

If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights

By Anna Kamma

There was a time that girls and women in the United States could not wear pants; play sports on a team; ride a bicycle; or go to college.

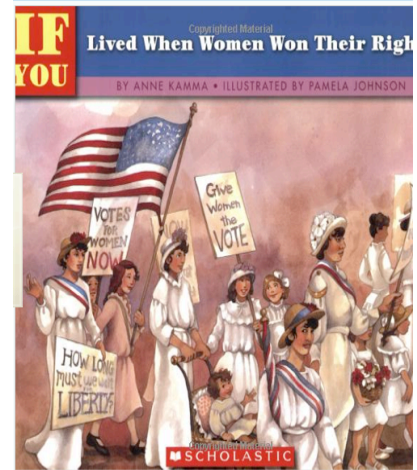
That all began to change in 1848, when American women (and some men) met in Seneca Falls, NY, at the first convention for women's rights held anywhere in the world.

In the familiar question-and-answer format, this installment in the acclaimed *If You Lived...* history series tells the exciting story of how women worked to get equal rights with men, culminating in the 19th amendment to the Constitution and giving women the right to vote.

Readers find out what life was like for girls in those days and meet the pioneering figures in the movement, including Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Paul.

Anne Kamma has written several books in the series including *If You Lived When There Was Slavery in America* and *If You Lived with the Indians of the Northwest Coast*, both illustrated by Pamela Johnson

It is hard to believe that women in American have only had the right to vote for the last 90 years. Today, we just take our right to vote, work, own property, dress as we wish, and attend the school of our choice to become doctors, lawyers, senators, and business executives for granted. Hasn't it always been this way? No, as Kamma explains in her book, it took a lot of brave women--and even braver leaders among them--to make it happen. We owe a great deal to Elizabeth Caddy Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Carrie Chapman Catt. The table of contents is made up of questions; these lead you into the text and on to the answers. Readers will be appalled to learn that, in the past, when women married they lost all of their property and that their husbands were entitled to everything, even custody of the children. It was not until women protestors were mistreated and jailed that the public outcry grew loud enough for legislators to take notice. Readers will be appalled to learn that, in the past, when women married they lost all of their property and that their husbands were entitled to everything, even custody of the children. It was not until women protestors were mistreated and jailed that the public outcry grew loud enough for legislators to take notice. Then, thirty-six states had to ratify an amendment to the Constitution that would give women the right to vote, and that did not happen until 1920. This book is a must-read for girls, and boys should also read it.



All should be grateful to these women who fought to give us the freedoms we have today.

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