

Topic: Women's Suffrage Movement

Historical Thinking Skills Assessed: Critical Reading, Contextualizing

Grade Level: High

National History Standards

Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)

Standard 1: How Progressives and others addressed problems of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption

Using the Item: The question assesses students' critical reading skills, as well as their ability to contextualize events during this period.

Background: This is a photograph of a demonstration by the National Woman's Party for the voting rights of women. The procession took place in Washington, D.C. in 1914.



Source: Harris & Ewing.

Examine the photograph above. Based on your knowledge of United States history and an examination of the evidence in the image, which of the following represents the most likely reason for the women marching in this photograph?

- A. Emancipation of slaves
- B. Labor strike against *The Washington Post* (newspaper)
- C. Rock and roll music
- D. Women's suffrage [right to vote] (answer cue)**

Explanation

This item assesses students' critical reading of a visual image. Students must examine the photograph closely in order to generate the correct response. Answer "A" is incorrect because the presence of an automobile indicates that the photograph was taken in the early twentieth century, while the emancipation of slaves occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. "B" is unlikely because most newspaper workers at the time were men, and this protest appears to consist entirely of women. In addition, labor strikers more often protested in front of their workplaces. "C" is not correct because the style of dress and model of automobile indicate that this photograph was taken prior to the 1950s, when rock and roll emerged. This leaves "D" as the best response because it is the most likely for the period evident in the photograph. **[Critical Reading, Contextualizing]**

Source for Photograph: Harris & Ewing. *Women marching in national suffrage demonstration in Washington, D.C.*. Photograph. May 9, 1914. Records of the National Woman's Party, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Accessed 1/21/14. <<http://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000268>>

Note: Usually, teachers should place source citations immediately below the source material, unless doing so compromises the effectiveness of the assessment item. In this case, providing the title of the photograph and the collection name would reveal the correct answer to the students without requiring any critical reading or contextualization.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Directions: Analyze the photograph below and circle the response that best answers the question.



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