

1. Fight for your rights

What do the following all have in common: actor Russell Crowe, mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary (conqueror of Everest), the movie Lord of the Rings (and its director Peter Jackson) and the All Blacks rugby team? Answer: they were all made in New Zealand. This week New Zealand commemorates Waitangi Day (the country's national day) on February 6th. Among the many things that New Zealand is famous for, it was the first country to grant women the vote. Many of us take the right to vote (suffrage) for granted but this week we focus on the courageous women who fought hard to achieve equal rights. And the battle doesn't go as far back as some may think; Switzerland only achieved suffrage in 1971, while South Africa didn't achieve it until as recently as 1994.

Level

Upper Intermediate upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Give your students five minutes to read through Worksheet A and remember as many of the details as they can. Tell them they are going to answer questions about it, but they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
2. After five minutes stop your students. Ask them to turn over their pieces of paper.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Tell them that by answering the questions they can find the names of the two New Zealand women prime ministers. Divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to answer the questions and write the answers in the grid.
4. Check answers in open class. If the questions have all been answered as below, the names *Shibley and Clark* should read from top to bottom. (See links at foot of page)

Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. suffragists | 6. Emmeline | 11. Christabel |
| 2. children | 7. Sylvia | 12. New Zealand |
| 3. politics | 8. banners | 13. Suffragettes |
| 4. Kate Sheppard | 9. prison | 14. railings |
| 5. Millicent Fawcett | 10. Richard Seddon | 15. King George V |

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenny_Shibley

Jenny Shibley, New Zealand's first woman prime minister

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Clark

Helen Clark, New Zealand's second, and current, prime minister

<http://www2.worldbook.com/features/whm/html/whm010.html#beginnings>

a brief history of the suffrage movement

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/suffragettes.htm>

the Suffragettes