*THE EVOLUTION OF WOMEN’S STATUS (in the UK/USA)*

**Niveaux du CECRL : B2**

**Classe(s) :** *TERMINALE*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activité langagière travaillée et objectifs :**   * Compréhension orale/ expression écrite * Compréhension écrite/ expression écrite | **Liens avec le programme :**  The Idea of Progress |

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| --- | --- |
| **Document (s) et source(s) :**  *-COMPREHENSIONS ORALES :*  *vidéos à regarder sur youtube (les liens sont indiqués sur*  *les fiches d’activités)*  *-COMPREHENSIONS ECRITES :*  *articles à lire (documents words)* | **Consigne(s) et étapes de l’activité :**  **-Faire les activités demandées à l’issue de la**  **découverte (visionnage/ lecture) des documents**  **proposés ci-après.** |

**THE IDEA OF PROGRESS – SÉANCE 1**

**VIDEO 1: SUFFRAGETTE** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=056FI2Pq9RY>

**This video is an introduction to the sequence*.***

**Anticipate the topic of the film from the title *Suffragette:……………………………………………………………………***

***……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..***

**Watch it and list the different people, places and actions that you can see in this extract: People:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Places:……………..……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Actions: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………**

**Now watch and listen, pick out repeated words and words you know: ……………………………………………………**

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**From the information you have collected from the different viewing, sum up what you think the film is about:**

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**VIDEO 2: WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE AROUND THE WORLD** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3D8f57vrN8>

**(watch up to 2’18)**

**1. Give the dates of women enfranchisement in the following countries:**

New Zealand: South Africa: Australia:

UK/ CANADA: USA:

**2. Give the name of some of the women who fought for the right to vote.**

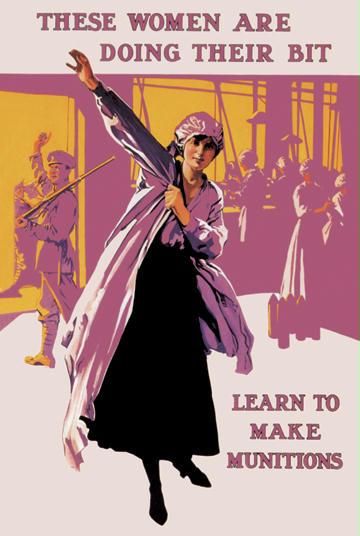
United Kingdom:

United States:

**3. Describe their means of action and the repression they endured.**

**4. Explain the role of WW1 in women’s enfranchisement**

**THE IDEA OF PROGRESS – SÉANCE 2**

**How Did WW1 Most Change Life for Women?**

*The last hundred years has seen a transformation in women's lives. How much of this change dates back to the four years of World War One - and what was the biggest change in women's lives as a result of the conflict?*

**WW1 historian, Prof. Margaret MacMillan**

The war changed women’s lives, and in some ways for the better. They showed society that they were able to do men’s jobs and were intellectually more than capable of taking part in society. However, those gains could not be completely consolidated after the war was over; many women were forced from their jobs once the men returned and expected to go back into domestic life. Many women had earned the right to vote, but such things as going to university or standing as MPs were still overwhelmingly the preserve of men.

**War historian, Dr. Jonathan Boff**

One of the biggest improvements in the lives of women during the First World War was in the area of health. Women lived longer and healthier lives after the war and lost fewer children in infancy. During and after the war infant mortality was reduced by two thirds. The explanations are complex, but better living standards and nutrition are a large part of the answer. Smaller households and earnings rising faster than food prices meant there was more food to go around. Housewives shopped more carefully. And government policy, such as rationing and restrictions on pubs, may also have helped.

**Suffragette expert, Elizabeth Crawford**

At the end of World War One, women’s lives were revolutionised by the 1918 Representation of the People Act. While men were granted the vote at 21, the suffragists pragmatically settled for a lesser measure for women, knowing that, as voters, they could exercise direct influence on parliament.

**WW1 historian, Dr. Krisztina Robert**

At first glance progress [after the war] seems limited. Nevertheless, women's extensive war participation helped convince politicians and the public about their suitability for citizenship, leading to full enfranchisement in 1928. Furthermore, many women developed new skills, self-confidence and contacts in their war jobs and were able to capitalise on these gains after the war in terms of greater freedoms both at work and in personal relationships.

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[www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z9bf9j6#zs67sbk](http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z9bf9j6#zs67sbk)

## How War Changed the Role of Women in the United States

By Joyce Bryant

After the two wars women became free to create their own lives and senses of self. With this increase in freedom also came an increase in equality. World War II gave women the chance to prove they are just as capable as men. As World War II continued, greater numbers of women began to take control. For the first time, women in the United States were learning to work as factory workers, nurses, and journalists. Many women even joined the army through an organization called the Women’s Army Corps. World War II also brought about an increase in women as subjects of propaganda. Women worked as drivers, farmers, mail delivery personnel, garbage collectors, builders, and mechanics.

Life for women was changing. Women had their own money and could do with it what they pleased. They became more independent. “War taught them how to stand on their own two feet. Though relatively short-lived, World War II provided a way for women to do what they wanted. Far fewer obstacles stood in the way of women proving that they were extremely capable. Women are capable of everything it’s too bad it took a war to make everyone see it.”

<http://teachersinstitute.yale.edu/curriculum/units/2002/3/02.03.09.x.html>

## Did World War 2 change life for women in Britain?

By **Kate Adie** Writer and broadcaster

**The call to arms**

When the Second World War broke out in 1939 just over five million women were in work. By 1943 that number stood well in excess of seven million. As men from all over the country joined the fight against fascism, so women were called upon to help – and in an age of total war they were now in the midst of the action.

Never before had the boundaries between home front and front line been so blurred. More than 40,000 civilians were killed as enemy bombs dropped on Britain’s towns and cities. From housewives and mothers to factory workers and farm hands, women across the country were central to the war effort. How did this experience change their lives? And once the guns fell silent in 1945, did these women see any lasting change to their place in society?

[…]

## Home sweet home?

**Once the jubilation at war's end had subsided, did women have anything else to celebrate?**

Women were praised for their wartime work, but expected to make way for the returning troops. As after WW1, there was an assumption that their temporary roles had been specifically linked to wartime. The government encouraged a return to domesticity. By 1951 the number of working women had returned almost to the pre-war level and a bar on married women working continued in many jobs. Trade unions still defended higher wages for men, despite an increase in women’s union membership.

The Women’s Land Army continued until 1950 – due to post-war food shortages. Permanent Women’s Services had been created the previous year, with a primarily supporting role. They could not fly aircraft, command ships or fire weapons.

### A lasting legacy?

Mothers told their daughters what they had done during the war, and how their horizons had been limited afterwards. The 60s and 70s saw the emergence of feminist groups and heightened awareness of gender inequality – campaigning for more rights and greater opportunities saw very many more women aware of their potential and the need for change.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z2j9d2p#zspmtfr>

**THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD WARS ON WOMEN’S LIVES**

**1. Read the texts and pick out the relevant elements to complete the following grid:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BENEFITS** | **LIMITS** |
| WW1 |  |  |
| WW2 |  |  |

**2. In your own words, explain the impact both wars had on women and their role/ status in society:**

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