

## Social Studies

### Genre

**Textbooks** present facts and ideas about nonfiction topics.

### Text Feature

A **Time Line** is a diagram of several events arranged in the order in which they took place. A time line helps to organize information in an easy, visual way.

### Content Vocabulary

**suffrage**

**amendment**

**polling**

**media**



# Suffrage for Women

by Maria Chan

After more than 50 years of struggle and hard work, women finally won the right to vote in national elections in 1920. The fight for **suffrage**, or the right to vote, began with the Seneca Falls Convention in New York state in 1848. As voting rights pioneer Susan B. Anthony argued, suffrage was “the pivotal right, the one that underlies all other rights.” Suffragist leaders gained strength in 1870 when an **amendment** to the U.S. Constitution granted African American men the right to vote. Why not award the vote to all citizens?

In 1872 Anthony and a group of women marched into a **polling** place in Rochester, New York, and cast their votes in a presidential election. The women were arrested and fined. Finally, in 1878 after six more years of protests, a women's suffrage amendment was introduced in Congress.

Congress did not pass the women's suffrage amendment in 1878. Still, the amendment was reintroduced in every session of Congress for the next 40 years. Suffragist leaders, such as Carrie Chapman Catt, traveled across the country giving speeches and organizing workers. Catt led a "suffrage army" of 1 million volunteers. She used the **media** to spread her arguments. Newspapers and magazines were able to reach a large amount of people.

In 1920 these efforts paid off. Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, which guarantees every adult woman the right to vote. On August 26, 1920, the states approved this amendment. Here is what the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution says:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged [limited] by the United States or by any state on account of sex." After a half-century of struggle, women finally won the right to have their voices heard in governing this country.





# Biography

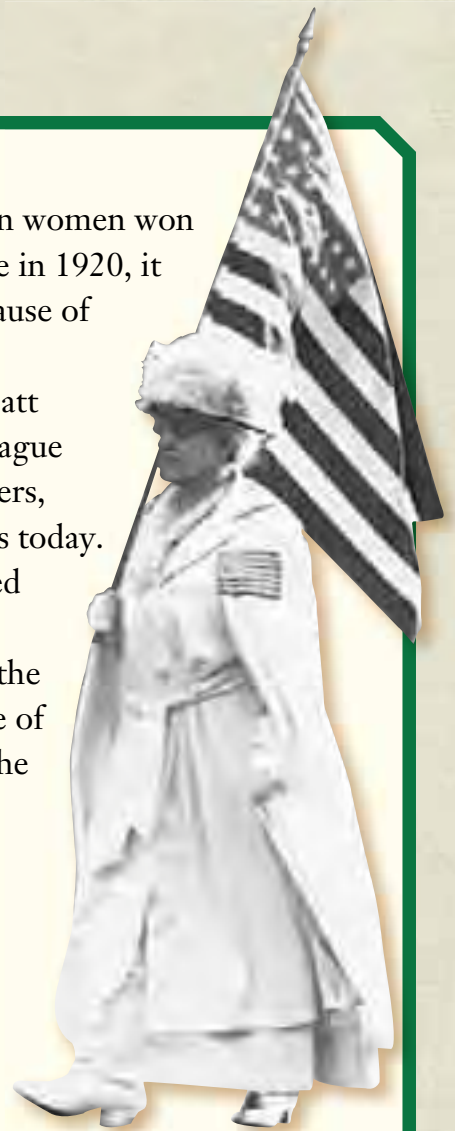
**Carrie Chapman Catt** was born Carrie Lane in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1859. After college she became a teacher in Mason City, Iowa, and then the superintendent of schools in 1883. Around that time Catt became involved in fighting for the right to vote.

Over time Catt supervised thousands of volunteers and gave hundreds of speeches in favor of women's right to vote. She was elected president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association from 1900 to 1904, and again from 1915 to 1920.

Catt worked against great odds but held firm to her beliefs. "There will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it has his or her own voice in government."

When American women won the right to vote in 1920, it was largely because of Catt's work.

That year Catt founded the League of Women Voters, which still exists today. She also founded the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War in 1925. She died in 1947.



## Reading a Time Line

One way to review major historical events is to look at them on a time line. Here are some of the major events of the women's suffrage movement:

### The Life of Carrie Chapman Catt

1859

Carrie Chapman Catt is born Carrie Lane in Ripon, Wisconsin

1883

Catt becomes superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa

1900

Catt is president of National American Women Suffrage Association

1920

Catt founds League of Women Voters

1860

1875

1890

1905

1920

1861-1865

Civil War

1876

Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1914

World War I begins, the Panama Canal opens

1918

World War I ends

### Life Around the World



## Connect and Compare



1. Use the time line on page 310 to find out how old Carrie Chapman Catt was when she founded the League of Women Voters? **Reading a Time Line**
2. How did Carrie Chapman Catt help women win the vote? **Analyze**
3. Compare *When Esther Morris Headed West* with this article about women's suffrage. How are the two selections similar? How are they different? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



## Social Studies Activity

Research another suffragist leader, such as Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, or Lucy Stone. Write a summary of her life. Include a time line that shows the main events in the life of the person you choose.



Find out more about suffrage at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

## Writer's Craft

### Word Choice

**Word choice** means choosing the right words to help readers understand what you mean. Strong adjectives and action verbs make the writing more specific.

I used the verb "stride" because it packs a lot of meaning.

I chose the words "super cool" to show my enthusiasm about voting.

# Write a Poem

## Vote Your Way

by Brian P.

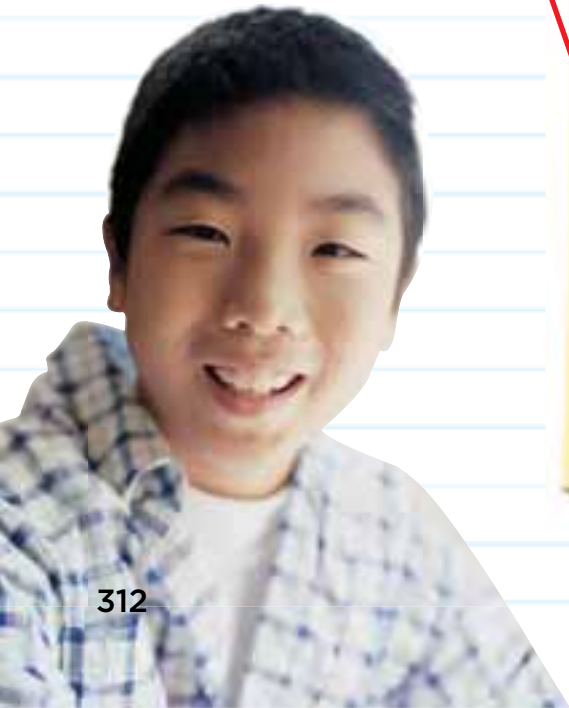
At eighteen you're allowed to vote.  
It keeps our country strong.

Stride to the polls with notes you wrote  
On issues right and wrong.

You choose the candidates you like.  
It's only up to you.

With your vote you make a strike  
For right, and good, and true.

Don't waste the chance to vote your way.  
This right is super cool.  
Learn all you can; then have your say.  
If you don't, you're just a fool!



## Your Turn

People often write poems to celebrate ideas, people, or events. Choose a person, event, or topic from American history to honor with a poem that you write. Your poem does not have to rhyme. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)

## Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Is the main idea of my poem apparent to the reader?
- Organization:** Does each line and stanza of my poem follow in a logical order?
- Voice:** Can the reader tell how strongly I feel about this topic?
- Word Choice:** Did I use action verbs whenever possible to strengthen my **word choice**?
- Sentence Fluency:** Do the lines of poetry have a certain rhythm even if they don't rhyme?
- Conventions:** Is every word in my poem spelled correctly?