



Unit: Women

Lesson 3.6: Susan B. Anthony and Women's Suffrage

Aim: To learn about Susan B. Anthony and Victorian views on women's suffrage.

Objective: Students study an original lithograph and record their observations and read an editorial on women's suffrage.

Materials:

1. Copies of lithograph (or overhead transparency)
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc095.html>
2. Copies of editorial (or overhead transparency)
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc087.html>

Procedure:

1. Write the word "suffrage" on the blackboard. Ask students what they think it means. Use the word in a sentence ("Women argued that suffrage was a right given to all citizens by the Constitution" or "Suffragettes fought for women's right to vote"). Ask again...
2. Distribute lithograph "Miss Anthony Telling the Story of Her Arrest..." to small groups. Ask groups to fold a sheet of loose-leaf paper in half vertically and label one half "I see" and the other half "I think."
3. Groups record their observations and speculations about the picture.
4. In addition, ask groups to think about possible explanations for why she was arrested.
5. Distribute *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* editorial, "Universal Suffrage," December 26, 1865, p. 2. Group assignment: "Here is an **editorial** about women's suffrage. It contains the **petition**, which argues for women's right to vote."
6. Read the petition and list two or three arguments it gives in favor of women's suffrage.
7. The remainder of the editorial takes these arguments one step further. What consideration (besides race or sex) does the writer argue for here? Do you think he is serious? Why or why not? What does this editorial tell you about the writer's opinion of women's suffrage?"

8. Draw a cartoon to illustrate the editorial (e.g., a baby in diapers casting, or eating, a ballot).

Extra Challenge:

Rewrite the following sentence from the editorial in everyday English:

“Whether it would be **expedient** to permit the exercise of the privilege of **franchise** to infants before they have cut their double teeth, is a question which Congress should **gravely** consider.”