

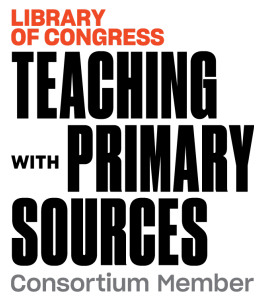



1. Title / Episode Link:	Women's Suffrage in Colorado: the 1893 Referendum	   
2. Historic Site:	Byers Evans House	
3. Episode:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgvO83wnN_4	
4. Developed by:	Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Team	
5. Grade Level:	6-8 6th: History 1.1 7th: History 1.1 8th: History 1.1	
6. Assessment Question:	Why in 1893 was Colorado the first state to popularly vote for women's suffrage when there was so much traditional opposition to it throughout the country? How did Colorado passing women's suffrage help lead to national women's suffrage?	
7. Contextual Paragraph	<p>From the founding of the United States through the next 100 years, half of adult American citizens were not allowed to vote in any election. These citizens were women, and though they were held to all government laws, they had no right to any political representation. But in 1893, Colorado was the first state to popularly vote for women's suffrage, following Wyoming and Utah who voted for it when they were still territories. All American women would not get to vote until 1920.</p> <p>Though the idea of women's suffrage created many fears in both men and women preventing its passage, Colorado had several factors that enabled it to be successful. Women's roles were less traditional and more variable in the West, as they often had to do men's work as well as their own to settle new territories. In 1865, Colorado voted to become a state but also voted to prevent black men from suffrage, which caused the post-Civil War Congress to reject Colorado's petition. In 1877, a new campaign for women's suffrage began, but opposition was so strong</p>	

	<p>every county but Boulder voted it down.</p> <p>But in 1893, a new campaign began that was successful, though men who opposed it before had to be convinced to change their minds since women could not vote for it. This happened due to excellent leadership by women such as Carrie Chapman Catt, who came West to help organize, and highly-respected local women journalists such as Ellis Meredith, Minnie Reynolds, and Caroline Churchill, who used their newspaper columns to argue in public for women's suffrage.</p> <p>Economics played a part too as the National Panic of 1893 plunged America into the worst depression yet seen. Colorado was particularly hit when silver was dropped from backing currency in place of gold favored by Eastern investors, and the price plummeted, ruining miners and farmers who could no longer pay their bills, causing a run on banks so they collapsed too, which crashed the real estate market. In a time of crisis, people will try something new, and men were so angry, they supported the Populist Party to govern, and women's suffrage became one of their reforms as the idea of justice was broadened to include miners, farmers, and women. The measure passed easily and within a year, three Coloradoans were the first women elected to a legislature in the United States.</p>	
8. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>The History Colorado site states: "The Center for Colorado Women's History at the Byers-Evans House Museum focuses on scholarship, research, lectures, tours and exhibits that expand the understanding and collective memory of the history of women in Colorado. Most importantly, the Center is connecting local stories to the broader stories of women's history worldwide.</p> <p>The Byers-Evans House has been the home to inspiring women since 1883. It has been beautifully restored to the era of 1912-1924 and is furnished with the Evans family's belongings. Guided house tours weave together the stories of the many</p>	

	women, such as Anne Evans, who lived and worked in the home and the impact of the families on early Denver. It was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in July of 2010 and is currently owned and managed by History Colorado.	
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Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set


Queen Bee: a Denver newspaper owned and edited by Caroline Churchill “dedicated to the interests of humanity, women’s political equality and individuality (masthead)” issue from 1900





<http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15330coll22/id/91108/rec/3>


GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would articles in a newspaper owned by a woman be more instrumental in convincing people to vote for women’s suffrage over articles by women columnists in mainstream papers?
2. What factors influenced Coloradoans in the 1890s to read about and discuss such incendiary topics as women’s suffrage, temperance, and populism?

Colorado Women are Citizens c.1910-1920	GUIDING QUESTIONS:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the difference between having the right to be a citizen and having the right to be a voter? 2. How did Colorado passing women's suffrage 27 years before the passage of the 19th Amendment help in the struggle to get it passed everywhere in the United States? 3. Why was it important to get Colorado women to buy into and support women's suffrage in 1893 when they could not vote for it anyway?
http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15330coll22/id/65906	

Anti-Suffrage Cartoon c. 1909	GUIDING QUESTIONS:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are several fears that this cartoon might encourage in 1909 about the role of women if women had the right to vote? 2. Besides the images of the man and the woman, what are several background items placed in the picture that imply a negative consequence of women's suffrage?
http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97500226/	

Colorado Suffrage Movement	<p>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did Colorado play a role in women's suffrage? 2. Who were key leaders in the national and Colorado suffrage movement? 3. What were the challenges faced in women's suffrage in Colorado?
	
https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/womens-suffrage-movement	

Byers Evans House	<p>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is significant about this house in the city of Denver? 2. What role did the Evans family play in Denver as a whole? 3. Why were the Evans women important in Denver society at the turn of the century? 4. How did this family play a role in the future of Colorado as we know it today?
	
https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/byers-evans-house	

Assessment Question

Why in 1893 was Colorado the first state to popularly vote for women's suffrage when there was so much traditional opposition to it throughout the country? How did Colorado passing women's suffrage help lead to national women's suffrage?

Response