Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum

Activity Overview: 2020 marks the 100-year anniversary of the hard-fought passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in the U.S. To commemorate the anniversary, the State Historical Museum of Iowa is celebrating with monthly activities and programs. This Goldie at Home activity is in partnership with the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum and focuses on how the Iowan became a suffragist and the ribbons worn by people to show their support of the movement.

Connection to Iowa History



In 1866, Carrie Lane, eventually to be known as Carrie Chapman Catt, and her family moved to a farmstead a few miles outside of Charles City in northeast Iowa. When she was 13, Carrie's father and male farm hand were preparing to go into town and vote. However, she noticed her mother was not doing the same. When she asked her father why, he replied, "Women do not vote." It was after this incident that Carrie became a suffragist.

Carrie graduated as the only woman from her class at the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm in Ames (now Iowa State University) in 1880. In 1883, she became one of the first women in the nation appointed superintendent of schools. She served as the state organizer of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association from 1890-1892. After joining the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as the group's president in 1900. After returning to lead NAWSA in 1915, her **"Winning Plan"** helped lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State certified the amendment which granted women the right to vote. On November 2 of that same year, more than 8 million women across the U.S. voted for the first time in an election.

What is a Suffragist?

A suffragist is a person who advocates for the right to vote to be extended to more people. Voting is important, because it gives a person a say in decisions that affect them. People supporting suffrage would have worn ribbons to show they were behind the movement. This is much like the signs people carry during protests today.

Instructions

1. **Print or draw.** Using a printer, print the ribbon templates. Or draw the ribbon shape onto a piece of paper.

2. **Decorate.** Color and decorate the ribbon. If you are coloring yours like one Carrie Lane Chapman Catt would have worn, the suffrage movement used the colors purple, white and gold to represent the cause.
   - Purple = loyalty
   - White = purity
   - Gold = light and life

3. **Cut.** Use your scissors to cut out the ribbon. Following its outline.

Instructions continued on next page

Materials

- Ribbon templates
- Paper
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers
- Scissors
- Optional: Safety pin, tape

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Instructions continued

4 **Wear.** After the ribbon is cut out, you can wear with pride. It can either be attached with a safety pin or tape.

5 **Share!** After you complete your ribbon, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with others!

6 **Questions to Spark Learning**

- Wearing ribbons and buttons was one way people could show support for the suffrage movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s. How do you show support for causes that are important to you? How has technology changed the ways you can show your support?
- Do you think suffrage is important? Why? Why do you think some people didn't want to allow women the right to vote?
- Check out the museum's **Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection Flickr Album**. Look through the album, choose an image and take a closer look using the **Visual Literacy with Goldie activity**. Why did you choose this particular image?

7 **Additional Activity: Voting Rights**

To demonstrate how women felt before the passage of the 19th Amendment, you can try this activity with a group of people, using safe social distancing procedures.

- **Choose a topic.** This will be what your group will vote on, so be sure to choose something that people will want to vote for or against. As examples, you might select that strawberry is the best flavor of ice cream or that giraffes are the best wild animal.
- **Count off.** Have your group count off into ones and twos. Every person will either be a one or a two.
- **Select a group to vote.** Select which group gets to vote, either the ones or twos, and collect the responses of the group that can vote.
- **Discuss.** Ask the group that could not vote how they felt. Ask the group that could vote how they felt. What seemed unfair during this process? Why should the whole group have equal say in the voting process?

8 **Additional Resources**

Explore additional resources about the women's suffrage movement, the 19th Amendment and Iowa suffragist Carrie Lane Chapman Catt.

- **Carrie Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum**
- **Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University**
- **State Historical Museum of Iowa: Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection Flickr Album**
- **State Historical Museum of Iowa: 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration**
- **African American Women Leaders in the Suffrage Movement**
- **Iowa Women's Archives: Women's Suffrage in Iowa Online Exhibit**
- **National Park Service: Between Two Worlds: Black Women and the Fight for Voting Rights**
- **Iowa PBS: Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Activity**
- **National Museum of African American History & Culture: 5 You Should Know: African American Suffragists**
- **Library of Congress: Carrie Chapman Catt Primary Sources** and **Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote Exhibition**
- **Right to Vote: Suffrage for Women, African Americans and American Indians Primary Source Set**

Women's Suffrage Ribbon Templates





