

A BIRD IN A CAGE

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Lewis Girls' School. Workshop February 20th. A Bird in a Cage.
Subject: Lady Rhondda and her work with the Newport WSPU.

Aim: To introduce students to the life of Lady Rhondda and investigate her involvement and significance in the women's suffrage movement in the Newport area.

Intended outcomes: By the end of the Workshop students should

A. Have some specific knowledge of:

1. the life of Margaret Haig Thomas/Mackworth/ Lady Rhondda in Wales
2. what she was trying to achieve and how she went about this.
3. what the Newport WSPU was and its focus and methods.

B. Have some wider understanding of:

4. the significance of the women's suffrage movement in the history of the period and later.
5. the different sources used in uncovering this history.

Powerpoint slides will accompany sections where appropriate.

1. Ask what the class knows about Margaret, Lady Rhondda. What should we call her? When and where did she live? Provide a brief summary of her background and broad achievements.

(up to 10 mins.)

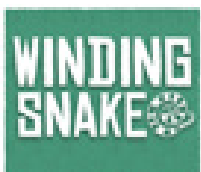
2. Examine Margaret's MOTIVATION though discussing collectively an extract from her AUTOBIOGRAPHY which provides the title for the project 'A Bird in a Cage'. (up to 15 mins.)

3. Explore Margaret's role in the Newport WSPU by breaking into two groups and discussing the different tactics used before reporting back to the class. (20 mins.)

Group A. Make a list of the different non-violent tactics (eg. public meetings) used by the Newport WSPU to attract support. The extracts from the newspapers of the time and other sources will give you some idea but you may also know of other methods used to attract attention. How effective do you think were these different methods? Choose up to three people to report back to the class on your findings.

Group B. Read the different accounts of Margaret's prison experience. Choose up to three people to report back on how fair the group thinks her treatment and punishment was and whether it helped or hindered the cause of women's suffrage.

4. Briefly explain the impact of the First World War on women's rights. End with whole class discussion of the importance of Margaret's suffrage work and the significance of equal rights, then and now. (remaining time).



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