

# Teaching history from **DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES:**

## Fourth Grade Lesson on Women's Suffrage Movement

### GA Social Studies Standards

**SS4H4 Examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements.**

**a. Discuss contributions of and challenges faced by Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.**

When you think about women's suffrage, what comes to your mind? Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Seneca Falls? You are not alone.

A traditional narrative of women suffrage often begins with the Seneca Falls where Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other activists gathered in 1848 to discuss women's rights. From there, the story goes, Susan B. Anthony and other white women waged decades-long fights until finally the 19th Amendment gave all women the right to vote.

Well, the story of women's suffrage is more complex, richer, and longer than the traditional narrative. Also, there are many nonwhite women who helped make the right to vote a reality for all women. For example,



**Zitkála-Šá** was a Native American musician, writer and activist who fought for women's suffrage and Indigenous voting rights in the early 20th century. Her writings and activism led to citizenship and voting rights for not only women, but all Indigenous people.

**Ida B. Wells** (1862–1931) was an African American journalist, activist, and researcher. She highlighted the link between racial and gender discrimination and saw woman suffrage as a means for Black women to become politically involved and elect African Americans to influential offices.

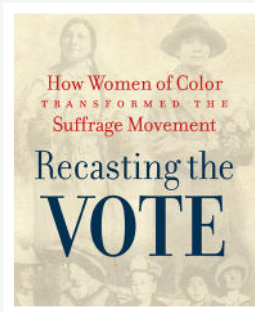
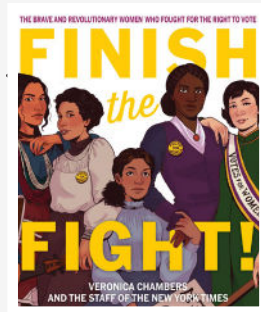


**Jovita Idár** (1885–1946) was a Mexican American journalist, activist, and suffragist who helped found the League of Mexican Women to demand women's suffrage and equal education for Mexican American children. She dedicated her life to fight to expose and fight against anti-Mexican discrimination.





**Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (1896-1966)** was a Chinese immigrant activist who helped lead over 10,000 people in the 1912 New York suffrage parade on horseback when she was in high school. She published many articles about women's suffrage, led another New York suffrage parade in 1917, and served the Chinese American community in New York.



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**(Top to Bottom, Left to Right)**

1. Gertrude Kasebier, Zitkala Sa, Sioux Indian and activist, c. 1898. National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.
2. Portrait of Ida B. Wells from the 1893 book, "Women of Distinction." Public Domain.
3. Jovita Idar portrait c. 1905 Unknown author - General Photograph Collection/UTSA Libraries Special Collections via NYT
4. Photo of Mabel Lee from the New York Tribune article. From the Library of Congress' Chronicling America website. Public domain.
5. Chambers, Veronica et al. Finish the Fight! : The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote. Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2020.
6. Cahill, Cathleen D. Recasting the Vote : How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement. University of North Carolina Press 2020.

Introduce these women while teaching Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton, so that students appreciate diverse groups of women who made the right to vote a reality for all women.

Use QR code for the complete article and teaching resources!

Do you want to include more stories of Asian America into your lessons? Check out this fabulous book, Teaching Asian America in Elementary Classrooms by Noreen Naseem Rodríguez, Sohyun An, & Ester June Kim.

**Complete Article and Lesson Plan**

