

## High School US History/Government/Civics Indigenous and Women of Color Suffrage Activism

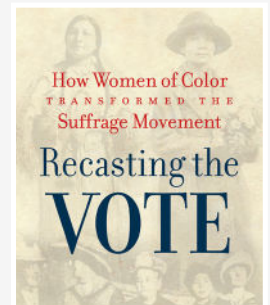
### GA Social Studies Standards

**SSUSH7: c. Explain the influence of the Second Great Awakening on social reform movements, including temperance, public education, and women's efforts to gain suffrage.**

**SSUSH16: b. Describe the effects of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments**

**SSCG7: d. Identify how amendments extend the right to vote.**

The story of women's suffrage is more complex, richer, and longer than the traditional narrative that runs from the Seneca Falls Convention to the 19th Amendment with focus on a few famous suffragists.



What is often missing in telling the Seneca Falls Convention story is Haudenosaunee women who inspired early suffragists as they selected the chiefs, owned property, and held elevated roles in spirituality.

The 19th Amendment did not affirmatively grant the right to vote to all women—or to any women. All the amendment says is: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. That means states could block nonwhite women from voting for reasons other than gender, such as poll taxes and literacy tests.

For nonwhite women suffragists, winning the right to the vote wasn't an endpoint. Instead, it was a tool to achieve broader civil and human rights, and each group's struggles differed, partly because Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian women had different relationships with US citizenship.

The suffrage movement was not without conflict and discrimination. The Seneca Falls Convention did not have a single Black woman in attendance. During the debate on the 15th Amendment, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony opposed the amendment because it would give Black men the vote before white women.

There were divergent voices within groups. For example, not all Indigenous people supported Indigenous campaigns for citizenship and suffrage. Many Indigenous leaders believed that if they agreed to US citizenship and participated in elections, they would give up their tribal sovereignty.



There are many nonwhite women who helped make the right to vote a reality for all women. Here are some:



**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.

Use QR code for the complete article, lesson plan, and primary sources!

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**



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

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

