



THE

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Women's Histories

Resources for teachers and students
Finding Aid

Introduction

This resource contains a hyperlinked list of National Archives current resources for Women's histories on The National Archives website. It includes education resources, online exhibitions, research guides, blog posts and podcasts by staff and external writers and links to external websites.

The intention for this resource is to make it easier for teachers to find resources for teaching a diverse curriculum. We are committed to further improving our resources and continuing to increase the women's histories told through our education resources and collections.

This document will be updated periodically to add new resources that have been made available through our website. It was last updated in March 2026.

At The National Archives the voices of men, in the most part, frame our collections, reflecting the historic interests of government/past societies. Archives tend to reflect the values and biases of their makers; these values have changed a lot over the 1000 years of our collections. The further back we go into our records, the less present women's voices are, as in the Medieval and Early Modern periods.

Traditionally, history has focused on more male dominated fields of research, such as political history and military history, rather than the social and cultural spheres where historically women are often more likely to be found. Yet the threads of women's experiences weave throughout our records; from monarchs to paupers; suffrage campaigners to black power campaigners. Women in positions of power tend to be the most visible in the records, the voice of the 'everywoman' proves much harder to find.

The experiences of women are framed by the state, so may not be speaking freely or using their own words, and yet the collections are rich. The disruptive protests of the Suffragettes, militant campaigners for votes for women, are framed by the interests of government. Records relating to Suffragettes can be found in the Home Office, concerned about keeping public order, or in the Treasury, recording the costs of damage and policing, and yet, despite the context of the records, we have one of the strongest collections on the history of the British suffrage movement. When women were disruptive, they have tended to leave footprints in the archive, and therefore women in protests can often be found, in peace campaigns or in struggles for equal pay.

As women gained the right to vote and stand as Members of Parliament, the concerns of women are increasingly represented in our collections, up to and beyond the era of Margaret Thatcher, divorce by mutual consent and the Gender Recognition Act. It must be recognised however that while women's voices are marginalised in our records, this is often compounded when people faced other factors of marginalisation and oppression; such as the experiences of women of colour, bisexual and lesbian women, working-class women and disabled women.

Introduction

Women can be found throughout our collections, but their narratives are often harder to find. As this resource shows we are working to reclaim the voices of women and address these historical imbalances, to represent an inclusive history of everyone in the resources we now develop.

Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Contents	Page 4
Themed Collections	Page 6
Lessons	Page 15
Videos	Page 27
Broadcasts	Page 33
Topic sites	Page 35
Onsite & online education sessions	Page 40
Young people's projects	Page 44
Outreach resources	Page 48
Research guides	Page 50
Talks, podcasts & webinars	Page 55
Blog posts	Page 66
External websites	Page 85

Contents

This finding aid contains many different types of resource available via The National Archives website. The following list shows what to expect from each category of resource.

Themed Collections

Small curated collections of digitised documents introduced by a specialist on the topic.

Lessons

Fully resourced lesson packs designed for use in a classroom either as a whole or to be adapted by teachers into their own lesson plans and teaching styles.

Videos

Our educational video series: 'Spotlight On', 'Unboxing the Archive', 'History Hook', and 'Time Travel TV'.

Broadcasts

Recordings and resources from our broadcast events 'Archives Live' and 'History Mysteries'.

Topic Websites

Websites and digital exhibitions dedicated to a topic or theme. Most of these are now archived; however, their content is still useful for study.

Online & Onsite Education Sessions

Free workshops run by the Education service for school aged students.

Young People's Projects

Resources created by young people during projects at The National Archives.

Outreach Resources

Resources from the Outreach team for underrepresented community groups.

Research Guides

Informative guides written by our collections experts offering advice on document series.

Talks, Podcasts and Webinars

Records of events run at The National Archives by staff and guest speakers.

Blog Posts

Blogs written by staff members and researchers working with The National Archives.

Themed Collections



Catalogue ref: ASSI 52/212/17 Suffragette Princess Sophia Duleep Singh (1876 - 1948).

Cats and mice

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cats-and-mice/>

Collection of documents covering tactics used by police, suffragette and government tactics with audio files.

Cold war on File

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/>

Documents relating to the Cold War, from the war time alliances, Berlin Airlift, conflict in Korea, events in Hungary, the Cuban missile crisis and Britain in the nuclear age including aspects of civil defence.

Commonwealth migration since 1945

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/commonwealth-migration-since-1945/>

This collection is about postwar migration from Commonwealth countries to Britain. They cover a wide range of topics including women workers and nursing schemes and women migrating to Britain.

Early modern witch trials

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/early-modern-witch-trials/>

These documents explore questions such as how the persecution of witches was instigated, encouraged or enabled by the authorities or communities. How was the church involved? What type of people experienced persecution?

Includes documents on the Lancaster Witches: examinations of Margaret Johnson, Mary Spencer, and Frances Dickenson, Also the cases of Joan Guppie Agnes Samson, Elizabeth Tibbots, and group Scottish women accused of witchcraft and others.



Image: Images of witches: crest design. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/15/757

Elizabeth I's monarchy

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/elizabeth-monarchy/>

This collection of documents introduces students and teachers to the reign of Elizabeth I through the original State Papers selected and introduced by historian of the period, Dr. Tracy Borman.

Includes different aspects of Elizabeth's reign including the marriage question and succession, her style of monarchy, religious and foreign policy, or her relationship with Mary Queen of Scots.

Image: Coram Rege Rolls, initial detail, Elizabeth I, 1581.
Catalogue ref: KB 27/1276/2



English Reformation c1527-1590

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-english-reformation-c1527-1590/>

This collection introduces students and teachers to the English Reformation and includes documents covering Elizabeth I and Mary I.

Georgian Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/georgian-britain-age-modernity/>

Documents on the Georgian period covering themes of: road transport; Industrial Revolution; philanthropy; design and taste; crime

Documents include: Caroline of Brunswick, as Boadicea by satirical cartoonist George Cruikshank; Items belonging to Mary Smith, who lived at Christ's Hospital in London.

Home Front 1939-1945 (part one)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/home-front-1939-1945-part-one/>

This collection looks at the political and social aspects of the Home Front, 1939-1945. It includes documents on women from British colonies contributing to the war effort.

Image: 'On War Work in Britain number 3: Indians in Civil Defence' poster, 1942-1944. Catalogue ref: INF 2/11 (3)



Home Front 1939-1945 (part two)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/home-front-1939-1945-part-two/>

This collection looks at the political and social aspects of the Home Front, 1939-1945. It includes documents on the Women's Land Army and women war workers, as well as posters aimed at women.

Image: Poster entitled 'Just a good afternoon's work!' 1939-1946. Catalogue ref: INF 3/400



Jacobite Rising of 1745

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/jacobite-1745/>

Document collection on the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. Documents include Flora MacDonald's testimony on assisting the Pretender; Soldiers' letters home to their wives.

James I

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/james-i/>

Documents on the nature of monarchical power, challenges to the Church of England and the relationship between king and parliament. Themes include James I's extravagance; the Hampton Court Conference, the impact of Catholicism; union with Scotland, relations between crown and parliament, and the Spanish match. Documents include a love letter from Endymion Porter to his wife, 17 July 1623.

Medicine on the Western Front (part two)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medicine-on-the-western-front-part-two/>

The records in this collection include war diary extracts which evidence the nature of trench warfare and the injuries and diseases experienced by those who fought on the Western Front. Other sources on Women's Army and Nursing Services give insight into their work and the difficult circumstances in which they worked.

Image: Drawing from the Illustrated London News entitled: 'Hot Food for the Wounded: A novel form of Red Cross Work', 2 January 1915. Catalogue ref: ZPER 34/146



Protest and democracy 1818 to 1820, part 2

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/protest-democracy-1818-1820/>

Documents include the Cato Street conspiracy women's petition 1820 and Queen Caroline's Divorce.

Significant...

People

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-people-collection/>

From writers to royals, politicians, artists, inventors or campaigners, this selection of sources, based on records held at The National Archives, can be used in the primary classroom to support the National Curriculum element 'significant individuals'.

Includes documents on Nicola de la Haye, Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth I, Mary Tudor, Levina Teerlinc (miniaturist of the English royal court), Queen Anne, Queen Victoria, Ellen Terry, Sophia Duleep Singh, Edith Cavell, Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale, Mary Wheatland, Amy Johnson, Noor Khan, Annie Kenney, Christabel Pankhurst, and Floella Benjamin.

Image: Photograph dated 1903 of Mary Wheatland (1835-1924), the 'Bathing Woman of Bognor'. Catalogue Ref: COPY 1/465



Places

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-places/>

The collection contains some of the popular choices used for exploring historical places and helps to provide context for significant figures or events selected studied in the classroom.

Documents include women listed in Kensington census return; photographs of women agricultural workers, osier-peelers, circus performers, brick-makers, holidaymakers in Blackpool, factory workers and at Notting Hill carnival.

Events

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-events/>

From the sealing of Magna Carta to Decimalisation in 1971, this selection of sources, based on records held at The National Archives, can be used in the primary classroom to support the National Curriculum element 'significant events' beyond living memory.

Documents include illustration showing events at Peterloo 1819, including Sarah Hargreaves of the Female Union and women in the crowd; Emily Wilding Davison & Epsom Derby; Suffragettes outside Parliament; Coronation of Elizabeth II.

Suffragettes on file

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/suffragettes-on-file/>

A selection of documents relating to the suffragette movement including material from the Home Office, Metropolitan Police prison files, and the Women's Social and Political Union offices which were used as exhibits in the trial of Emmeline Pankhurst and other leaders, including their correspondence and the Suffragette newspaper.

Includes letters from pauper women, wives and mothers. Emmeline Pethick Lawrence, Lady

Constance Lytton, Millicent Fawcett, Elsie Howey, Mary Richardson, Emily Wilding Davison, May Billington, Ellen Pitfield, Lillian Ball, Annie Kenney, Emmeline Pankhurst, Christabel Pankhurst and others.

Introduced by Dr Diane Atkinson.



Image: Extract from The Illustrated London News © A procession in honour of the release of Mrs Pethick Lawrence from Holloway Prison, 24 April 1909. Catalogue ref: ZPER 34/134

Suffragettes: Outrage at Kew

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/outrage-at-kew/>

Students will look at records from the prison case files of two suffragettes involved in the burning down of the tea pavilion at Kew Gardens: Olive Wharry and Lilian Lenton.

Victorian Industrial Towns

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-industrial-towns/>

Documents relating to urban living conditions in the 19th century. Includes Sarah Roberts cholera case.

Workhouse Voices

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/workhouse-voices/>

A collection of written by paupers to the Poor Law Commissioners, both men and women. Includes letters from pauper women, wives and mothers.

Twenties Britain (part one)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/twenties-britain-part-one/>

Covering themes of women's employment, training, higher education, maternity clinics, policewomen, and the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act in 1928.

This collection also includes census records for Marie Stopes, Margaret Bondfield, and Nancy Astor.

Image: Photograph of women doing office work, 19 March 1920. Catalogue ref: STAT 20/409



Twenties Britain (part two)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/twenties-britain-part-two/>

Includes documents related to the persecution of the book 'The Well of Loneliness' by Radclyffe Hall, first published by Jonathan Cape Limited. It eventually went on trial for obscenity due to its lesbian story.

This collection also includes census records for Millicent Fawcett, Nancy Mitford, and Evelyn Waugh.

Thirties Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/thirties-britain/>

Covers political and social aspects of 1930s Britain including unemployment, hunger marches, the economy slum clearance, the new national government, fascism, the Peace Ballot and leisure.

Also covers the Women's League of Health and Beauty 1937, Women's stories about living unemployment with in 1930s, and Margaret Bondfield on female unemployment.

Attlee's Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/attlees-britain/>

This collection explores Britain between 1945-1951, including documents on women's employment and maternity benefits.

Fifties Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/fifties-britain/>

This collection explores the political and social aspects of 1950s Britain and includes a photograph of sculptor Barbara Hepworth working on pieces at her St. Ives studio for the Festival of Britain exhibition

Image: sSculptor Barbara Hepworth working on pieces at her St. Ives studio for the Festival of Britain exhibition, 25th October 1950. Catalogue ref: WORK 25/201



Sixties Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/sixties-britain/>

This collection explores the political and social aspects of 1960s Britain and includes letters from Mary Whitehouse about the BBC, a report on women's employment, a script for short film about Mary Quant, and a letter concerning 'the mini-skirt project'.

Lessons



Catalogue Ref: J 77/4537 April Asley in 1966.

19th century people

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/19th-century-people/>

Photographs and census material showing women and their families.

African nurses

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/african-nurses/>

Use this lesson to find original documents which explore the role of African nurses in the health services of Britain.

This lesson has been developed in collaboration with the Young Historians Project and their project 'A Hidden History: African women and the British health service'.

Image: Nigerian Princess Adenrele Ademola returns home from London after her training as a nurse. © IWM D 16165



Belsen concentration camp 1945

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/belsen-concentration-camp/>

What did the British find when they entered Belsen concentration camp? This lesson includes photographs and documents on Belsen female prison guards.

Caribbean history in photographs

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/caribbean-history-photographs/>

What can we learn from these photographs about women in Caribbean history? This learning resource encourages the user to examine representations of race, culture and identity using The National Archives' collection of photos, which spans 100 years of Caribbean history.

Produced by the New Art Exchange in Nottingham as part of the Caribbean through a Lens project.

Census detective

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/census-detective/>

This lesson uses the census to find out about the past. It includes women reflected in three pages from the census in 1851, 1861 and 1911.

The Empire Windrush

Caribbean migration

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-empire-windrush/empire-windrush-caribbean-migration/>

This lesson includes accounts of Caribbean women who migrated to Britain, including singer Mona Baptiste.

Early Black Presence

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-empire-windrush/early-black-presence/>

This lesson is about early Black presence in Britain since the medieval period. It includes naturalisation papers of Sarah Parker Redmond.



Life for Migrants in the 1940s and 50s

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-empire-windrush/empire-windrush-life-for-migrants-in-the-1940s-and-50s/>

This lesson encourages pupils to explore original sources to find out how Caribbean migrants were treated after their arrival. It includes photos of Jamaican women and girls arriving in Britain.

The Notting Hill Carnival

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-empire-windrush/empire-windrush-the-notting-hill-carnival/>

This lesson explores the significance of the Notting Hill Carnival and why it began, from its origins as the indoor Caribbean Carnival founded by Trinidadian human rights activist Claudia Jones on 30th January 1959.

Image: Photograph of Claudia Jones, founder and editor of 'The West Indian Gazette and Afro-Caribbean News' and founder of the indoor Caribbean Carnival which is seen as the beginnings of the Notting Hill Carnival.
Source: Getty images.

England's Immigrants, 1330-1550

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/englands-immigrants-1330-1550/>

This is a database which expands our knowledge of early immigration. The database reveals evidence about the names, origins, occupations and households of foreigners who chose to live and work in England in the era of the Hundred Years War, the Black Death and the Wars of the Roses.

Includes a teaching resource developed from the database on female migrants.

English Language GCSE - People

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/people-gcse-english-language/>

This collection of photographs has been collated to provide a resource for English Language GCSE. It includes images of female cyclists, a woman in a postwar kitchen, women swimming in Scarborough, and mayor G. E. F. Morgan.

Image: Mayor of Brecon G E F Morgan, 1910. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/552



Evacuation to Shropshire

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/evacuation-to-shropshire/>

This lesson includes the stories of two female evacuees during the Second World War.

Florence Nightingale

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/florence-nightingale/>

Documents outlining the work of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. The lesson also looks at the work of Mary Seacole during the Crimean War and includes an extension activity on Edith Cavell.



Image: Florence Nightingale. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/11 (34)

Huguenots in England

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/huguenots-in-england/>

This lesson uses sources from The National Archives to explore Huguenot migration to England in the seventeenth century. It explores the reference to a man's wife in his will and gives information on Mary I's foreign policies.

Kenilworth Castle (part two)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/kenilworth-castle-part-two/>

This lesson uses different types of original medieval records to examine how Kenilworth Castle functioned in times of peace and war during the 'Middle Ages. It includes the petition of Mary de Shepeye to King Edward II, 1322 and the petition of Joan, widow of Sir Hugh de Quilly to King Edward II, 1322.

LGBTQ+ Rights in Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-history-of-lgbtq-rights-in-britain/>

This lesson offers an overview of the history of LGBTQ+ rights and persecution in Britain. It includes Anne Lister's will, a discussion about a clause that would criminalise female same-sex relationships, an article written by April Ashley, and a 1985 Black Lesbian and Gay Centre newsletter.

Life in 1950s Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/platinum-jubilee/life-in-1950s-britain/>

This lesson uses original sources to explore life in the first decade of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in conjunction with her Platinum Jubilee. It includes sources relating to the Queen's 1953 coronation.

Life in 1960s Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/platinum-jubilee/life-in-1960s-britain/>

This lesson uses original sources to explore life in the 1960s, the second decade in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, in conjunction with her Platinum Jubilee. It includes a photograph of women in 1960s fashion on Carnaby Street.

Mangrove Nine protest

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/mangrove-nine-protest/>

Use this lesson to find out more about the history of Britain's Black Power movement and the trial of the Mangrove Nine. It includes photographs of the women who were involved in the protest, including Barbara Beese.

Image: Photograph of Barbara Beese during the Mangrove Nine protest, 1970. Catalogue Ref: MEPO 31/21 .



Medieval castles

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medieval-castles/>

The purpose of this enquiry is to allow students to explore documents relating to the general function of castles. It includes a document where King Edward I grants Portchester Castle to his mother in 1273.

Medieval seals

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medieval-seals/>

This lesson looks at what seals can tell us about what it was like to live in medieval England and Ireland. It also explores why people from a range of social backgrounds might need or want to have a seal of their own, including Nicolaa de la Haye and a woman named Desiree.

Image: Nicholaa de la Haye's seal, 1201-1266. Catalogue Ref: DL 25/2890



Medieval Society

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medieval-society/>

Medieval women's lives were as varied as they are today, but unlike today, most women (and men) lived in the countryside and worked the land on what were known as manors, estates on which tenants rented their properties from the lord and often performed services for him at harvest time. Women can also be found living and working in towns and cities, or in religious communities. There were extremely rich and powerful women, such as queens and noblewomen, but there were also countless ordinary women, whose names we do not always know, who emerge from the archives.

Use this lesson to find out about their lives in medieval England and Ireland from records held at The National Archives.

Murder at Kirk o' Field

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/kirk-o-field/>

The story of Mary Queen of Scots and her marriage to Lord Darnley shows both the romantic and the brutal side of politics in the 16th century. The lesson also includes letters from Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I.

Past pleasures

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/past-pleasures/>

This lesson includes photographs and images of women cycling and playing croquet.



Image: Women cyclists, 1891. Catalogue Ref: COPY 1/95 f.294

Queen Anne

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/queen-anne/>

Lesson using different documents to find out about Queen Anne. It includes Queen Anne's seal, a treasury document, and a petition relating to the monarch.

Refugees in South Asia during Second World War

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/refugees-in-south-asia-during-second-world-war-1939-1945/>

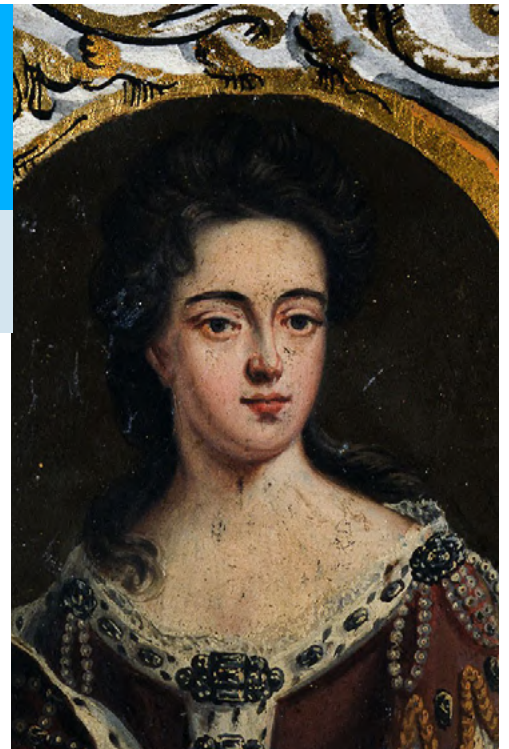
This lesson looks at Polish and Jewish refugees who came to India from Europe and were joined by refugees from Malta and the Balkans. It includes the stories of woman migrants such as Mrs. Soffe.

Role of a Queen – Mary I and Anne

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/platinum-jubilee/role-of-a-queen-mary-i-and-anne/>

What can we find out about the roles of Queen Mary I and Queen Anne? This lesson includes a record about Queen Mary I and a portrait of Queen Anne. It is part of the Platinum Jubilee lesson resources.

Image: Portrait of Queen Anne, 1702. Catalogue Ref: T 40/4



Role of a Queen – Matilda and Elizabeth I

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/platinum-jubilee/role-of-a-queen-matilda-and-elizabeth-i/>

Here pupils explore two original seals comparing the role of Matilda and Elizabeth I. What do these sources reveal about their roles? How different were the roles to Queen Elizabeth II? This lesson is part of the Platinum Jubilee lesson resources.

Say 'cheese': a portrait of Queen Victoria's family

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/say-cheese/>

A lesson based on a photograph of Queen Victoria and some of her children on a very special and normally happy occasion. But no one looks very happy. Why?

Significant People

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/significant-people/>

Activity book that includes activities on Queen Elizabeth I.

Suffragettes 'in Trousers'

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/suffragettes-in-trousers/>

How did men support votes for women? This lesson features documents on the male support for the suffragette movement.

The Great Seal

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-great-seal/>

This lesson features the second Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth I. The Great Seal can reveal important clues about the way a monarch wished to be seen by their subjects and the responsibilities that they had. Elizabeth I wanted to create an image of herself that would impress her subjects.

Image: Second Great Seal of Elizabeth I. Catalogue Ref: SC 13/N3



Victorian Food and Drink

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-food-and-drink/>

A lesson about different food products for sale in Victorian England. It includes advertising posters featuring women in advertisements for different products.

Victorian Railways

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-railways/>

Documents include cases of women committing crime at railway stations.

What is a Jubilee?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/platinum-jubilee/what-is-a-jubilee/>

This lesson uses original sources to find out about how Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1897.

What methods did the Suffragettes use to gain the vote?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/what-methods-did-the-suffragettes-use-to-gain-the-vote/>

Use the original documents in this lesson to discover the methods that the Suffragettes used to gain the vote in the twentieth century.

Image: Photograph from 'The Illustrated London News' showing three Suffragettes 'picketing' entrances to the House of Commons, February 1913. Catalogue ref: ZPER 34/142.



What was the significance of the Match Girls' Strike in 1888?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/what-was-the-significance-of-the-match-girls-strike-in-1888/>

In 1888 the match girls employed by the company Bryant & May in the east end of London went on strike. Use the original documents from 1888 in this lesson to find out about the match girls' strike and assess its significance in the history of trade unions for unskilled workers.

Who was Noor Khan?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/who-was-noor-khan/>

Delve into some of the exciting files held at The National Archives, to find out all about the role of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during the Second World War and the experience of one individual woman – Noor Inayat Khan. We've selected a range of documents to help your pupils learn more about the world of espionage in the 1940s, including photographs, reports and guidance for spies!

This lesson was developed for students with dyslexia.

Image: Noor-Un-Nissa Inayat Khan. Catalogue Ref: HS 9/836/5



Women and the English Civil Wars

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/women-english-civil-wars/>

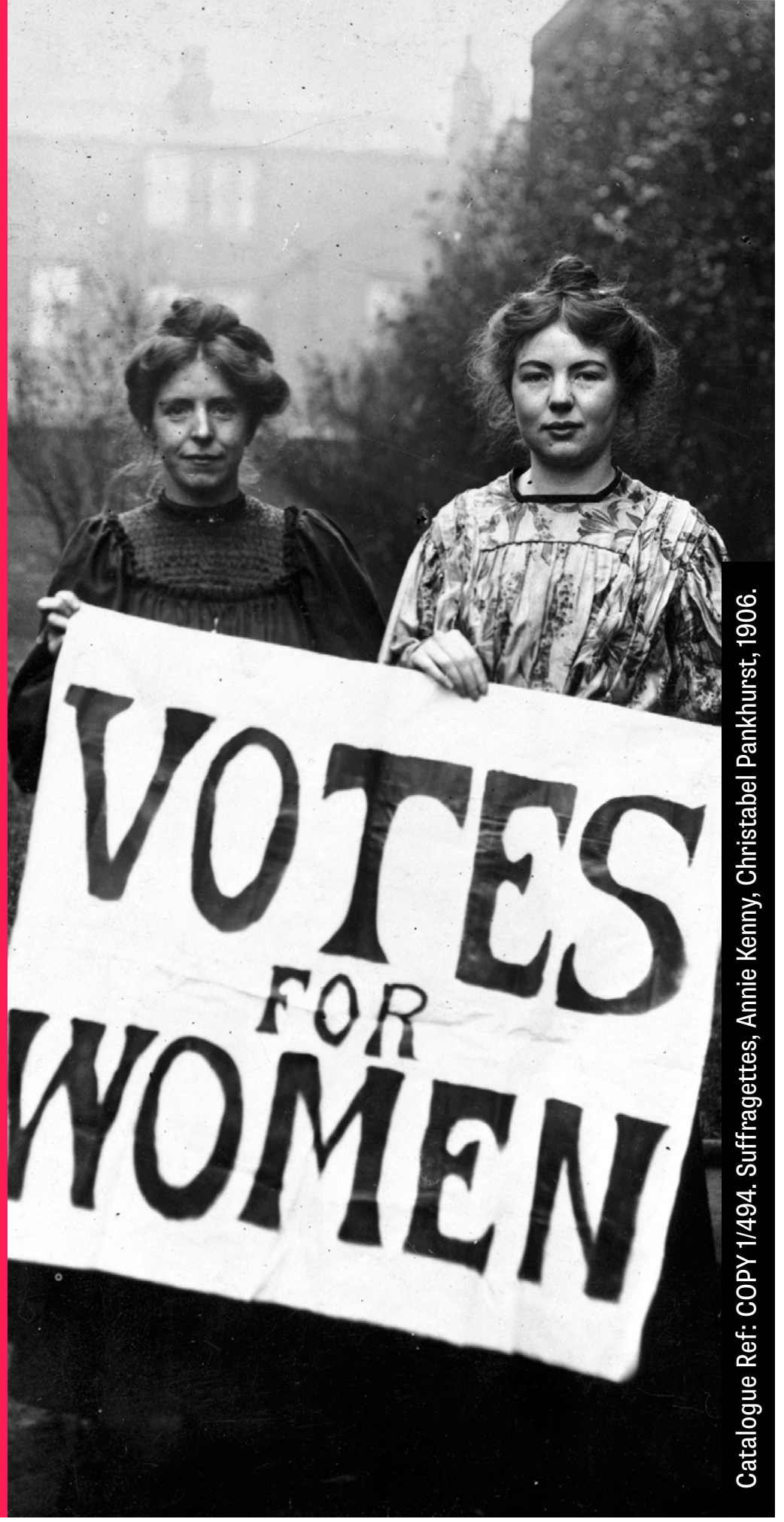
The lesson explores the stories of some of the women whose lives were changed by the English Civil Wars. This lesson has a History Hook video starter activity based on one of our documents to 'hook' students into the lesson tasks that follow. It also includes several petitions and other documents relating to women during the civil wars.

Workhouse Women

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/voices-of-the-victorian-poor/workhouse-women/>

The seven letters selected within this resource show a wealth of varied experiences of women inside the workhouse. Students are encouraged to analyse each letter, focusing on the treatment of women and their mental health.

Videos



Catalogue Ref: COPY 1/494. Suffragettes, Annie Kenny, Christabel Pankhurst, 1906.

Spotlight On

Spotlight On is a series of video guides, each based on an individual collection held at The National Archives.

In each video, a specialist presenter introduces one of our collections and highlights a document from it connected to the history curriculum for Key Stage 3/4/5.

Spotlight On: Anne Boleyn's trial

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/spotlight-on/spotlight-on-anne-boleyns-trial/>

Collections expert Sean Cunningham looks at records concerning the trial of Queen Anne Boleyn.

Spotlight On: Beveridge Report

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/spotlight-on/spotlight-on-beveridge-report/>

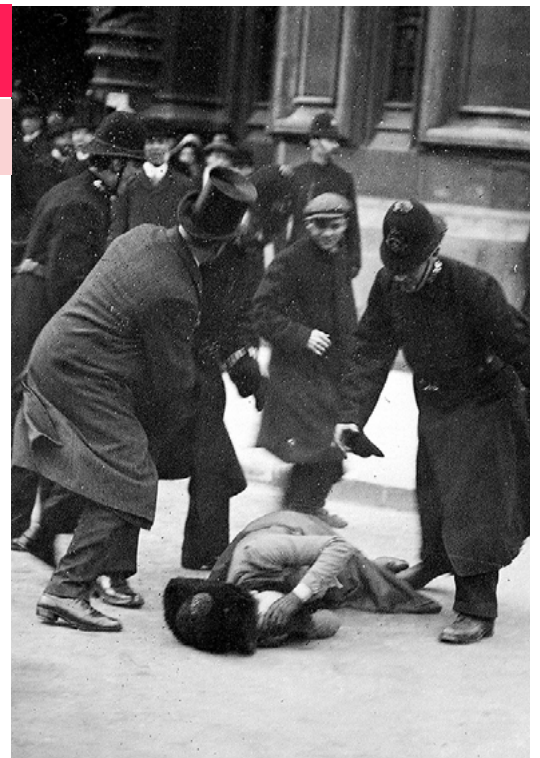
Collections expert Laura Robson-Mainwaring looks at the 1942 Beveridge Report. This includes discussions on welfare reforms that were significant for women, such as maternity benefits and family allowances.

Spotlight On: Copyright Office

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/spotlight-on/spotlight-on-copyright-office/>

Collections expert Katherine Howells introduces two records from the Copyright Office collection, including a photograph of a suffragette being beaten by police during the 1910 Black Friday protest.

Image: Believed to be suffragette Mrs Ernestine Mills, and Dr Herbert Mills in top hat, Black Friday demonstration, 18 November 1910.
Catalogue Ref: COPY 1/551



Spotlight On: Thatcher

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/spotlight-on/spotlight-on-thatcher/>

Collections expert Mark Dunton looks at a document relating to a cabinet meeting in 1981 during the premiership of Margaret Thatcher from our Cabinet Office collection.

History Hook

These short video tasks are accessible introductions to some of our online lesson resources.

History Hook: Bound for Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/history-hook/bound-for-britain/>

Join Ela as she introduces a document related to migration. In this episode we explore document BT 26/1460.

This video forms a starter activity for our Bound for Britain lesson, which looks at experiences of immigration to the UK.

Image: Mauby seller, Barbados, 1950. Catalogue Ref: INF 10/39 (8)



History Hook: Suffragettes in Trousers

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/history-hook/suffragettes-in-trousers/>

Join our Education Officer, Kathryn, as she introduces a document related to the Suffrage movement. In this episode we explore document CRIM 1/149/3.

This video forms a starter activity for our Suffragettes 'in Trousers' lesson, which investigates the question: How did men help the Suffrage movement?

History Hook: The Civil Wars

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/videos/history-hook/the-civil-wars/>

Join Rachel as she introduces a document related to the Civil Wars. In this episode we explore document SP 16/454.

This video forms a starter activity for our Women and the English Civil Wars lesson, which investigates the question: How did these conflicts affect women's lives?

Time Travel Club

The National Archives invite children and families across the country to join us in travelling through time! These short videos are aimed at younger children and families as part of our Time Travel Club.

Time Travel TV: A suffragette and the census

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/families/time-travel-tv/a-suffragette-and-the-census/>

This episode explores the life of suffragette Sophia Duleep Singh.



Census Detectives

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/families/time-travel-tv/census-detectives/>

This episode explores a fascinating document that can reveal lots about families in the past! But whose famous household is this and what can we find out about the people who lived there?

Unboxing the Archive

Unboxing the Archive tells the stories of our collection through individual documents. Each episode features one of our record specialists exploring a key moment or figure from history and how they feature within our collection.

Chevalier D'Eon

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/unboxing-the-archive/chevalier-deon/>

Vicky Iglkowski-Broad introduces FO95/604, the calling card of Chevalier D'Eon. Chevalier D'Eon was a French spy who appeared publicly as a man until 1777, after which D'Eon lived as a woman and was legally recognised as such.

Other videos

Aphra Behn: Memoirs of a Shee Spy

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

In this film, Record Specialist Dr Katy Mair, and Professor of 17th-Century Studies at Loughborough University, Elaine Hobby, tell us the less-well-known story of Aphra Behn the spy – a young woman who was recruited by Charles II and sent to the dangerous city of Antwerp to turn her rumoured former lover into a double agent.

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDEGPy6yW70>

Drawing on a rich selection of records held at The National Archives, including photographs, letters, and speeches, this film looks back at Elizabeth II's extraordinary life and reign.

Image: Poster: The Coronation Regalia, 1953. Catalogue Ref: NSC 5/351

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uOP4o9IxRI>

Watch this animated video from our education team to find out about the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II through our collections. Use our exciting downloadable lessons and creative activities to learn more and find out about other female monarchs.

Civil War People

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/civil-war-people/>

View five videos to find out how a Bishop, Puritan, Scotsman, Irishman or King Charles I himself possibly viewed the prospect of civil war in 1642.



Sex, Treason and Death: the Downfall of Two Tudor Queens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtjxpvceY98>

The story of Henry VIII's six wives is intertwined with the history of treason. In this film, Principal Legal Records Specialist Dan Gosling describes how two of Henry's wives, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, lost the favour of the king and were executed for the worst crime you could commit, treason.

Trailblazing Women of the 20s

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLddhSH7bW0pWZMNg-S8RhvTuyDaBXZvJE>

Trailblazing Women of the 20s is part of 20sPeople – our season to mark the release of the 1921 Census, connecting the 1920s and the 2020s. Lisa Berry-Waite, our 1920s record specialist, tells the story of 10 women through 10 short videos. Lisa reveals how each individual, through their determination and resolve to defy contemporary expectations of women, influenced lasting change.

Were the suffragettes successful? Historian Answers Suffragette Questions from the Internet

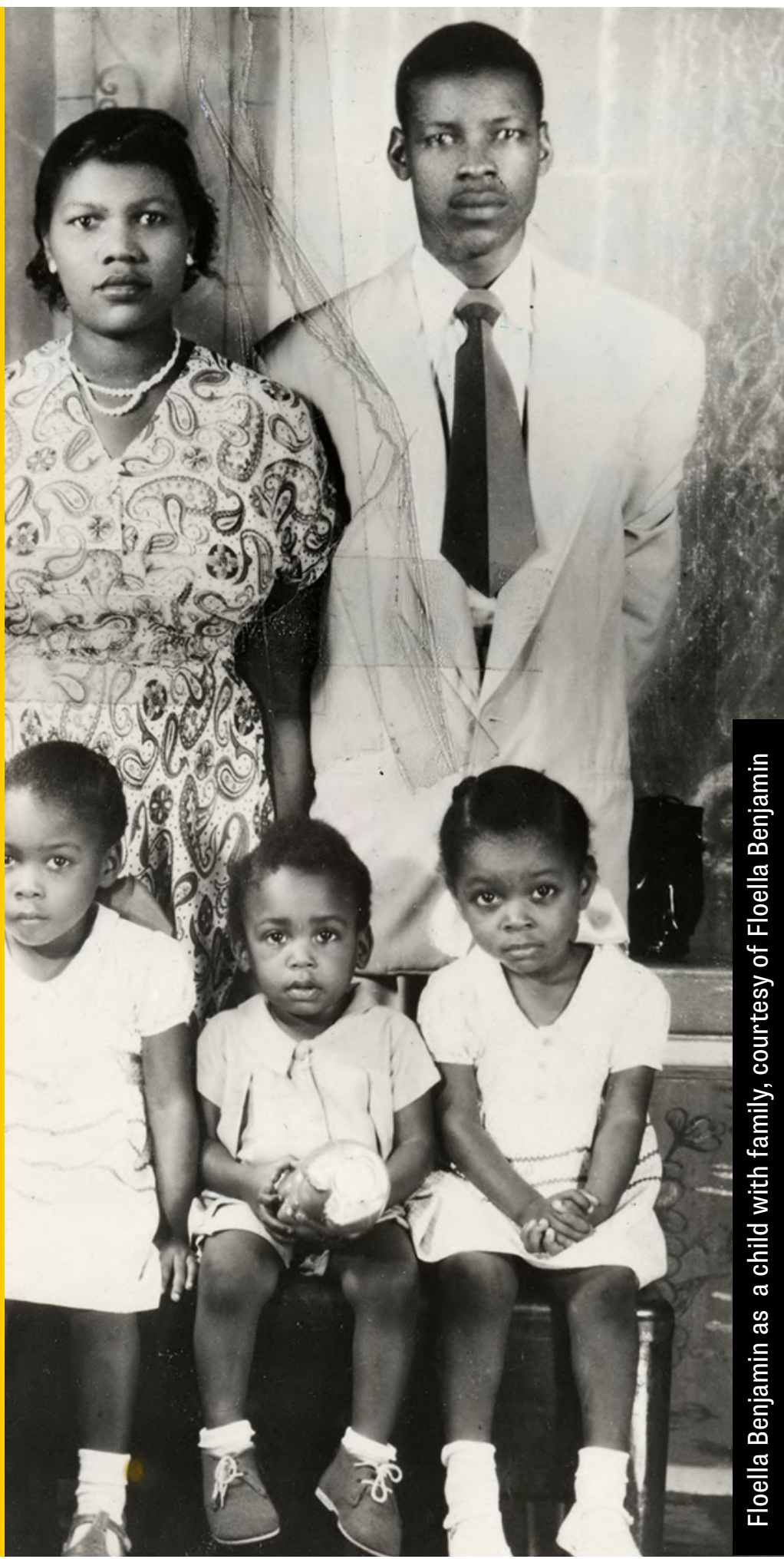
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-B6i0vC1ao>

Modern historian Vicky Iglikowski-Broad answers the internet's burning questions about the suffragettes. Who were the suffragettes? Were the suffragettes middle class? Why did the suffragettes go on hunger strike? Were the suffragettes terrorists? Were the suffragettes successful? Vicky answers all these questions and more.



Image: Page from The Suffragette, 24 January 1913. Catalogue Ref: ASSI 52/212 (3)

Broadcasts



Floella Benjamin as a child with family, courtesy of Floella Benjamin

Archives Live: Tudors

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/archives-live-tudors/>

This free live event explored five significant Tudor documents curated by the esteemed historian, Dr Tracy Borman, hosted by Jenny Draper. Documents related to Elizabeth I and Mary I are discussed.

Archives Live: Whitechapel

<https://livewp.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/archives-live-whitechapel/>

This free live event explored three different stories of migration to Whitechapel. The segment on Irish migration focuses on the match women's strike in 1888 and the work of Irish migrant women.

Archives Live: Windrush

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/archives-live-windrush-75/>

Join Baroness Floella Benjamin for this live event which marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of Empire Windrush to Tilbury dock.

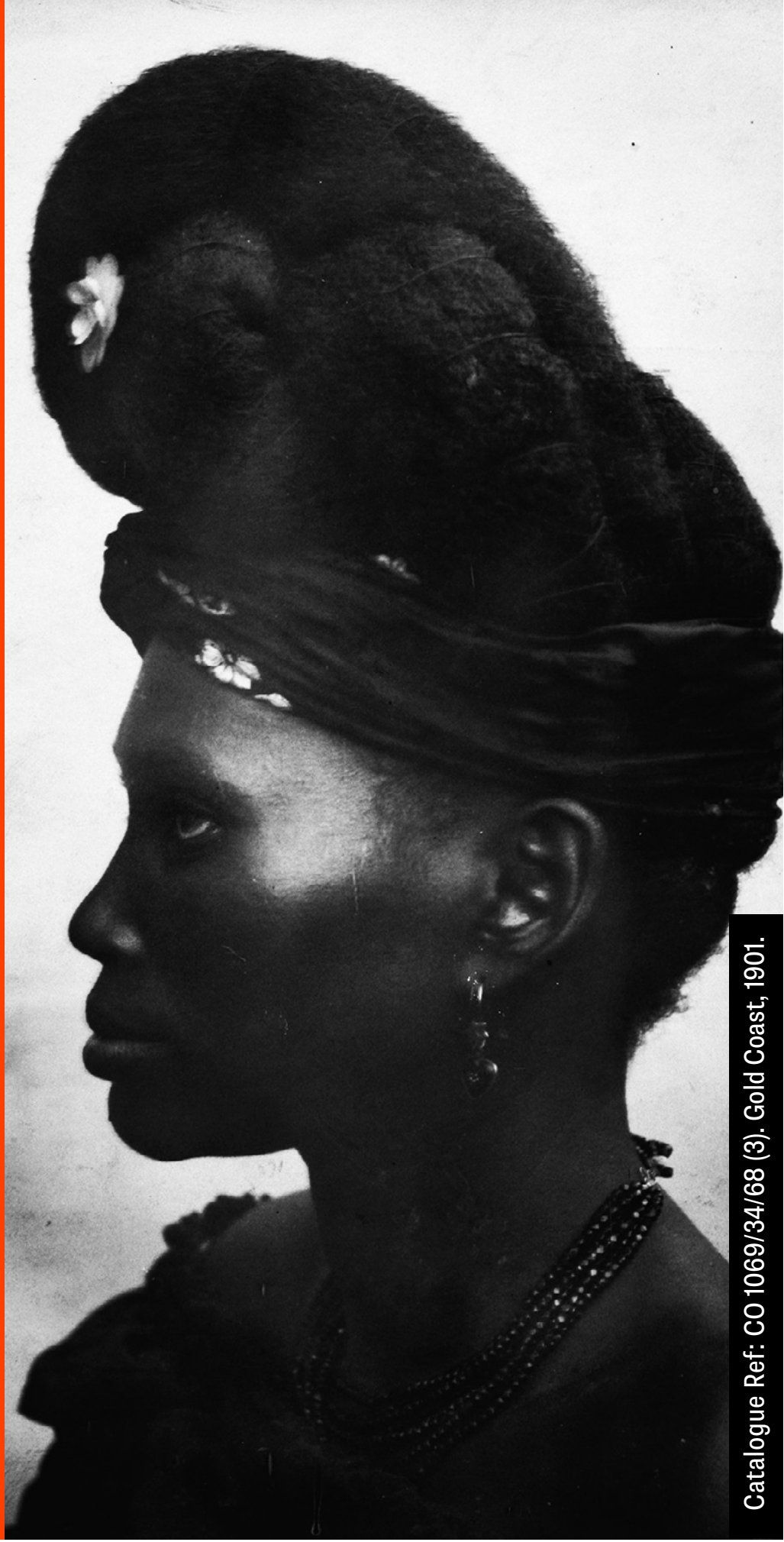
Floella Benjamin is an acclaimed presenter, actress, author and the first woman from Trinidad to become a member of the House of Lords. Her bestselling book *Coming to England* can be found on the shelves of many classrooms.

History Mysteries: Anne Lister

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/history-mysteries-anne-lister/>

This broadcast uncovers the mystery behind the Victorian diarist, Anne Lister. In a pre-recorded video, we chat with specialists from The National Archives, visit Anne Lister's home at Shibden Hall, and even get our hands on her famous secret diaries with the West Yorkshire Archives Service!

Topic sites



Catalogue Ref: CO 1069/34/68 (3). Gold Coast, 1901.

Britain 1906-1918

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/britain-1906-1918/>

A website using documents about Britain at the beginning of the 20th century including the campaign for women's suffrage. Includes documents covering the fight for the vote, women's health, and their role in First World War.

Cabinet Papers

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cabinet-papers-1915-1984/>

Core records of the British Cabinet from 1915 onwards that have been digitised and fully searchable. Search for topics relating to history of women e.g. Equal Pay Act 1970; Representation of the People Acts 1918 & 1921; Sex Disqualification (removal) Act 1919; Abortion Act 1967.

Civil War

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/civil-war/>

Documents about the civil wars and the people who lived through them - in their own words. Includes the Petition of Mary Baker, a letter from a lady wanting peace.

Crime and punishment

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/crime-punishment/>

Investigate crime in Britain, its prevention and punishment, from the 13th century to the present. Includes documents covering violent crimes against medieval women, witchcraft cases, 18th century female petitions for justice, female borstals in 1938 and the case of Ruth Ellis.

Focus on Film

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/focus-film/>

A collection of early film clips to present including those relating to suffragettes. Search Film Archive for women 1900-present.

Henry VIII

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/henryviii/>

A website celebrating 500th anniversary of Henry VIII. The section on Passion covers Henry VIII's relation with his six wives.

Home Front 1939-1945

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/home-front-1939-1945/>

Life during the Second World War on the home front. Includes documents on the Women's Land Army, Women's Voluntary Services, Auxiliary territorial Service and women in factories, as well as a letter from Jenny Fleming to Herbert Morrison.

Image: Women of Britain. Come into the factories. Artist Zec 1939-1946 Catalogue ref: INF 3/403



Moving Here

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/moving/>

An archived website covering 200 years of migration to Britain, including the migration stories of women.

Power, politics and protest

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/power-politics-protest/>

This website contains a section on the suffragette movement and their tactics including the actions of Emily Davison.

Secrets and spies

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/secrets-spies/>

Website including documents on spies, codes and ciphers. Includes documents on Mary Queen of Scots and SOE agent Nathalie Sergueiew alias 'Treasure'.

The art of war

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/art-war/>

This website showcases records from the Ministry of Information and features many original pieces of wartime propaganda from dozens of artists in a range of media. This artwork covers recruitment, volunteering, production, recycling, health and safety and public safety. Includes work by artist Laura Knight. Women also feature in wartime propaganda artwork.



Image: "Land Army girl" by Laura Knight, Date unknown. Catalogue ref: INF 3/108



Treasures

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/treasures/>

A showcase website with some iconic documents from The National Archives. Includes documents on Catherine Howard, Elizabeth I, Jane Austen, Mary Smith, Queen Victoria's census, and female child criminals.

Image: The belongings of Mary Smith when she died in 1810. Mary Smith once lived at Christ's Hospital in London. She was described as a 'lunatic'. Catalogue ref: C 114/190

Victorian Britain

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-britain/>

A website with sources relating to Queen Victoria, childhood, women, The Great Exhibition, The British Empire and Local History. Includes sections on Victorian Women and the life of Queen Victoria.

Women in Uniform

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/women-in-uniform/>

Documents covering how women have played an important role in wartime, working as nurses over the centuries. Includes sources on nurses in the Crimea, nurses in the British army, Scottish hospitals, Royal Naval Service, and women in Second World War.

World War II

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/world-war-ii/>

Documents taking a fresh look at the biggest conflict in history. Includes documents on Christine Glanville SOE agent and 'Pam', mystery woman in Operation Mincemeat.

Onsite & online education sessions



Catalogue Ref: PCOM 7/252 Evelyn Manesta, suffragette, under restraint for a prison photograph 1913.

Choosing for the Archives (SEND)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/choosing-for-the-archives-send/>

Available onsite & online

Students with ASC, MLD, SLD and PMLD

In this interactive session, your students find out about different people's stories from the archives. Using documents, images and sensory storytelling, they explore the lives of individuals such as Elizabeth I. Students then make decisions about what they feel is important to keep and choose objects to add to the archive box.

Crisis in the reign of Mary I

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/crisis/>

Available onsite & online

Key stage 5

In this exciting session, students work with original Tudor State Papers and consider what is meant by the term 'crisis'. How far can this notion be measured during Mary's reign?

Image: Portrait of Queen Mary from the Coram Rege Rolls, 1553.
Catalogue ref: KB 27/1168/2



Enquiring into Elizabeth

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/enquiring-into-elizabeth/>

Available onsite & online

Key stages 3-5

What can we learn about Elizabeth I's ruling style from her letters and speeches? In this workshop, students explore Elizabeth's letters and speeches to learn about her ruling style.

Introduction to document research

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/personalstudy/>

Available onsite

Key stage 5

In the onsite workshop students will get the opportunity to investigate a selection of original historical documents around a theme. This session develops skills in document analysis and strengthens understanding about how history is constructed. 'Suffragettes' is one of the available themes.



Significant Women: discover their stories in the archives

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/significant-women-discover-their-stories-in-the-archives/>

Available onsite & online

Key stage 1

In this dynamic onsite workshop children discover the lives of women, through exploring original documents. Children will investigate clues about three women's achievements: a 20th century nurse, a pioneering pilot and a defender of a medieval castle. Learners consider questions like 'why is it difficult to find out about a woman who lived a long time ago?' Learners engage with different types of evidence, including medieval wax seals, passenger lists, newspapers and census records.

Image: News report on Amy Johnson's successful flight to Australia, 1930. Catalogue ref: AIR 20/158

Suffragettes through government eyes

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/suffragettes/>

Available onsite & online

Key stages 3-4

In the onsite workshop students explore methods used in the suffrage movement through handling original documents like coded diaries and court testimony. They will examine the state response to the movement through a range of documents housed in Home Office, Metropolitan Police and prison files. This session develops skills in evidential understanding as students will consider why the government archival collection contains more documents related to militancy and what might be missing.

Image: Page from *The Suffragist*, October 1900. Cartoon captioned 'A policeman might be obstructed by Angels'
Catalogue ref: HO 45/10338/139199



Whitechapel

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions/whitechapel/>

Available onsite & online

Key stages 3-4

Students will investigate what Whitechapel was like in 1888 by exploring a range of documents including a photograph, the census and register for a homeless shelter. Themes such as poverty, immigration, women's lives and housing are explored.

Young people's projects



Capturing our Collections

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/capturing-our-collections/>

This is a collection of student artworks creating in response to documents found in The National Archives inspired by the theme 'Equity, Freedom, and Belonging'. Many of the entries are in response to documents related to women's histories such as the Suffragettes, the story of Elizabeth Eckford, women in uniform, and women during Partition.

Great Escapes

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/great-escapes/>

'Great Escapes' is a series of films combining puppetry, model-making and animation created by a group of 12 young people in August 2024. The project allowed the group to explore the personal stories of those who sought to escape captivity during the Second World War. Among others, films in the project tell the stories of Gladys Skillet and Margarete Klopfleish.

Holding History

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/archive-experiences/film-projects/holding-history/>

Working with professional filmmaker, Nigel Kellaway, our young people had the opportunity to explore original documents from our collection spanning key events and lesser-known personal stories from the past 1,000 years of history, considering questions such as: What is The National Archives? How has it changed and developed over the centuries? What are the challenges, threats and importance of an archive in today's world?

The film includes the story of Noor Khan.



Mental Health on Record

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/mental-health-on-record/>

'Mental Health on Record' is a stop-motion animation film made by young filmmakers during the summer of 2019. The group worked with professional filmmaker Nigel Kellaway to create the film. The National Archives partnered with Richmond Borough Mind and Jon Bartlett, a mental health first aid instructor, on the project.

The film includes the stories of multiple women throughout history and their experiences within the mental healthcare system.

Rebels in the records

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/rebels-in-the-records/>

'Rebels in the records' is a series of films combining puppetry, model-making and animation created by young people in July 2021. They explored people/groups who have stood up for what they believe in, campaigned for change or lived in a different way to their contemporary society.

The films include the stories of the 1968 Ford sewing machinists strike, Countess Markievicz, and Radclyffe Hall.

Suffrage Tales

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/suffrage-tales/>

To mark the 100-year commemorations of the Representation of the People Act, the Education Service worked with professional film-maker, Nigel Kellaway, to engage young people (aged 16-19) with suffrage records held at The National Archives.



Uncovering LGBTQ+ lives in the archive

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/uncovering-lgbtq-lives-in-the-archive/>

'Uncovering LGBTQ+ lives in the archive' is a series of films combining puppetry, model-making, and animation created by a group of eight young people in July 2022. The project allowed the group to explore moments of LGBTQ+ history from the collection, including the stories of LGBTQ+ women. They then used their reflections to inspire the narrative and artwork for their films.

Writing War, Writing Peace

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/writing-war-writing-peace/>

'Writing War, Writing Peace' is a creative writing anthology written by students who spent a week at The National Archives, learning from our records about the experiences of Nurses in the First World War. Mentored by Melvin Burgess and Sara Robinson, the students were encouraged to explore service records, diaries and photographs to put together their own creative pieces inspired by real events. These stories and poems are the result.

Outreach resources



Catalogue Ref: INF 3/1839. Japanese schoolgirl and younger sister. Japan, 1939-1946.

Five Photos online resource

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/outreach/five-photos/>

Five Photos is an online resource designed to encourage people to engage creatively with our collections. It aims to provide a mindful, social or reminiscence-based activity for those shielding or in care home settings.

One of the photos features of a scene with women traders and shoppers in Barbados between 1950 and 1969.

Indian Indentured Labour

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/outreach/projects/migration-histories/indian-indentured-labour/>

The National Archives Outreach team has developed new projects on Indian indenture researching our collections and writings on indenture to support collaborative projects with Nutkhut and BAATN, including a creative anthology, talks and blog posts. This research includes information on women's stories.

My Home

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/outreach/my-home/>

We have chosen old images from around the world to explore the idea of 'home'. How does it look on the outside and on the inside? What does 'home' mean to different people? This resource includes multiple photos of women from around the world.

Ugandan Asians

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/outreach/projects/migration-histories/marking-the-50th-anniversary-of-the-arrival-of-ugandan-asians-in-britain-2022/>

For the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of all Asians from Uganda, The National Archives worked with partners British Ugandan Asians at 50 to host a commemorative panel debate headed by leading British Ugandan Asians from the fields of media, medicine, politics and business. This page also links to a resource with stories from women recounting their experiences.

Research guides



Catalogue ref: COPY 1/514/559 (a) Burmese girl, 1907.

British Army nurses

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-nurses/>

This is a brief guide to finding records of nurses who served with the British Army.

British Army nurses' service records 1914-1918

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-nurses/>

These are over 15,000 First World War service records for nurses in series WO 399 who served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) and the Territorial Force Nursing Service during the First World War.

The vast majority of the records cover the First World War period only. There are some records for nurses who served before 1914 and some for those who served after the war. There are no records, however, after 1939.

Doctors and nurses

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/doctors-and-nurses/>

The National Archives is not the best place to find information about the careers and service of individual doctors or nurses. However, this guide will help you find the doctors' and nurses' records that we do hold and some of the most significant collections held in other archives. Most of the records we hold in this subject area relate to the administration and policy of health services.

Military nursing

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/military-nursing/>

Use this guide for advice on records of nurses who served with the British Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy, each of which had its own nursing service.

Royal Air Force nurses

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-air-force-nurse/>

This is a brief guide to researching records of nurses who served with the Royal Air Force.

Royal Navy nurses and medical officers

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-nurses/>

This guide contains advice on where and how to look for records of nurses, surgeons and other medical staff who served with the Royal Navy.

Sexuality and gender identity history

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/gay-lesbian-history/>

This guide will help you find records relating to sexuality and gender identity history.

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps service records 1917-1920

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-army-auxiliary-corps-service-records-1917-1920/>

These are the service records of more than 7,000 women who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) between 1917 and 1920.

Women in the British Army

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/women-in-british-army/>

The National Archives holds various records of women's service in the British Army, though finding an individual's record can be difficult. This short guide will outline the records which can be found and explain how to begin searching for them.

Women's Land Army

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-land-army/>

This is a brief guide to researching records of the Women's Land Army. Though the original service records of the Women's Land Army have not survived, The National Archives has microfiche copies of alphabetical index cards from 1939 to 1945 that contain some basic information about the women's service.

Women's Royal Air Force personnel

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-royal-air-force-personnel/>

This is a brief guide to researching records of the Women's Royal Air Force, also known as the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Women's Royal Air Force service records 1918-1920

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-royal-air-force-service-records-1918-1920/>

These are the service records of around 30,000 airwomen who served with the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) between 1918 and 1920.

Women's Royal Naval Service personnel

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-royal-naval-service-personnel/>

This is a brief guide to researching records of the Women's Royal Naval Service, also known as the Wrens.

Women's Royal Naval service records 1917-1919

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-royal-naval-service-records-1917-1919/>

These are the service records of over 5,000 women who served in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) between 1917 and 1919.

Women's suffrage

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-suffrage/>

This guide will help you to find records of the women's suffrage movement and of the women and men who campaigned for the cause in the early part of the 20th century.

Talks, podcasts & webinars



Catalogue Ref: INF 14/435. Bengali woman fetching water from well in earthenware pots, 1944.

On the Record

The National Archives presents On the Record, a podcast that unearths the real life stories found in our vast collections.

Join our experts and special guests as we dig deep into the people behind the paper and bring fascinating stories from more than 11 million records to life. Discover tales of forbidden love, spies, protest, and the everyday people of the past.

20th Century Migration: 1914 – A nation divided?

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/20th-century-migration-1914-a-nation-divided/>

This first episode begins with the story of an English woman who loses her citizenship because of who she chooses to marry, and a British citizen arrested because of his country of birth. Then we uncover the lesser-told story of people leaving Britain for a better life.

Coronations

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/coronations-podcast/>

From Richard III's lavish wardrobe to Queen Victoria's chaotic ceremony, coronations have a rich and fascinating history. In this episode of On the Record released to mark the coronation of King Charles III, our specialists examine records from previous coronations and explore how traditions have formed and changed through the centuries.

Disappointed and forbidden love

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/disappointed-and-forbidden-love/>

A lovestruck medieval clerk writing out romantic lyrics as he daydreams. A gay man in the 1930s who tears up a letter to his lover to hide it from the police. Two women who defy 18th century conventions to marry in secret...these are some of the characters you'll meet in this episode, which features three stories of disappointed and forbidden love.

LGBTQ+ histories

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/lgbtq-histories/>

In this episode, we bring you four stories that span 200 years of British history. Two women leave their families to make a new life together in Wales in 1780; a Manchester drag ball in 1880; a secret gathering space for gay men in 1920s London; and a community archive collected by Black LGBTQ+ Londoners.

Love divided

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/love-divided/>

In 1588, Queen Elizabeth received a letter from her friend the Earl of Leicester just a few days before he died. She kept the letter by her bed for the next 15 years. In 1919, a Jamaican sailor named James Gillespie was forced to leave Cardiff after the Race Riots. Faced with the prospect of returning to Jamaica without his wife and child, he wrote to the Home Office, asking for help. These letters reveal two very different love stories nevertheless joined together by the theme of love divided.

Reform: Violence and the struggle for suffrage

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/reform-violence-struggle-suffrage/>

The campaign for women's suffrage is often characterised by its militant factions and leaders like Emmeline Pankhurst, who used bombs and destruction of property to get their message across. That characterisation is accurate, but it's not the whole story. In fact, militant suffrage actions didn't begin with the Women's Social and Political Union...or women at all.

In this episode, we explore how a lesser-known male suffrage movement called Chartism advanced the suffrage agenda and how the militant tactics of the women's suffrage activists fit into a large historical trend.

Image: Rosa May Billinghurst depicted in her hand tricycle in a copy of *The Suffragette*. Catalogue ref: ASSI 52/212



Spies: Archetype of a Spy

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/record-archetype-spy/>

In this episode we use documents in our collection and expert insight to go beyond the popular image of spies. We explore the history of intelligence in Britain, and tell the wartime story of a courageous Muslim woman who defied all expectations to carry out a dangerous spy mission in Nazi-occupied territory.

Spies: Double agents and double standards

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/record-double-agents-double-standards/>

In this episode, we use intelligence records in our archives to illuminate three stories of double agents. Mata Hari was executed for using her seductive powers to spy for the Germans, but where's the evidence that she was actually a spy? Did the Cambridge Five get a pass because of their elite social status? How did British laws against homosexuality make their own agents vulnerable to Soviet blackmail?

Image: Image of Mata Hari from a Dutch magazine 1916-17.
Catalogue ref: KV 2/1



Spies: Lawrence and Bell

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/record-lawrence-bell/>

The exploits of T.E. Lawrence are legendary. Thanks to the famous film 'Lawrence of Arabia', millions around the world know about his time spying and fighting in the Middle East during the First World War. Or at least they think they do.

In this episode, we use the records in our collection to debunk the mythology around Lawrence. We also share the lesser-known story of Gertrude Bell, another intelligence officer working for the British in Arabia.

The 1920s: Beyond the Roar

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/the-1920s-beyond-the-roar/>

In this episode we use documents in our collection and expert insight to go beyond the popular image of spies. We explore the history of intelligence in Britain, and tell the wartime story of a courageous Muslim woman who defied all expectations to carry out a dangerous spy mission in Nazi-occupied territory.

The 1920s: Fashion and Nightlife

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/the-1920s-fashion-and-nightlife/>

In this episode, fashion historian Amber Butchart discusses the fashion movements of the 1920s. Then we tell the story of Kate Meyrick, the Soho Nightclub Queen. Meyrick's popular clubs were frequently raided, and the records of those raids reveal a lot about what a night out in London was like 100 years ago.

Treason: People, Power and Plot

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/treason-people-power-and-plot/>

The history of English monarchs is a tale brimming with assassination attempts. Queen Elizabeth I thwarted many attempts to replace her with a Catholic monarch, following her excommunication by the Pope.

In this episode, we explore direct attempts to kill the monarch in the 16th and 19th centuries and their long-term impacts on the British legal system.

Trials: Ordeal and combat

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/trials-ordeal-and-combat/>

In the first instalment of a three-part series on our trial records, we're examining the history of trials by ordeal and combat. This episode has witch trials, defamation lawsuits from accused witches, myth-busting, strong-men for hire, Irish landowners fighting to the death in a castle, and some facts about duels.

Victorian cats, medieval hospitals & frontline nurses

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/victorian-cats-medieval-hospitals-and-frontline-nurses/>

Includes the story of brave young Nellie Spindler, who lied about her age in order to serve as a frontline nurse in the First World War before her tragic death.

Windrush at 75

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/windrush-at-75/>

In this episode, we mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush through the lens of several unique records held at The National Archives, including the official passenger list. It includes the stories of Ena Claire Sullivan, one of seven nurses on the Empire Windrush, a government training scheme for 'colonial subjects' in nursing and midwifery, and a twelve-year-old Polish passenger on the ship called Janina Folta.

Women's Land Army

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/womens-land-army/>

In this episode, we're digging deeper into the history of the Women's Land Army using unique collections at The National Archives. Discover fascinating stories of everyday bravery and the no-nonsense women who were enlisted in what the Ministry of Information called the 'Battle for Bread'.

Talks and webinars

100 years of the WI: The acceptable face of feminism

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/100-years-wi-acceptable-face-feminism/>

'A Little Daylight Game': the story of two militant suffragettes

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/little-daylight-game-story-two-militant-suffragettes/>

A tormented Tudor queen's treasonous 'love letter'

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/catherine-howard-thomas-culpeper/>

Annual Digital Lecture 2021: Data Feminism and the Archive

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pajLfmZ_w8k

Barbara Hepworth, her life and work

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/barbara-hepworth-life-work/>

Bess of Hardwick

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/bess-of-hardwick/>

Big Ideas: The women's war in the Middle East – women's First World War service in Egypt, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia and Palestine

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/big-ideas-womens-war-middle-east/>

'Cama': a play about a female Indian revolutionary at the time of the First World War

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/cama-play-female-indian-revolutionary-time-first-world-war/>

Carve Her Name With Pride

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/carve-her-name-with-pride/>

Constance Emily Kent: nightdresses, breast flannels and child murder

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/constance-emily-kent-nightdresses-breast-flannels-and-child-murder/>

Did she kill him? Addiction, adultery and arsenic in Victorian Britain

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/kill-addiction-adultery-arsenic-victorian-britain/>

Fashion or ration: Hartnell, Amies and dressing for the Blitz

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/fashion-or-ration-hartnell-amies-and-dressing-for-the-blitz/>

Fictional obscenities: lesbianism and censorship in the early 20th century

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/fictional-obscenities-lesbianism-and-censorship-in-the-early-20th-century/>

First Lady: The Life and Wars of Clementine Churchill

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/first-lady-life-wars-clementine-churchill/>

Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn: clothing, courtship and consequences

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/henry-viii-and-anne-boleyn-clothing-courtship-and-consequences/>

Hidden Women: uncovering the veil of silence during the partition of Punjab, India 1947

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/hidden-women-uncovering-the-veil-of-silence-during-the-partition-of-punjab-india-1947-2/>

Jane Austen: from beginning to end

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/jane-austen-beginning-end/>

Image: Jane Austen, 1905. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/487 pt2 (457)

Mapping Women's Suffrage

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/mapping-womens-suffrage/>

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, in 10 documents

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



Medieval queens in The National Archives

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/medieval-queens-in-the-national-archives/>

Meet the Author: Alison Weir – Katheryn Howard, The Tainted Queen

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/meet-the-author-alison-weir-katheryn-howard-the-tainted-queen/>

Nancy Astor: First steps towards a better balanced world

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/nancy-astor-first-steps-towards-a-better-balanced-world/>

Newly released files from 1985 and 1986

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/newly-released-files-1985-1986/>

No place for ladies: the untold story of women in the Crimean War

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/no-place-for-ladies-the-untold-story-of-women-in-the-crimean-war/>

No vote no census

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/no-vote-no-census/>

Refugee stories

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/refugee-stories/>

Reform: Violence and the struggle for suffrage

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/reform-violence-struggle-suffrage/>

Sessions for Schools: Noor Khan as a wireless operator

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/sessions-for-schools-noor-khan-as-a-wireless-operator/>

Simply a Jacobite woman? The life experience of Lady Nairne

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/simply-jacobite-woman-life-experience-lady-nairne/>

Suffrage 100: Did militancy help or hinder the fight for the franchise?

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/suffrage-100-militancy-help-hinder-fight-franchise/>

Sylvia Pankhurst: suffragette, socialist and 'scourge of the empire'

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/sylvia-pankhurst-suffragette-socialist-scourge-empire/>

Talks from the National LGBT History Festival: Hilary McCollum on 'Sapphic Suffragettes'

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/outing-past/>

The Women's Aid Federation of England Archive: A case study for inclusive cataloguing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQLXFe7z4Lc>

'Things as are all Forms, & Ceremonys': Ritual and authority in the reign of Queen Anne

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/things-forms-ceremonys-ritual-authority-reign-queen-anne/>

To Her Most Excellent Majesty...

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/to-her-most-excellent-majesty/>

Tracy Borman on 'The Private Lives of the Tudors'

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/tracy-borman-private-lives-tudors/>

Victorian women prisoners

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/victorian-women-prisoners/>

Image: Wormwood Scrubs prison, female prisoner and child, 1895.
Catalogue ref: COPY 1/420 (175)

War Girls – poetry and prose by women in the First World War

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/war-girls-poetry-prose-women-first-world-war/>

Webinar: Tracing your ancestors – women in the military services during the First World War

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/webinar-women-first-world-war/>



When a woman is not a woman: how the Ministry of Pensions constructed gender in the 1950s

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/when-a-woman-is-not-a-woman-how-the-ministry-of-pensions-constructed-gender-in-the-1950s/>

Women, darts and the pub in the interwar period

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/women-darts-and-the-pub-in-the-interwar-period/>

Writer of the month: Helen Castor on Joan of Arc

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/writer-month-helen-castor-joan-arc/>

Blog posts



Catalogue Ref: COPY 1/369/171 Photograph of a 17th-century painting of Pocahontas based on the published engraving of her image.

100neHundred: dancing to remember the fight for the vote

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/100nehundred-dancing-remember-fight-vote/>

100 years of women in the professions: The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-sex-disqualification-removal-act-1919/>

100 years since the formation of the Women's Royal Air Force

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/100-years-since-formation-of-womens-royal-air-force/>

A glimpse into mental health history

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/glimpse-mental-health-history/>

'A Most Lamented Princesse': an English princess at Versailles

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lamented-princesse-sudden-death-princess-henriette-anne-england/>

A Royal bundle of joy

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a-royal-bundle-of-joy/>

A woman's war 1914-1918

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womans-war-1914-1918/>

Ada Lovelace day

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ada-lovelace-day/>

African Princess in Guy's: The story of Princess Adenrele Ademola

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/african-princess-in-guys-the-story-of-princess-adenrele-ademola/>

Alice Hawkins, suffragette and working woman

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/alice-hawkins-suffragette-working-woman/>

April Ashley: Her early life

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/april-ashley-her-early-life/>

April Ashley: The legal battle

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/april-ashley-the-legal-battle/>

Archives and agency: Sex work and the state

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-and-agency-sex-work-and-the-state/>

Black History Month - the movement for black civil rights in Britain

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/black-history-month-movement-black-civil-rights-britain/>

Books to celebrate the legacy of Florence Nightingale

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/books-to-celebrate-the-legacy-of-florence-nightingale/>

Book-women after the Great Fire of London

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/book-women-after-great-fire-london/>

'Brown Babies': The children born to black GI and white British women during the Second World War

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/brown-babies-second-world-war/>

Carnival: bringing a 'little bit of heaven' to Notting Hill

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/carnival-bringing-little-bit-heaven-notting-hill/>



Celebrities, a former Prime Minister and the Workhouse

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/celebrities-former-prime-minister-workhouse/>

Image: Women picking oakum in the workhouse. Catalogue ref: PRO 30/69/1663 (38)

Constance Markievicz and the 1918 General Election

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/constance-markievicz-and-the-1918-general-election/>

Death, the doctor and the detective writer

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/death-doctor-detective-writer/>

Deceptive, deviant and dextrous: Your humble petitioners?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/deceptive-deviant-and-dextrous-your-humble-petitioners/>

Discover the Women's Suffrage movement through our records

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womens-suffrage-national-archives/>

Domestic duties only? WRNS and the First World War

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domestic-duties-only-wrns-first-world-war/>

Emily Davison and the 1913 Epsom Derby

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/emily-davison-and-the-1913-epsom-derby/>

Emmeline Pankhurst Day: our records on women's suffrage

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/emmeline-pankhurst-day-exploring-womens-suffrage-records/>

Image: Emmeline Pankhurst, September 1908. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/526 f3

Ena Clare Sullivan: A Jamaican nurse aboard the Empire Windrush

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ena-clare-sullivan-a-jamaican-nurse-aboard-the-empire-windrush/>



Equal pay for equal work: female munitions workers in the First World War

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/equal-pay-equal-work-female-munitions-workers/>

Family planning in the 1920s: Marie Stopes and the 'wise precaution of delay'

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20speople-family-planning-in-the-1920s-marie-stopes-and-the-wise-precaution-of-delay/>

Fifty years since the 1970 Equal Pay Act

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/fifty-years-since-the-1970-equal-pay-act/>

Fighting a great fight: Women workers at Ford Dagenham

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/fighting-a-great-fight-women-workers-at-ford-dagenham/>

Files on Film: women policing women

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/files-film-women-policing-women/>

First World War: the women of Buxton Lime Firms

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war-women-buxton-lime-firms/>

Food for thought? Rationing and the Second World War

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/food-thought-rationing-second-world-war/>

Fragmented lives: Migrant sex workers' lives in the archives

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/fragmented-lives-migrant-sex-workers-lives-in-the-archives/>

Gentleman Jack: Anne Lister – the first modern lesbian?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/gentleman-jack-anne-lister-the-first-modern-lesbian/>

Getting creative with our collections: a women's history zine workshop

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/getting-creative-collections-womens-history-zine-workshop/>

Girls on file...

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/girls-on-file/>

Hannah More: A woman of letters

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hannah-more-a-woman-of-letters/>

‘Having fear of death before me’: life before the 1967 Abortion Act

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/fear-death-life-1967-abortion-act/>

Hidden in plain sight: Finding working-class women in The National Archives

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/finding-working-class-women-in-the-national-archives/>

Hosting the Suffrage flag

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hosting-the-suffrage-flag/>

How Florence Nightingale David saved lives during the Blitz - with statistics

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/how-florence-nightingale-david-saved-lives-during-the-blitz-with-statistics/>

How to research your suffrage ancestor

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/research-suffrage-ancestor/>

Illustrating diversity

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/illustrating-diversity/>

International Women's Day 2018

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/international-womens-day-2018/>

Jeannie Cameron and the case of the three Jennys

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/jeannie-cameron-and-the-case-of-the-three-jennys/>

Jobs for the girls?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/jobs-girls/>

Keeper's Gallery: Women in Second World War art

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-in-second-world-war-art/>

Keeping tabs on suffragettes: the official watchlist

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/keeping-tabs-suffragettes-official-watchlist/>

Lady Hester Stanhope: Queen of the Desert

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-hester-stanhope-queen-of-the-desert/>

Lady in the Archives: The life of Florence Nightingale (part one)

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/life-of-florence-nightingale-part-one/>

Lady in the Archives: The life of Florence Nightingale (part two)

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-in-the-archives-the-life-of-florence-nightingale-part-two/>

Lady Jane Grey's correspondence

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-jane-greys-correspondence/>

Lady Lisle: Reluctant rebel?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-lisle-reluctant-rebel/>

Land girls, Spitfire girls and spies: women in war

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wings-victory/>



LGBTQ+ history: Maud Allan and 'unnatural practices among women'

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lgbtq-history-maud-allan-unnatural-practices-women/>

Image: Photograph of Maud Allan dressed as 'Salome', 1910. Catalogue ref: COPY 1/550

Lieutenant Euan Lucie-Smith 'reported missing': A mother's enquiry

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lieutenant-euan-lucie-smith-reported-missing-a-mothers-enquiry/>

Lost voices from the Civil Wars

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lost-voices-civil-wars/>

Mary Hare's Pioneering Establishment: The Dene Hollow Oral School for the Deaf

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-dene-hollow-oral-school-for-the-deaf/>

Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley: extraordinary mother and daughter

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mary-wollstonecraft-mary-shelley-extraordinary-mother-daughter/>

Medieval Church and State, and the nun who faked her own death

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/medieval-church-state-nun-faked-death/>

Millicent Fawcett: her statue is unveiled in Parliament Square

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/millicent-fawcett-statue-unveiled-in-parliament-square/>

Mistaken identity: Elizabeth Burley and the Contagious Diseases Acts

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mistaken-identity-elizabeth-burley-and-the-contagious-diseases-acts/>

My Tommy and Hetty's War: the show must go on

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/tommy-hettys-war-show-must-go/>

Myth-busting the women's suffrage movement

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/myth-busting-womens-suffrage-movement/>

Motoring towards liberation

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/motoring-towards-liberation/>

Nancy Astor: 100 years of women in Parliament

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nancy-astor-100-years-of-women-in-parliament/>

'No vote, no census': The 1911 suffrage census protests

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/no-vote-no-census-the-1911-suffrage-census-protests/>

Official discourses and personal sources: Women's History Month

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/official-discourses-personal-sources-womens-history-month-part-1/>

Official discourses and personal sources: Women's History Month, part 2

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/official-discourses-personal-sources-womens-history-month-part-2/>

Ogu Umunwanyi, Ekong Iban, Women's War: A story of protest by Nigerian women

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ogu-umunwanyi-ekong-iban-womens-war-a-story-of-protest-by-nigerian-women/>

'Our women on the land': Women's Land Army index cards go online

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/our-women-on-the-land-womens-land-army-index-cards-go-online/>

'Our Special Agent': 'Fifi' and the Special Operations Executive

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/special-agent-fifi-special-operations-executive/>

Painter Rose Wylie revealed as one of the long lost Aero Girls

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/painter-rose-wylie-revealed-one-long-lost-aero-girls/>

'Peace to millions of women': A history of the cervical smear test

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/peace-to-millions-of-women-a-history-of-the-cervical-smear-test/>

‘Plucky Pioneers’: the 1918 General Election

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/plucky-pioneers-1918-general-election/>

Pocahontas in London, 1616-17

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pocahontas-london-1616-1617/>

Poems for a princess

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/poems-princess/>

Political pioneers: The first 20 women in Cabinet

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/political-pioneers-the-first-20-women-in-cabinet/>

Pride and prejudice

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pride-and-prejudice/>

Prophet, prisoner and pretend prelate: Lady Eleanor Davies (1590-1652)

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/prophet-prisoner-and-pretend-prelate-lady-eleanor-davies-1590-1652/>

‘Raided!!’ London headquarters of the Women’s Social and Political Union

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/raided-london-headquarters-womens-social-political-union/>

Reclaiming the records: Sex work and the state

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/reclaiming-the-records-sex-work-and-the-state/>

Reform: Violence and the struggle for suffrage

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/reform-violence-and-the-struggle-for-suffrage/>

Reuniting the long lost Aero Girls (and boys)

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/reuniting-long-lost-aero-girls-boys/>

Rosa May Billinghurst: suffragette, campaigner, 'cripple'

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/rosa-may-billinghurst-suffragette-campaigner-cripple/>



Image: The general office at the WSPU headquarters, Lincoln's Inn House, Kingsway. As seen in the Illustrated London News.. Catalogue reference: ZPER 34/142

Sex, Spies and another Scandal: the other Profumo affair

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/sex-spies-another-scandal-profumo-affair/>

Striking women: labour unrest among First World War female workers

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/striking-women-labour-unrest-amongst-first-world-war-female-workers/>

Suffrage and Mr Hardy

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/suffrage-mr-hardy/>

Suffragettes, 1912: 'Rather broken windows than broken promises'

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/rather-broken-windows-broken-promises/>

Suffragettes and the Black Friday protests: 18 November 1910

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/suffragettes-and-the-black-friday-protests-18-november-1910/>

Suffragette outrage and prayers at St Paul's

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/suffragette-outrage-prayers-st-pauls/>

Surviving the 17th century: the widowed and the fatherless

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/surviving-17th-century-widowed-fatherless/>

Thalidomide: Limb-fitting centres

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/thalidomide-limb-fitting-centres/>

The 1913 Suffrage Pilgrimage: peaceful protest and local disorder

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-1913-suffrage-pilgrimage-peaceful-protest-and-local-disorder/>

The birds and the bees: Sex education in the early 20th century

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/birds-and-bees-sex-education-in-early-twentieth-century/>

The Brighton bomb

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/brighton-bomb/>



The First World War's forgotten women: ANZAC girl

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-wars-forgotten-women-anzac-girl/>

The Hunger Games

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-hunger-games/>

The image of the female munitions worker

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/image-female-munitions-worker/>

Image: Poster 'These Women Are Doing Their Bit. Learn To Make Munitions' 1916-18. Catalogue ref: EXT 1/315

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Abortion

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/inter-departmental-committee-abortion/>

The Ladies of Llangollen

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-ladies-of-llangollen/>

The Life Peerages Act: a legacy of the women's suffrage campaign

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/life-peerages-act-legacy-womens-suffrage-campaign/>

The Representation of the People Act 1918: Votes for (some) women, finally

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/representation-people-act-1918-votes-women-finally/>



The Women's Aid Federation of England Archive: A case study for inclusive cataloguing

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-womens-aid-federation-of-england-archive-a-case-study-for-inclusive-cataloguing/>

The Women's Institute: it's not all jam and Jerusalem

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womens-institute-jam-jerusalem/>

The Women's Land Army in eight documents

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womens-land-army-8-documents/>



Image: World War II poster - Women's Land Army - Win The Battle For Bread 2, 1939-49. Catalogue ref: MAF 59/18

The working women's struggle for the vote

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/working-womens-struggle-vote/>

Till death do us part? Divorce in medieval England

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/till-death-us-part-divorce-medieval-england/>

Wettin to Windsor: changing the royal name

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wettin-windsor-changing-royal-name/>

Why was Mrs Churchill in Moscow on VE Day?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/why-was-mrs-churchill-in-moscow-on-ve-day/>

Women in engineering in the First World War

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-engineering-first-world-war/>

Women in the Second World War: Military service in East Africa

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-in-the-second-world-war-military-service-in-east-africa/>

Women in the Second World War: The Palestinian Auxiliary Territorial Service

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-in-the-second-world-war-the-palestinian-auxiliary-territorial-service/>

Women in the Second World War: The sinking of SS Khedive Ismail

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-in-the-second-world-war-the-sinking-of-ss-khedive-ismail/>

Women on board the Empire Windrush

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-on-board-the-empire-windrush/>

Women, Parliament and Political Space

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-parliament-and-political-space/>

Women's place in Parliament

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womens-place-parliament/>

Women's rights: Keeping up appearances or winning the war?

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womens-rights-keeping-up-appearances-or-winning-the-war/>

You have two cows

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/you-have-two-cows/>

External websites



Catalogue Ref: CO 1069/530 (19). Woman with parasol, North Borneo, Sabah, Malaysia, 1921.

London School of Economics: Women's Library

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collection-highlights/The-Womens-Library>

The Women's Library is a library, archive and museum and the collection follows the history of feminism from the late 19th century to the present day. Here, you can see collection highlights and search the catalogue.

Suffragettes in the BBC Archives

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/suffragettes/z7kqrj6>

In this collection of programmes we hear from those women whose part in the struggle would finally culminate in the 1918 Representation of the People Act and the election of the first woman MP.

UK Parliament: Women and the Vote

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/womenvote/>

An overview of the path towards women's voting rights featuring expert interviews and Parliamentary collection highlights.

Title



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

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The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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