

Year 8 The Development of Rights in Britain

Topic words

Some of our key words are difficult to remember. Here are a few with their meanings.

Democracy – the people having freedoms, eg freedom of speech and to vote.

The Second Reform Act – 1 in 3 men could vote

The Ballot Act – voting to be done in secret

The Third Reform Act – 2 in 3 men could vote

The Saddler Report – An investigation into working conditions of the poor.

Factory Act – A law passed to improve working conditions in factories. Eg 1891 Act prevented children under 11 working in factories

Mines Act – A law passed to improve working conditions in mines. Eg 1842 Act made it illegal for women or children to work underground.

Suffragist – women’s rights group who believed that *peaceful* methods were the best way to achieve rights for women.

Suffragette - women’s rights group who believed that *violent* methods were the best way to achieve rights for women.

Key people

Robert Owen – A kind factory owner who treated his workers well.

Lord Shaftsbury – A politician who campaigned for children’s rights

Benjamin Waugh – Philanthropist, set up NSPCC

Caroline Norton – Campaigned for women’s rights

Millicent Fawcett – leader of Suffragists

Emmeline Pankhurst – leader of Suffragettes



Women’s rights

In 1800 all women in England (rich and poor) lacked basic rights – including the right to vote and the right to own property. During the 1800s and early 1900s we will see women campaigning for improved rights. Important individuals such as Fawcett and Pankhurst played vital roles in changing how people saw the role of women. The death of Emily Wildling Davison is well known today.



Working conditions during the industrial revolution

Whilst the Industrial Revolution led to huge economic growth, working conditions got worse and worse. Men, women and children worked in mines for long hours, mining coal so that it could be used to fuel factories and trains. There were many cases of explosions in mines – leading to terrible death. Working conditions in factories were also appalling, children crawled under unfenced machinery and people worked long days. Accidents were common. During the 1800s much was done by individuals like Owen and Shaftsbury to raise awareness of this and improve conditions.

The end of the Chartist movement

The Chartists campaigned for democracy in England – ie: voting in secret and decreasing voting age for men. In 1848 they arranged a petition with 6 million signatures and organised a demonstration. However, few people attended and the petition turned out to be a flop. This was the end of the Chartist movement.

1842	➡	1848	➡	1867	➡	1884	➡	1897	➡	1903	➡	1913
Mines Act		The End of the Chartist Movement		Second Reform Act		Third Reform Act		Suffragists movement set up		Suffragette movement set up		Death of Emily Wildling Davison