

Susan B. Anthony | Lesson Plan

Who was Susan B. Anthony, and how did she contribute to changing voting laws for women in America?

Students will understand the implications of the suffrage movement in America and how Susan B. Anthony helped pave the way for women to vote. They will recognize that Americans should never take for granted the rights that others before us have fought for.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the suffrage movement of 19th century America.
- Explain how Susan B. Anthony contributed to changing voting laws for women.
- Recognize that hard-fought voting (and other) rights should not be taken for granted.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Activist:** A person who works hard to bring about social or political change.
- **Suffragist:** A person who advocated for women to have the right to vote.
- **Equality:** The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.
- **Radical:** Describing actions, ideas, or changes that are extreme and far-reaching, often challenging traditional or established norms.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Women of History, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Susan B. Anthony: Crusader for Women's Rights to Vote* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Susan B. Anthony: Crusader for Women's Rights to Vote* (Click [Here](#))
- Scissors
- Small box or other container to collect ballots

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a discussion about voting in America. Ask students about the election process and why they think it's important for all citizens to be allowed to vote.
2. Explain that the class will take part in a quick, informal election.
3. Distribute the worksheet.
4. Direct students to the ballot at the bottom of the worksheet and instruct them to cut along the dotted line.
5. Invite students to cast their votes for their favorite ice cream by placing an X in one box, signing their names, and placing their ballots in the ballot box. Stress that votes are personal and should not be shared with others.



6. Explain that the voting results will be shared at the end of the lesson.
7. Engage students in a quick conversation about what it would have been like if the girls in the class were not allowed to vote.
8. Reveal that the video will focus on a time in our country (not so long ago) when women were not allowed to vote.
9. Discuss the meaning of "suffragist" (see Key Words above). Reveal that in 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for entering a polling place and casting a vote for Ulysses S. Grant for president. She faced trial and was fined \$100 for her act of defiance. This incident incited public outrage and significantly heightened awareness of the suffrage movement. Susan B. Anthony was instrumental in securing women's right to vote in America.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Encourage students to complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Depending on the age of students, pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions, especially short answer responses.

Wrap-Up: (15 minutes.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Quickly count and share the votes from the Warm-Up activity. If time allows, record the results on the board. Emphasize that every vote was counted and every class member's voice was heard.
3. Sum up the lesson by reiterating the main ideas of the video—that the hard work of Susan B. Anthony and others made it possible for women to vote in America and that we, as citizens, should never take that right for granted.
4. Collect the worksheet as a formative assessment or discuss it in class.
5. To summarize the lesson, pose the following review questions:
 - What was the suffrage movement, and why was it important?
 - How did Susan B. Anthony contribute to changing voting laws in America?
 - Why do you think it's important for every person, regardless of race or gender, to have the right to vote?
 - What are some ways that people take their voting rights for granted?
6. Encourage students to reflect on the importance of learning about Susan B. Anthony. Because of her hard work in support of equal rights for women, she is known as one of the most prominent leaders of the women's suffrage movement.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (time in mins.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.