

Learning Centre Activity
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The goal of this learning centre activity is to get students thinking about how women have become more empowered since the late 19th century. The curriculum outcome that this center is designed around is Social Studies 7.5.3 “Examine how women became more empowered through their role in the social reform movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries”. This activity help establish historical significances of the evolution of women’s rights throughout the 20th century. The goal of this activity is that it will indicate key individual and groups which were essential to the women’s rights movement, and have students connect to influential Canadian women in todays society.

This lesson is designed to spark conversation and have students to begin to think about what empowerment looks like through the feminist lens. The centre will begin with the explanation that women throughout history have had to fight for their rights and even in today’s world rights are not always equal depending on the community that you belong to (gender, sexual orientation, race, etc.). The center will highlight Canadian women who have fought for justice and we will look at a quick video that highlights the importance of the women’s suffrage movement (Appendix I). During this movie I will prompt students to start to think about influential women that they know in today’s society. Following the end of the video the students will be asked to think and discuss within groups (2/3 other students) about some of the influential Canadian women in today’s society. They will be asked to share to with the table about some of the women they came up with. The discussion will then have them think about if they know historically of any of the women who were the first women in the field of their influential women of today. If time allows, I have some slides that include some of the most historically predominant figures for the student to see if they recognize them (Appendix II). To close the lesson, I think it is important to remind students that although we are looking at Women’s empowerment, it is also important to understand Gay activism, minority activism and Trans activism can all be part of the conversation.

There are several ways to extend this activity, the first suggestion is to extend this lesson into a full class by adding a quick graphic organizer for the students to write down what they already know and have them fill out the rest of it as the lesson progresses (Appendix III). The lesson can also be more specific and look at particular sections such as politics, activism, medicine, among other important fields. The lesson could also be extended to have student take a current predominate activist/figure and research those that came before them and have the students create a timeline of the evolution of empowerment. The timeline should include significant moments for women, significant contributions made by women, and should highlight the very first women involved. I think that the timeline creation is a good way to assess their understanding of the evolution of empowerment throughout the 20th century and would be an appropriate measure of the outcome. I also feel that using this learning centre as an introduction to the unit allows for the student to explore what they know more about and understand what areas they would like to learn more about.

Social Studies Lesson Plan

10 mins x6



Grade Level	Grade 7
Learning Centre Topic and Theme	Women empowerment through the 19/20th century
Learning Centre Objective	7.5.3 Examine how women became more empowered through their role in the social reform movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries
Procedure	<p>Introduce the topic of Women empowerment (1 min)</p> <p>Have students view the video (3 min)</p> <p>Think, Pair, Share influential women in today's society (3 min) ask about who might be the first women in the particular field show slideshow with historical/current figures and discuss</p> <p>Close with something for them to think about (2 min)</p>
Materials Required	<p>Laptop with internet access</p> <p>Video link</p> <p>Slideshow</p> <p>Graphic Organizer (optional)</p>
Expansion Ideas	<p>Expand on today's lesson by using the graphic organizer and adding particular fields</p> <p>Have student create a Timeline where they pick a current influential Canadian woman/activist and trace it back to the first in the field, highlighting important details that show the evolution of empowerment throughout the 20th century</p>

Appendix I

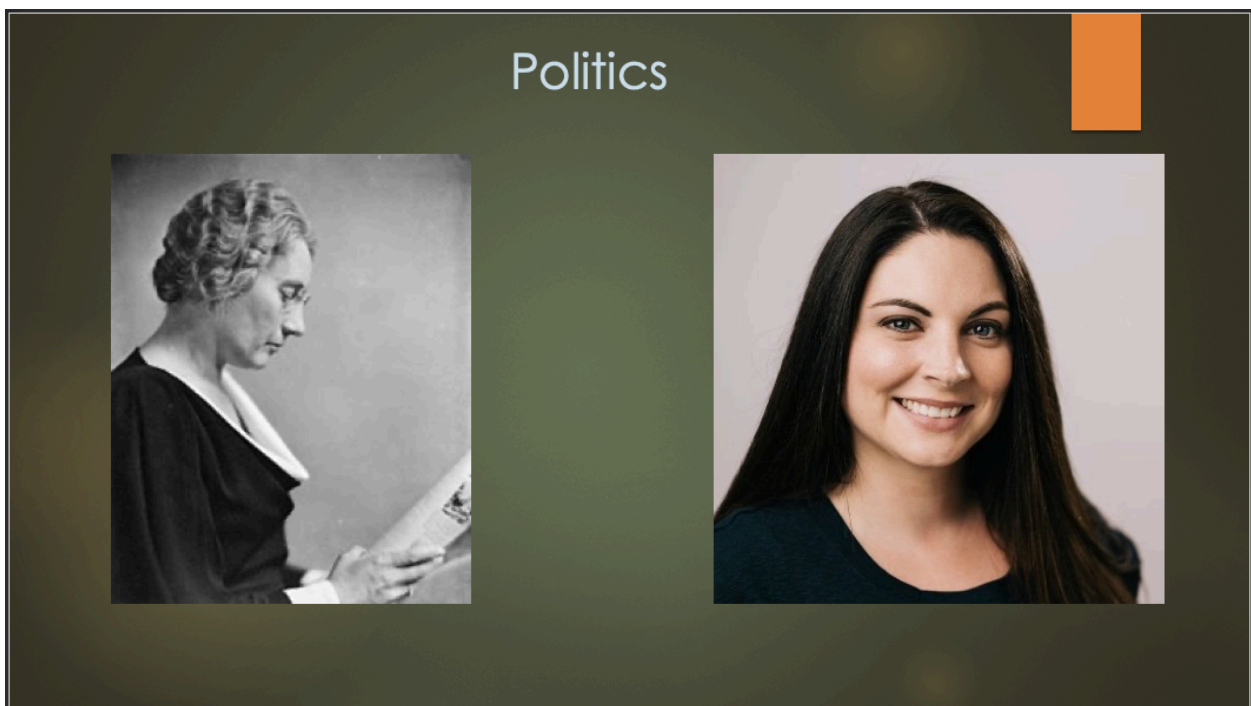
Website link for the video:

How 5 Women Changed Canada Forever Over a Cup of Tea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFD3san49W8>

Appendix II:

Example of Slides for Mini lesson, for the possibility of extending it to include different fields.



Name: _____

Women Empowerment Through The 20th Century

Date: _____

Fill out the speech bubble **before** the activity begins. Then **during** the activity fill out the chart as we discover each figure!

Things I know about Women
Empowerment are...

Field	Historical Figure	Current Figure
Politics		
Science		
Activism		

