

Female Activism

About this activity

Female Activism is an activity which enables learners to develop their reading skills while learning about female activists, their goals and how women have challenged and are still challenging inequalities throughout the world.

Stage 1: Lead-in/Pre-reading	<p>Show a picture in which learners can see a well-known female figure from their country so that they can identify her easily. Using this figure as an example, elicit the word “activist” from the learners as someone who wants to change things for the better for people.</p> <p>Check understanding by asking concept checking questions like:</p> <p>(a) when you are an activist, do you want to change things or keep them the same ?</p> <p>(b) Do you know any other famous activists?</p> <p>Elicit/give examples of some more female activists. These could be females advocating girls education, such as Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan, the environment with Wangari Mathaai in Kenya or females advocating the rights of refugees.</p> <p>Elicit the goals of activism and the particular challenges faced by female activists.</p>
Stage 2: Reading for Gist	<p>Give the learners a text and ask them to match a title to the text from the options A/B/C. Get feedback from the learners and ask them to justify their answers.</p>
Stage 3: Reading for Detail	<p>Ask the learners to read the text again and complete the table about the activists. Fast finishers can move on to question 3 and 4. Conduct feedback on the answers and ask the learners which activist they think is the most impressive.</p>
Stage 4: Post-reading	<p>Ask learners to discuss these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why do women feel that they should advocate for themselves?2. Why are women sometimes victims of social inequalities?

Suggested follow-up activities

Allow learners to access books, texts, internet or any resources available to have a better understanding of female activism. Then in groups (mixed gender preferably) ask students to create a presentation or a biography of a famous female activist.

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Female Activitism - reading texts

Extract from '10 FEMALE ACTIVISTS WHO LEAD THE WAY' - an article by LR360

Malala Yousafzai	<p>In 2012 Malala Yousafzai became one of the most famous schoolgirls in the world when she was shot by the Taliban in an attempted assassination. She was just 15 years old. Her crime was speaking out publicly on behalf of girls and their right to an education. In 2008, the Taliban takeover of Malala's village in Pakistan had severely restricted women's freedom and girls were forbidden from going to school. For her incredible act of bravery, Malala became the youngest person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize and is today one of the world's most recognisable advocates for education.</p>
Emmeline Pankhurst	<p>In the early twentieth-century, a group of British women launched a campaign to get women the right to vote. They called themselves the Suffragettes and their leader was Emmeline Pankhurst. Emmeline believed in 'deeds not words' and her militant tactics meant that she was no stranger to a prison cell. However even imprisoned, Pankhurst found ways to rebel and inspired fellow inmates to join her in hunger strike. Her campaign finally succeeded in 1928 (when all British women over the age of 21 were finally granted the vote). The victory however was bitter-sweet as Pankhurst herself had died just 2 weeks before.</p>
Rosa Parks	<p>In 1955, Rosa Parks became a powerful symbol for the American Civil Rights Movement when she refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. Her refusal flouted the strict Alabama segregation laws and signalled to the authorities that Parks was taking a stand – or seat - against institutionalised racism. Her arrest for civil disobedience sparked a massive protest of the bus system and Parks emerged as one of the movements most important political activists. She remained a staunch campaigner for racial equality until her death in 2005.</p>

Bios credit to RL360 - <https://www.r1360.com/top10/female-activists.htm>

Female Activitism - worksheet

1. Read the texts quickly and choose the best title:

- A: Women celebrating their victory
- B: Female Activists
- C: Women demanding their personal rights

2. Read the text again and complete the table

Activist	Advocating for	Challenges
Rosa Parks		
Emmeline Pankhurst		

3. Read the text one more time and choose the right answer:

1. Malala Yousafzai was shot because:
 - a)She wanted all girls to stop going to school
 - b)She did not want to be married
 - c)She spoke on behalf of girls
2. Emmeline Pankhurst believed in:
 - d)Women's ability to vote
 - e)Fighting against gender inequalities until her death
 - f)"Deeds not words"
3. Rosa Parks was from:
 - g)Kenya
 - h)America
 - i)England

4. Read the texts again and answer the following questions:

1. What do the three women in the text have in common ?
2. Did they fight for the same right in their different societies ?
3. Did Pankhurst celebrate her victory ?