**US History**

**Measurement Topic 4:** The 1920’s

**Learning Target #1: What was the 19th amendment? How did the 19th amendment change the role of women in society?**

Since the founding of the United States women had never had the right to vote and when the 14 and 15 amendments were passed giving African American men the right to vote, women began to fight for their right to vote as well. This fight for the right to vote was called the suffrage movement. Women formed the National American Women’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA) to unite together for support in gaining the right to vote. Women supported this movement so they could vote on social reforms or help pass labor laws to protect women. Women would organize marches, speak in public and write letters to lawmakers in hopes of having a law created allowing women the right to vote.

Women, who fought for the right to vote, were known as suffragists and were considered rebellious. Their behavior was radical behavior for women. People called women immoral which caused some women to be shunned, rejected by the people in their neighborhoods. Despite all the resistance, women still fought for their right to vote. Wyoming had granted women the right to vote in 1869 and by 1912 at least half of the states allowed women to vote. On August 26, 1920, the **19th amendment** was added to the US Constitution allowing women the right to vote.

The ability to vote gave women confidence and they began to change. Women began to dress differently, wear their hair differently and even began to work for pay outside of their homes. The iconic image of women during the 1920’s was the flapper. A flapper was a woman who rebelled against the rules women were expected to follow. Flappers would wear short skirts, cut their hair into bobs, drink liquor, smoke cigarettes and go out dancing. Although most women in the 1920 did not look or behave like a flapper, this is the image associated with women during the 1920’s.

Women’s lives changed as they began to move into the work force. Women became main consumers/ spenders as a result of their jobs. New inventions were created to help women’s lives become easier. Electricity took the place of candles and allowed for things to be done after darkness had fallen. Washer machines were invented allowing women to spend less time washing clothing by hand. Another time saver was the electrical iron. Prior to having an electric iron, women had to heat an iron on a wood stove to iron. Refrigerators, gas stoves and personal hygiene products also improved not only women’s lives but everyone’s. Electricity and inventions helped improve women’s lives and increase their leisure time.

Questions:

1. What was the suffrage movement? What is a suffragist?
2. How were women suffragist seen or treated?
3. Which state was the first state to grant women the right to vote?
4. What is the 19th amendment?
5. What happened to women as a result of the right to vote?
6. What is a flapper? Describe their look and behavior.
7. Which inventions helped women’s lives and how?

Summarize the suffrage movement and the lasting effects to women as a result of the right to vote.

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