2018, celebrations are planned to mark the centenary of women's right to vote in the UK. Many women dedicated their lives to the campaign for women's suffrage which was long and difficult. One of these was Millicent Fawcett, the leader of the National Union for Women's Suffrage. In contrast to the suffragettes, the suffragists believed in peaceful, law-abiding ways of gaining women the vote.

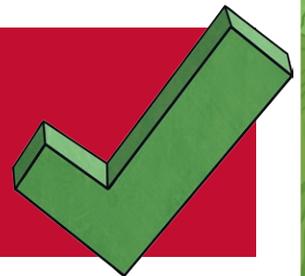


## Who Was She?

Millicent Garrett was born the eighth of ten children in 1847 to a warehouse owner and successful businessman in Suffolk. She grew up in a mansion which her father, Newson, had built himself. At the age of 12, Millicent was sent to London to be educated and spent time with her older sister, Elizabeth, who was attempting to become the first female doctor in the UK. Elizabeth introduced her to early feminists and, at the age of 19, Millicent went to hear a speech by John Stuart Mill, an MP who supported women's suffrage. She was so inspired by his speech, which confirmed her ideas about equality for women, that she began to work with him on the campaign. Through her work with Mill, she met other important suffragists including Henry Fawcett, the MP for Brighton, who she married in 1867. Although he was 14 years older than her, their marriage was based on their shared intelligence and ideals.

## Did You Know?

Millicent's daughter, Philippa, was the first woman to achieve the highest mark in the mathematics degree at Cambridge. She studied at Newnham College, which her mother had co-founded.



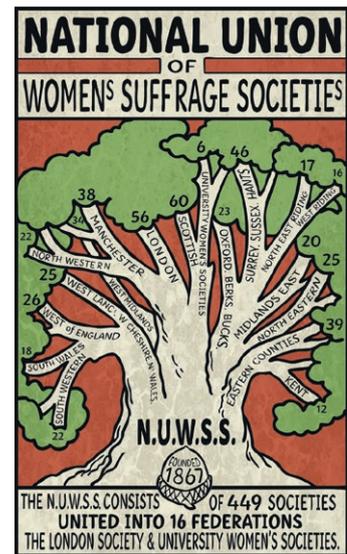
## Leader of the Suffragist Movement

In 1866, Millicent Fawcett became the secretary of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. Considered an excellent public speaker, she spoke at public events in support of votes for women and published essays on the subject. When Henry Fawcett died suddenly in 1884, leaving Millicent a widow at 37, she withdrew from public life for a while. In time, she returned to her campaigning and joined William Gladstone's Liberal party. In 1897, she was elected president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies which brought together

several smaller groups across the country in the hope of pressurising the government. They demanded the vote for women by holding public meetings, petitions, writing to politicians, publishing newspapers and giving out information about their cause. However, Millicent and the NUWSS remained disappointed by the Liberal government who refused to consider giving women the vote despite some MPs being supportive of the cause. The lack of progress created a divide in the NUWSS and the militant suffragettes began their violent action. Fawcett, however, still believed in peaceful campaigning and felt that the violence was a setback. When the First World War broke out, Fawcett called on women to support the war effort by taking



on traditionally male jobs at home. She felt this was an opportunity to prove that women could be useful in society and add further weight to the suffrage campaign.



**Did You Know?**

The First World War was a turning point in the fight for the women’s right to vote. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act was passed and women over 30 voted in a general election for the first time.

**After the Vote**

Having achieved the goal of getting the vote for women, the NUWSS was disbanded and Millicent Fawcett retired from her public campaigning. She continued to support women’s rights, both at home and abroad, and supported access to the legal profession and the civil service as well as a woman’s right to divorce. In 1928, she was in parliament to witness women being granted equal votes with men with the Equal Franchise Act. Just a year later, in 1929, Millicent died having been fortunate enough to see the success of her life’s work.

**Did You Know?**

In 2017, a statue of Millicent Fawcett was commissioned which will be unveiled in Parliament Square in 2018. She will be the first woman represented among 11 men.

# Questions

1. Find and copy a word which is a synonym for 'committed'.

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2. How old was Millicent Fawcett when she first went to live in London? Tick one.

19

21

12

37

3. Why do you think that hearing John Stuart Mill speak on the subject of women's suffrage 'inspired' Millicent?

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4. What did Millicent's daughter, Philippa, achieve?

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5. Name two ways Millicent Fawcett conducted her early campaign for women's suffrage.

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6. Which organisation did she become leader of in 1897? Tick one.

the Liberal party

the London Society for Women's Suffrage

the Suffragettes

the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

7. Match the sentences.

Millicent Fawcett was
In 1918,
Millicent Fawcett believed that

women over 30 could vote for the first time.

the violent actions of the Suffragettes were a setback.

disappointed by the refusal of the Liberal government to give votes to women.

8. What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War?

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9. What did Millicent Fawcett witness in 1928?

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10. Why do you think creating a statue of Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square is an appropriate way to commemorate her?

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# Answers

1. Find and copy a word which is a synonym for 'committed'.

**Dedicated**

2. How old was Millicent Fawcett when she first went to live in London? Tick one.

19

21

12

37

3. Why do you think that hearing John Stuart Mill speak on the subject of women's suffrage 'inspired' Millicent?

**Pupils own response; accept answers such as: I think Fawcett was inspired by Mill's speech because he had a similar dedication to achieving rights for women to her own; it would have been inspiring to hear a man support women's rights at a time when few people had feminist views.**

4. What did Millicent's daughter, Philippa, achieve?

**She was the first woman to achieve the highest mark in mathematics at Cambridge University.**

5. Name two ways Millicent Fawcett conducted her early campaign for women's suffrage.

**Accept the two following answers: She spoke at public events; She published essays on the subject.**

6. Which organisation did she become leader of in 1897? Tick one.

the Liberal party

the London Society for Women's Suffrage

the Suffragettes

**the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies**

7. Match the sentences.

Millicent Fawcett was	women over 30 could vote for the first time.
In 1918,	the violent actions of the Suffragettes were a setback.
Millicent Fawcett believed that	disappointed by the refusal of the Liberal government to give votes to women.

8. What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War?  
**Millicent Fawcett called on women to take on traditionally male jobs.**
9. What did Millicent Fawcett witness in 1928?  
**She witnessed the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act being passed which gave men and women over 21 the vote.**
10. Why do you think creating a statue of Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square is an appropriate way to commemorate her?  
**Pupil's own response; accept answers such as: It is appropriate to create a statue of Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square because it is a place that is important to politics and gives her recognition among male MPs.**

# Millicent Fawcett

In 2018, celebrations are planned to mark the centenary of women's right to vote in the UK. Many women dedicated their lives to the long and difficult campaign for women's suffrage. One of the most famous of these was Millicent Fawcett, the leader of the National Union for Women's Suffrage. In contrast to the suffragettes, the suffragists believed in peaceful, law-abiding ways of gaining women the vote.

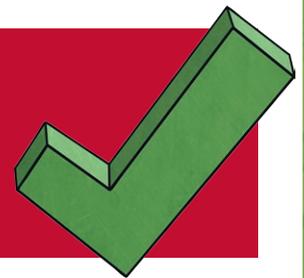


## Who Was She?

The eighth of ten children, Millicent Garrett was born in 1847 to a warehouse owner and successful businessman in Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Growing up in a mansion which her father, Newson, had built himself, the children were encouraged to read widely and discuss political issues. At the age of 12, Millicent was sent to London to be educated and spent time with her older sister, Elizabeth, who was attempting to become the first female doctor in the UK. Elizabeth introduced her to early feminists and, when Millicent was aged 19, her sister took her to hear a speech by John Stuart Mill, a radical MP who supported women's suffrage. His speech reinforced her ideas about equality for women and she was inspired to work with him on the campaign. Through her work with Mill, she met other important suffragists including Henry Fawcett, the MP for Brighton. Although he was 14 years older than her, they shared intellectual and political ideals and married in 1867.

## Did You Know?

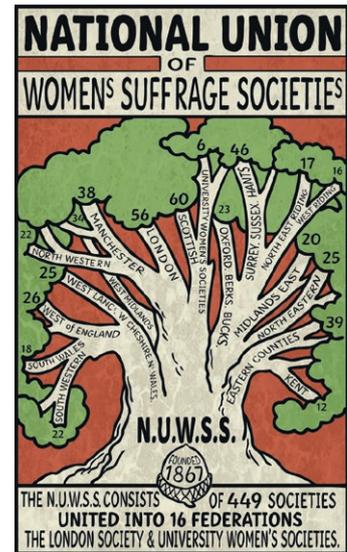
Millicent's daughter, Philippa, was the first woman to achieve the highest mark in the mathematics degree at Cambridge. She studied at Newnham College, which her mother had co-founded.



## Leader of the Suffragist Movement

In 1866, Millicent Fawcett became the secretary of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. Considered an accomplished public speaker, she spoke at public events in support of votes for women and published essays on the subject. When Henry Fawcett died suddenly in 1884, leaving Millicent a widow at 37, she withdrew from public life for a while and moved in with her sister, Agnes. In time, she returned to her campaigning and joined William Gladstone's Liberal party.

In 1897, she was elected president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies which brought together several smaller groups across the country in the hope of exerting greater pressure on the government. They demanded the vote for women by holding public meetings, petitions, writing to politicians, publishing newspapers and giving out information about their cause. However, Millicent and the NUWSS remained disappointed by the Liberal government who refused to consider giving women the vote despite some MPs being supportive of the cause. Despite their tireless campaigning, the lack of progress caused a divide in the NUWSS and the militant suffragettes began their violent action, led by Emmeline Pankhurst. Fawcett, however, still believed in peaceful campaigning and felt that the violence was impeding their cause. When the First World War broke out in 1914, Fawcett called on women to support the war effort by taking on traditionally male jobs at home, such as bus conductors and munitions factory work. She saw this as an opportunity to prove that women could be useful in society and add further weight to the suffrage campaign. If women could prove their usefulness, they would inevitably have to be given the vote.



**Did You Know?**

The First World War was a turning point in the fight for the women's right to vote. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act was passed and women over 30 voted in a general election for the first time.

**After the Vote**

Having achieved the goal of getting the vote for women, the NUWSS was disbanded and Millicent Fawcett retired from her public campaigning. She continued to support women's rights, both at home and abroad, and supported access to the legal profession and the civil service as well as a woman's right to divorce. In 1928, she was present in parliament to witness women being granted equal votes with men with the Equal Franchise Act. Just a year later, Millicent died, having been fortunate enough to see the success of her life's work.

**Did You Know?**

In 2017, a statue of Millicent Fawcett was commissioned which will be unveiled in Parliament Square in 2018. She will be the first woman represented among 11 men.

# Questions

1. Which campaign did Millicent Fawcett dedicate her life to?

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2. What does this sentence tell us about Millicent's sister Elizabeth's career choice?

"Elizabeth... was attempting to become the first female doctor in the UK."

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3. Who inspired Millicent Fawcett when she was 19?

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4. Which organisation did Millicent Fawcett become leader of in 1897?

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5. Tick the box to show if the statement is true or false.

	True	False
Millicent Fawcett was married in 1867.		
Millicent Fawcett was very good at public speaking.		
Millicent Fawcett was widowed at the age of 47.		
Henry and Millicent Fawcett had very different political beliefs.		

6. How did Millicent Fawcett feel about the militant actions of the Suffragettes led by Emmeline Pankhurst and why do you think she felt like this?

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7. What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War and why?

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8. What did Millicent Fawcett support after the NUWSS disbanded? Tick one.

- access for women to the legal profession
- lowering of the voting age
- higher education for women
- female MPs

9. What is significant about the statue of Millicent Fawcett to be unveiled in 2018?

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10. What do you think the impact of the campaign for women's suffrage has been on modern life today?

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# Answers

- Which campaign did Millicent Fawcett dedicate her life to?  
**Millicent Fawcett dedicated her life to the campaign for women's suffrage.**
- What does this sentence tell us about Millicent's sister Elizabeth's career choice?  
"Elizabeth... was attempting to become the first female doctor in the UK."  
**Accept answers such as: It tells us that she was doing something pioneering and that it wasn't an easy path for a woman to become a doctor at that time.**
- Who inspired Millicent Fawcett when she was 19?  
**John Stuart Mill inspired Millicent when she was 19.**
- Which organisation did Millicent Fawcett become leader of in 1897?  
**She became leader of The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**
- Tick the box to show if the statement is true or false.

	True	False
Millicent Fawcett was married in 1867.	✓	
Millicent Fawcett was very good at public speaking.		✓
Millicent Fawcett was very good at public speaking.	✓	
Millicent Fawcett was widowed at the age of 47.		✓
Henry and Millicent Fawcett had very different political beliefs.		✓

- How did Millicent Fawcett feel about the militant actions of the Suffragettes led by Emmeline Pankhurst and why do you think she felt like this?  
**Accept answers such as: She didn't approve of them and believed they didn't help the cause for women's suffrage. I think she felt this way because she had worked hard to progress the movement for women's rights and didn't want this to be ruined by the violent campaigns of some women.**
- What did Millicent Fawcett call on women to do during the First World War and why?  
**She called on women to undertake traditionally male jobs such as working in munitions factories and as bus conductors. She believed that this was a way in which women could prove themselves to be equal to men and help them gain the vote.**
- What did Millicent Fawcett support after the NUWSS disbanded? Tick one.
  - access for women to the legal profession**
  - lowering of the voting age
  - higher education for women
  - female MPs

9. What is significant about the statue of Millicent Fawcett to be unveiled in 2018?  
**She will be the first woman commemorated in Parliament Square alongside 11 men, including Sir Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela.**
10. What do you think the impact of the campaign for women's suffrage has been on modern life today?  
**Accept any suitable answer such as: I think the campaign for women's suffrage has had a positive impact on modern life enabling women today to have the same voting rights as men and improved rights in other areas such as employment.**