Vida Goldstein fights on

Vida Goldstein ran two magazines for women’s rights: *The Woman’s Sphere* (1900–05) and *The Woman Voter* (1909–19). She stood for election to the Senate on five occasions without success. However, she received many votes from men and women, and her election campaigns increased awareness of the unfair way women were treated. In 1903, she was guest speaker at a women’s meeting in the United States and, from 1911 to 1913, she helped the British women’s suffrage movement. In Britain the vote was not extended to all adult women until 1928.

**Did you know?**

Vida Goldstein supported trade unions and socialism. During the First World War (1914–18) she campaigned for peace even though this lost her many supporters. In 1919 she represented Australia at the Geneva Women’s Peace Conference. She died in 1949. An electorate in Melbourne is now named after her.

**Source 2** A portrait of Vida Goldstein, painted in 1944 by Phyll Waterhouse

**Source 3**  *Here, you man! Where’s that vote you promised me?* This cartoon was published in *The Worker*, a Queensland trade union newspaper, on 17 November 1900.

**Vida Goldstein fights on**

**Activities**

**CHRONOLOGY, TERMS AND CONCEPTS**

1. Create a timeline of developments in the struggle for women’s political rights between 1888 and 1921.

**EXPLANATION AND COMMUNICATION**

2. How were women disadvantaged in political rights, in families and in the workforce?

3. How did Louisa Lawson and Vida Goldstein contribute to the struggle for equal rights?

**PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS**

4. What does **Source 1** say about discrimination against women?

5. Look at **Sources 1 and 2**. Imagine you are Vida Goldstein and you have just read a newspaper article ridiculing your work. Write a letter to the editor arguing for your views.

**ANALYSIS AND USE OF SOURCES**

6. Use the five questions provided in the SkillBuilder spread to analyse the cartoon in **Source 3**.

**socialism** a political system in which governments control the economy to ensure greater equality

**suffrage** the right to vote in elections