Arkansas Women’s Suffrage

Activities for High School U.S. History

**Arkansas Social Studies Frameworks:**

Era7.1.USH.4 Investigate social, economic, and technological effects of WWI on America (eg. women’s suffrage)

**Guiding Question:**

How did women in Arkansas and the United States fight for equal rights?

**Activities:**

* Read the article, “[Anti-Suffrage Arguments](http://ualrexhibits.org/suffrage/anti-suffrage-arguments/)” and review [Ysobel the Suffragette cartoons](http://ualrexhibits.org/suffrage/political-cartoons/), drawn by T.E. Powers, which appeared in the *Arkansas Gazette* in January-March 1911.
* Conduct research using online collections such as Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) and the National Women’s History Museum (<http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/primary-documents-1>).
* Using primary and secondary sources, make a list of individuals and groups who supported and opposed women’s suffrage. What arguments and/or evidence did they use to support or oppose voting rights for women?
* Read the article, “[Women, WWI and the Suffrage Outcome](http://ualrexhibits.org/suffrage/arkansas-women-and-wwi/).” How was women’s suffrage connected to the U.S. war effort in WWI?
* Examine WWI propaganda posters, such as those in the media gallery, the First Call exhibit at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History (<http://littlerock.org/parksrecreation/arkmilitaryheritage/learn/educationalprograms/>), or those at the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/ww1pos/>) for their portrayal of women and women’s roles. As students analyze the posters, have them consider the following questions:
* Who do you think created this poster?
* For what reason or purpose was the poster created?
* Who was the intended audience?
* What images do you see in the poster? (people, things, symbols)
* What is the main message of this poster?
* How did the artist use words, images and color to persuade?