Goldie at Home: Women's Suffrage - DIY Sash

Activity Overview: 2020 marks the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. As a way to show their support of the suffrage movement, Iowans would sometimes wear sashes and ribbons stating "Votes For Women" in parades and speaking engagements. This Goldie at Home activity is a crafty way to show your support for suffrage 100 years after the historic passage of the 19th Amendment.

Connection to Iowa History

When Iowa became a state in 1846, women were not allowed to vote in elections. Although women across the United States would not be granted full suffrage until 1920, Iowa was home to many important suffrage leaders including Amelia Bloomer and Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. To show support of the movement, people would have worn sashes, buttons, ribbons or even yellow roses. Most of these materials would be yellow, purple or white. Early signs of the suffrage movement in Iowa include a suffrage parade that marched through the streets of Boone, Iowa in 1908 (see photo), which is thought to be one of the earliest suffrage parades in the United States.



Instructions

1. Using scissors, cut along the creases and lines of the paper bag to cut all the sides apart. After cutting, you should have two large rectangles (front and back), a bottom and two thin sides.
2. Discard the bottom piece and the thin sides. If your bag has handles, cut and discard those as well.
3. Take one of the rectangles of paper, and draw a diagonal line using a pencil, from the upper left corner to the lower right hand corner.
4. Using your diagonal line as a guide, take your ruler and mark points that are two inches to the left and right of the line. Make these marks in at least four places along the length of the diagonal line.
5. Connect your marks to make two diagonal lines that run parallel to your original line.
6. Following the lines you just created, cut the paper. This is one side of the sash. Repeat steps 4-6 on the other rectangular piece.
7. Using markers and other materials, decorate one side of each piece of paper to show your support of women's suffrage.
8. Lay the two pieces of paper on top of each other, and make sure the edges line up.

Instructions continued on next page

Materials

- Large grocery paper bag
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Markers and other decorating materials

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Instructions continued

9 Staple both ends together to create the sash.

10 **Questions to Spark Learning**

- Boone, Iowa, had one of the earliest suffrage parades in the country in 1908. Why would women, and men, arrange a march to protest something they thought was unjust?
- Sashes and ribbons are ways to show support of a movement like suffrage. Why do you think these items were popular and widely used by suffragists?
- The suffrage movement colors are typically purple, gold and white. Why do you think those colors were chosen? What do you think the colors symbolize for the cause?

11 **Additional Resources**

Explore these resources below to learn more about women's suffrage in Iowa and around the United States.

- **State Historical Society of Iowa: Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection**
- **Iowa Women's Archives: Women's Suffrage in Iowa - An Online Exhibit**
- **Iowa PBS: Boone Suffrage Parade**
- **State Historical Society of Iowa: Women's Suffrage Primary Source Set** and **Right to Vote: Suffrage for Women, African Americans and American Indians**

