



Y6

History: Has Manchester always been a fair society?

Spring 1

Fairness



Articles:
7, 8, 9, 19, 22, 32

Key knowledge

- At the start of the 19th Century following the end of the Napoleonic wars, high **unemployment**, harvest failure, and the introduction of the **Corn Laws** led to high prices and an **economic slump**
- Only 11% of adult males had the right to vote, very few in the **industrial** north, and many felt that **agricultural** laws passed by Parliament made the economic situation in the north worse
- Major **urban centres** like Manchester, Salford, Oldham, Stockport, Rochdale and Ashton-under-Lyne had no MPs representing their views in **Parliament** which led to calls for **reform**
- In the winter of 1816-17, **petitions** made to the Houses of Parliament asking for voting reform were rejected. The largest of these was from Manchester, with over 30,000 signatures.
- A second economic slump in 1819 led to **radical reformers** organising protests with huge crowds to convince the Government to back down. One of these was organised by the **Manchester Patriotic Union** in August 1819, addressed by radical **orator** Henry Hunt at St Peter’s Field (now St Peter’s Square)
- Authorities ordered the arrest of Hunt and for the crowds to be dispersed. The crowd was charged at and in the confusion between nine and seventeen people were killed with several hundred injured
- The event was labelled the ‘Peterloo **massacre**’ in reference to the bloody Battle of Waterloo
- In the immediate aftermath, the Government passed the **Six Acts** to suppress radical groups and organisations calling for reform
- The Peterloo uprising led to similar, smaller uprisings in the north over the next few years. Whilst it did not speed up the pace of reform, many of the reformers demands were addressed in the **Great Reform Act 1832**
- The Great Reform Act introduced major changes to the electoral system in England and Wales, including greater representation for cities and voting rights for small landowners, farmers, shopkeepers and house owners.
- The Act defined a voter as a male person, denying the right to vote to women.
- The Second Reform Act 1867 further increased the numbers of urban male workers eligible to vote by creating new **boroughs** represented in Parliament by an MP
- The campaign for women’s **suffrage** continued through the second half of the 19th Century.
- Emmeline Pankhurst, a political activist born in Moss Side, founded the Women’s Social and Political Union in 1903 to advocate voting rights for both married and unmarried women.
- The group was opposed to political parties and became known for violent protests
- Emmeline’s daughter Christabel took over leadership of the group in 1913. The Pankhursts called for a stop to their protests during the First World War.
- Emmeline organised a massive procession called the Women’s Right to Serve demonstration, to highlight the contribution women made to the war effort. Emmeline and Christabel urged women to contribute to the industrial effort and encouraged young men to fight.
- In 1918, the Representation of the People Act gave the right to vote to all men over 21 and all women over 30. This was to ensure men weren’t underrepresented due to the huge number of young men killed during the war.
- In 1928, the Equal Franchise Act extended the right to vote to all women over 21. Emmeline died just weeks before this was passed.

Key vocabulary

unemployment	unable to find a job/no available jobs - if you are unemployed, you don’t have a job
the Corn Laws	Laws which raised the cost of European grain to promote the sale of British grain
the economy	a system of making money and producing/distributing goods and services within a country
an economic slump	a period of low economic activity
industrial	relating to large scale manufacturing
agricultural	relating to farming and livestock
Parliament	an assembly of political representatives
urban centres	a built-up area with lots of people and buildings
reform	to make changes in order to improve something
a petition	a formal written request, typically signed by a lot of people, appealing to authority in support of a cause
radical reformer	someone in support of a significant change from the current way things are done
the Manchester Patriotic Union	a group formed to campaign for Parliamentary reform
an orator	a skilled public speaker – Barack Obama is a great orator
a massacre	A massacre is a deliberate and brutal killing of a great number of people.
the Six Acts	a set of laws passed to limit and control public meetings, the press and protests calling for reform
The Great Reform Act	an Act of Parliament passed to reform voting rights and representation
a borough	a town or district
suffrage	the right to vote in political elections
an activist	a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change
a suffragette	a member of the women’s suffrage movement

Knowledge and skills

Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
A study of an aspect or theme in British history.
Historical enquiry
Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
Address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

Bridge back



Year 5 What was the British Empire?

Bridge forward



Timeline



Napoleonic Wars
1803-15



Petitions asking for reform
made to Parliament
1816-17



The Great Reform Act
1832



The Second Reform Act
1867



The First World War
1914-18



The Equal Franchise
Act
1928



Introduction of Corn Laws
1815



Peterloo massacre
16th August 1819



Emmeline Pankhurst born
Moss Side, 1858



Women's Social & Political Union
1903



Representation of the
People Act
1918

Key images



Painting of the Peterloo massacre



St Peter's Square, Manchester



Emmeline Pankhurst and her statue in St Peter's Square, Manchester

