

# Women's Suffrage: Paper Flowers

**Activity Overview:** 2020 marks the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. As a way to show their support of the suffrage movement, different suffrage groups from around the country would choose symbols and images to grow support for their cause. The yellow rose was one of the most popular symbols. This activity is a creative way to show your support for suffrage 100 years after the historic passage of the 19th Amendment.

**Recommended Grade Levels:** 4th-5th Grade

**Estimated Activity Length:** 30-45 minutes

**Iowa Core Social Studies Standards**

*4th Grade: SS.4.9., SS.4.10., SS.4.21., VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr2.1.4a, VA:Cr2.2.4a, VA:Re.7.2.4a*

*5th Grade: SS.5.8., SS.5.9., SS.5.26., VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr2.2.5a, VA:Cr3.1.5a, VA:Re.7.2.5a*

## Connection to Iowa History

When Iowa became a state in 1846, women were not allowed to vote in elections. Although women across the United States would not be granted full suffrage until 1920, Iowa was home to many important suffrage leaders including Amelia Bloomer and Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. As Iowans like Bloomer and Catt helped advance the cause, statewide suffrage organizations used specific symbols including bluebirds in Massachusetts, sunflowers in Kansas and yellow roses. With a single glance, any person on the street would know if a passing stranger was pro-suffrage with a yellow rose on their lapel.



## Instructions

- 1 Using scissors, cut a circle out of the paper you have chosen for your flower. The circle should be three inches in diameter. However, size can vary depending on how large you would like the final flower.
- 2 Draw a spiral shape starting from the outer edge of the circle inward toward the center point.
- 3 Starting on the outside edge, cut along the spiral towards the center. For a more natural look, make your lines slightly wavy and imperfect.
- 4 Beginning from the outside, tightly coil the paper, rolling toward the center.
- 5 After rolling, allow the paper coil to loosen. This should create the shape of a rose.
- 6 To secure, add some glue to the end of the coil and attach it to the flower

## Materials

- Colored paper, newspaper or construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue, glue stick

*Instructions continued on next page*

# Goldie at Home: Women's Suffrage - Paper Flowers

## Instructions continued

### 7 Questions to Spark Learning

- Massachusetts chose the bluebird and Kansas selected the sunflower to represent their state's suffrage movements. What symbol do you think Iowa should have chosen and why?
- Why do you think roses became a symbol of the national suffrage movement? If you had to select a flower, what would you choose and why?
- Why do you think symbols and icons are important to social movements? How do symbols and icons help to illustrate the goals of the movement?

### 8 Additional Resources

Explore these resources below to learn more about women's suffrage in Iowa and around the United States.

- [State Historical Society of Iowa: Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection](#)
- [Iowa Women's Archives: Women's Suffrage in Iowa - An Online Exhibit](#)
- [Iowa PBS: Boone Suffrage Parade](#)
- [State Historical Society of Iowa: Women's Suffrage Primary Source Set](#) and [Right to Vote: Suffrage for Women, African Americans and American Indians](#)

