

bio.

CLASSROOM



Bio4Kids: Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)

Brief Outline

It may be hard to imagine, but women in the United States haven't always had the right to vote. It took the hard work and dedication of people, such as Susan B. Anthony, to make that happen. She spent much of her life fighting for causes she believed in, especially for women's suffrage, or the right to vote.

Born on February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts, Anthony grew up in a politically active family. They worked to end slavery in what was called the abolitionist movement. They were also part of the temperance movement, which wanted the production and sale of alcohol limited or stopped completely. Anthony was inspired to fight for women's rights while campaigning against alcohol. She denied a chance to speak at a temperance convention because she was a woman. Anthony later realized that no one would take women in politics seriously unless they had the right to vote.

Along with activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony founded the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. Around this time, the two created and produced *The Revolution*, a weekly publication that lobbied for women's rights. Later the pair edited three volumes of *History of Woman Suffrage* together.

Anthony was tireless in her efforts, giving speeches around the country to convince others to support a woman's right to vote. She even took matters into her own hands in 1872 when she voted in the presidential election illegally. Anthony was arrested and tried unsuccessfully to fight the charges. She ended up being fined \$100-a fine she never paid.

When Anthony died on March 13, 1906, women still did not have the right to vote in the United States. It wasn't until 1920, 14 years after her death, that the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution-giving all adult women the right to vote-was passed. In recognition of her dedication and hard work, the U.S. Treasury Department put Anthony's portrait on one dollar coins in 1979, making her the first woman to be so honored.

Related Websites

Visit the Susan B. Anthony House

<http://susanbanthonyhouse.org/>

Check out the PBS special on Anthony and Stanton

<http://www.pbs.org/stantonanthony/>