

Grade 5 HASS
Australian History

Suffragettes

Vida

Goldstein

4 fun activities!

Reading Passage

Suffragette Flip Book

Suffragette Research

Profile

Reading Passage Summary





The class were excited and a buzz of conversation hummed through the classroom. It was History class and Miss Townsend had arranged a special treat. She fiddled with the knobs and dials of the big expensive machine and turned to the class.

"Class, today we will be talking with Vida Jane Goldstein who is coming to us from the 1920s. Please keep your questions related to her life, do not mention her death, and class - no mobile phones!"

Miss Townsend turned the dial and the time machine whirled into life. A dazzling beam of white light appeared and a woman stepped from the light. She was well-groomed and wore a smart hat. She looked at the class and smiled warmly. "Good afternoon children. How may I help you?"

Jess smiled at the woman and said, "Ms Goldstein, is it true that you lived in the Victorian era and never married?"

Vida smiled and said, "While I am saddened to learn that children of this century think of women from the 1800s and 1900s only as wives and mothers, I understand why you think that way. To answer your question young miss, no, I did not wed. I made a conscious decision not to wed lest it come between me and my work."

Elijah frowned and said, "Didn't you want security from a husband?"

Vida looked at Elijah and shook her head. "Though my father, Jacob, was traditional in his views and values, he encouraged me and my sisters to have an education and an understanding of economics and politics. I wonder if this was because we were born here in the 'young colony' and not across the ocean in Ireland. My mother further encouraged these kinds of ideals in us girls. She was a suffragette in the truest sense."

"What's a suffragette?" Elijah asked.

"Elijah! Miss Townsend explained it last week!" Jess cried. "They were the women who wanted equal rights as men. Rights to vote and be paid the same."

"Essentially yes," Vida nodded. "Though women's suffrage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was about far more than the right to vote and equal pay. Women's suffrage was about our very right to be included as a member of society. To be seen and heard. To be valued as citizens. And although I was born in 1869 when some pioneers had already begun the suffragette movement, it wasn't until mother and I assisted in the collection

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

of 31,000 signatures on a petition for the Women's Suffrage Movement - in only six weeks - that the State of Victoria finally began to see the issue for what it was."

Elijah frowned. "You sure don't look like a feminist."

Vida raised an eyebrow and said, "Not every feminist is a militant, young sir. Nor single. Most of the supporters of the suffragette movement were already married women. Menfolk too supported the movement. Even notable menfolk."

"Were you happy when women were granted the right to vote in federal elections in 1902?" Jess asked.

"It was a good start, young miss. A step in the right direction. Alas, there was so much more that needed fighting for; equal property rights, raising the age of marital consent, rights for women to access contraception more easily. Not to mention the terrible horror of war."

"But men were the ones who went to war. Not women. I thought you were all for women's rights," Elijah asked.

Vida smiled sadly and said, "Young sir, I have learned in my life that it really isn't about men and women - it's about humanity. No human, regardless of gender, should suffer. Mankind needs peace and pacifism above all else. Remember these words children; in essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity."

"Miss Townsend nodded and said, "We have run out of time unfortunately. Vida Goldstein, thank you for coming to talk with the class. We wish you all the best for your future."

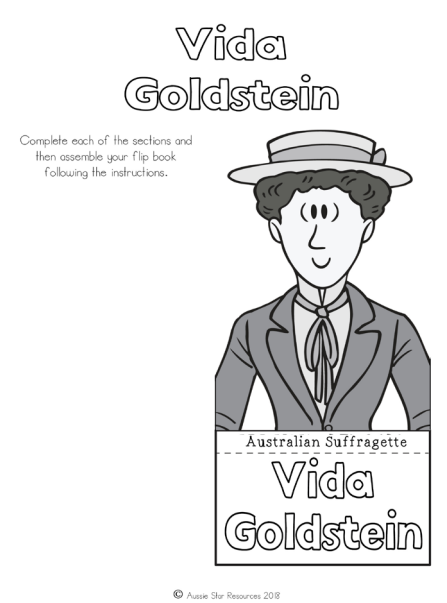
Vida nodded at Miss Townsend and the class. She disappeared back into the time machine and vanished in a beam of bright white light.

Miss Townsend turned to the class and said, "Bonus points for anyone who can tell me the end of Vida Goldstein's story."

Jess raised her hand and said, "Vida Goldstein became increasingly concerned with the welfare of society until she died in 1949."

"Miss Townsend nodded. "Correct. Known as a charming orator, Vida's personal beliefs in Christian Science guided her last few years and she turned her attention to healing and promoting the message of the church, until she succumbed to cancer in her South Yarra home in 1949. For her contributions not only to women, but to humanity, Vida Goldstein is recognised as a true Australian Pioneer."

© Aussie Star Resources 2018



GLUE HERE	GLUE HERE
How did Vida's parents help her to become a strong and free thinker?	Vida describes the suffrage movement as more than a right to vote. What else were they fighting for?
It was unusual for women to not marry in colonial times. Why didn't Vida want to get married?	Vida believed that the fight for equal rights was important for 'humanity'. What do you think he means by this?

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

Australian Suffragette Profile Vida Goldstein

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

How would you describe the character of Vida Goldstein based on the story and your research?

How did Vida Goldstein bring about political and social reform?

Two questions I have about Vida Goldstein.

1. _____

2. _____

Two facts I've learned about Vida Goldstein.

1. _____

2. _____

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

A summary...

A summary is a brief outline of the main points of something such as a story or an event. A summary can be useful to help people quickly know what happened. Write a brief summary of Vida Goldstein's visit to Miss Townsend's class.

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

Vida Goldstein Answers

GLUE HERE	GLUE HERE
"Though my father, Jacob, was traditional in his views and values, he encouraged me and my sisters to have an education and an understanding of economics and politics. I wonder if this was because we were born here in the 'young colony' and not across the ocean in Ireland. My mother further encouraged these kinds of ideals in us girls. She was a suffragette in the truest sense."	"Though women's suffrage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was about far more than the right to vote and equal pay. Women's suffrage was about our very right to be included as a member of society. To be seen and heard. To be valued as citizens."
How did Vida's parents help her to become a strong and free thinker?	Vida describes the suffrage movement as more than a right to vote. What else were they fighting for?
It was unusual for women to not marry in colonial times. Why didn't Vida want to get married?	Vida believed that the fight for equal rights was important for 'humanity'. What do you think he means by this?

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

Australian Suffragette Profile Vida Goldstein ANSWERS

Full Name: Vida Jane Mary Goldstein

Date of Birth: 13th April, 1869

Place of Birth: Portland

Date of Death: 6th August, 1949

How would you describe the character of Vida Goldstein based on the story and your research?

How did Vida Goldstein bring about political and social reform?

Answers will vary.

Vida was heavily involved in the women's suffrage movement and helped to collect signatures on the petition that was presented to the Victorian Parliament with more than 30,000 signatures.

Two questions I have about Vida Goldstein.

1. Answers will vary.

2. _____

Two facts I've learned about Vida Goldstein.

1. Answers will vary.

2. _____

© Aussie Star Resources 2018

ANSWERS AND ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED

