

Big Enquiry: How has the role of women changed over time?

★ Star Vocabulary ★

Patriarchy: a system of society or government in which men hold the power and from which women are largely excluded

Matriarchy: a system of society or government run by women

Feminism: the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power and opportunities as men

Sexism: prejudice, stereotyping or discrimination against someone based on their gender

Suffrage: the right to vote in an election

Hierarchy: a system in which people are organised according to ranked positions in society

Revolution: a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favour of a new system

Tudors (Y3) – Elizabeth I

Sticky Facts

In the Roman Republic, Ancient Greek era and Anglo Saxon, women had little rights compared with the Ancient Egyptian times where women had more equality.

By the 19th century, more and more women were starting to question their role within society and speak out against the patriarchal world in which they lived. Many famous female authors from this period who used their novels to highlight the inequality between men and women, such as Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters (Charlotte, Emily and Anne).

After both WW1 and WW2, it was impossible to ignore the contribution women had made to the war effort, or to claim that women were incapable of doing the same jobs or having the same responsibilities as men.

By the 1920s and 1930s, it was becoming more acceptable for a woman to work or go to university but a woman's main priority remained taking care of her home and her family.

Second-wave feminism aimed to ensure that women were no longer only thought of just as housewives, mothers and occasional workers. They wanted women to be in control of their own lives and their own money, no matter if they were married or not.

WW2 (Y6) – roles of women in the war



Queen Elizabeth I was a strong independent ruler of England. She refused to marry even though it was expected of her. She became a turning point in history for independent female leaders because she proved to the world that she was just as strong as any King despite the stereotypes of the day.

Victoria became queen at the young age of 18 years old in June 1837 but she took her duties very seriously as Queen. Every week, she held long meetings with the prime minister to discuss what was happening in her kingdom. Her reign is regarded as a time of growth and prosperity as it was a time when Great Britain became the largest empire in the world.

Margaret Hughes was the first female in a particular profession in England in the 17th century. She was an actress.

From 1897, the suffragettes organised marches, chained themselves to railings, smashed windows, set fire to buildings and did many other things to gain attention for their cause and to force the authorities to act.



Dame Ethel Smyth



Sarah Parker Remond

**Margaret
Hughes**



Suffragettes

Think like a Historian

1. **Cause and Consequence** - Why did it happen and what happened next?
2. **Change and Continuity** - Did things change or stay the same?
3. **Similarities and Differences** - What is the same and what is different?
4. **Significance** - Why do we still learn about this today?
5. **Evidence and Sources** - How do we know what happened?
6. **Interpretations** - Who is telling the story and how do they feel?

