

The Progressive Era

*The Emergence of Modern
America (1890–1930)*



The Progressive movement

Equal rights?

Progressive presidencies

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will be able to explain the role of women and African Americans in the Progressive movement, including:

- The changing role of women and their part in the Progressive movement
- The fight for women's suffrage
- The treatment of black people and movements for racial equality.



During this time, women became more significant agents of social and political change.

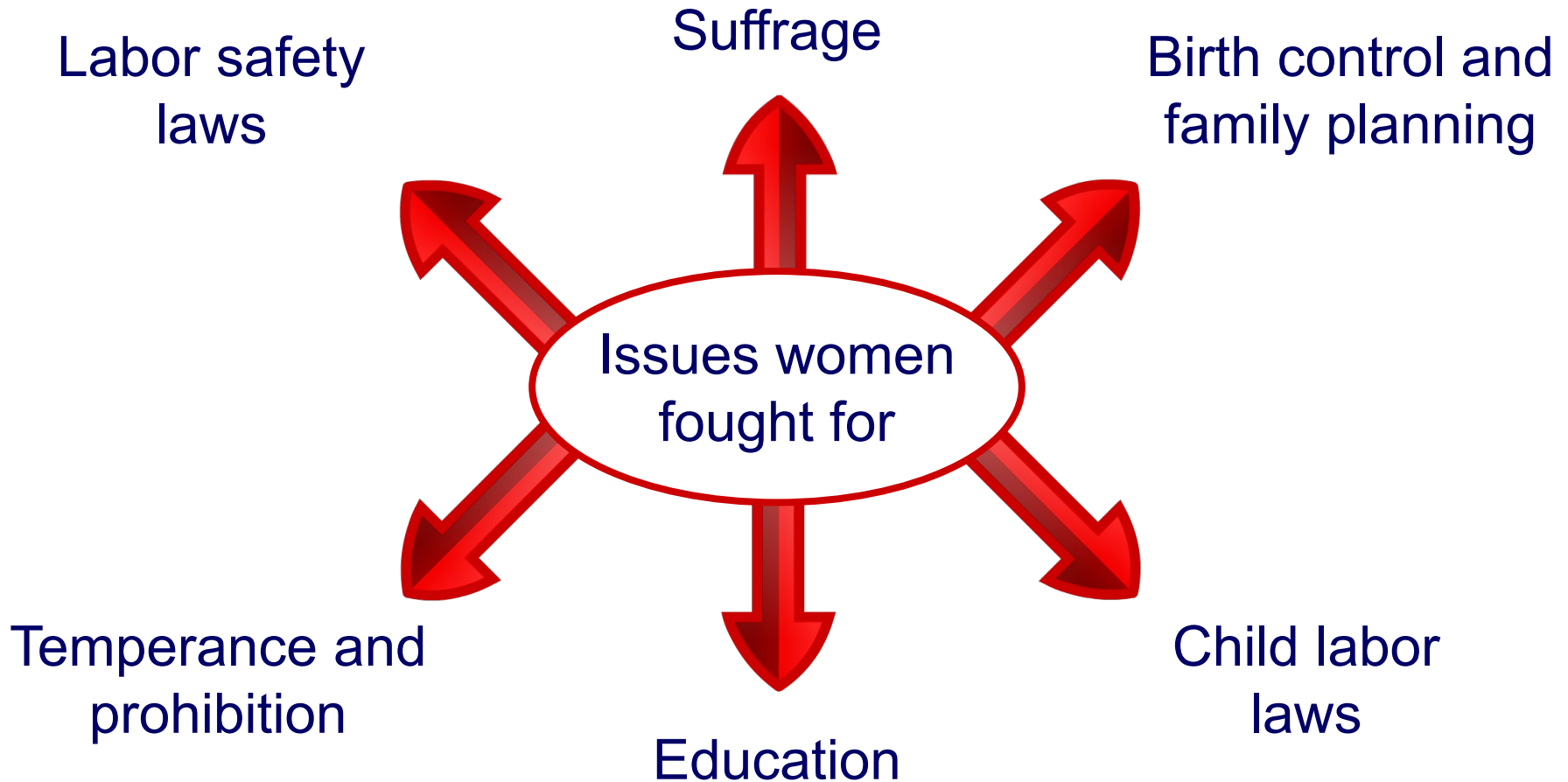
Women were not allowed to join men's clubs and so began forming their own around 1868. At first these clubs were aimed at improving themselves intellectually and in doing charitable works.

Soon, as some of these women learned more about the plights of others through their charity, they began to fight for a variety of causes.





Women were key participants in the Progressive movement. They campaigned for a number of issues, including:





Over time, women became more heavily involved in the workplace. Read this passage about the changing role of women and select the correct word to fill each blank.

Press **start** to begin.

start



What percentage of women held jobs in 1900?



During the Progressive era, there was a concentrated effort to achieve women's suffrage. This was finally achieved after the hard work of various people and organizations. Press on the buttons to find out more about the key participants and events.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The Progressive era saw the emergence of new movements for racial equality. There were different ideas about how to pursue this cause, notably from the two most prominent advocates, Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Can you match each campaigner to their photograph and beliefs?

Press **start** to begin.

start





Booker T. Washington was a prominent educator and **civil rights** leader between 1895 and 1915. He had the widespread support of black Americans and also patronage from many wealthy, liberal white Americans.

His belief was that cooperation with white Americans was the best way to overcome **racism** and **segregation**. He felt that, through education, black Americans would demonstrate their equality with white Americans.

He used his powerful friends to establish and run thousands of schools and educational facilities for black Americans in the South.



Look at the photo. Who is the man in the front center?



W.E.B. Du Bois was another prominent civil rights leader. He formed the **Niagara Movement** in 1905, in which selected black Americans in various fields were to reach out to the remainder. The elitism of this group prevented widespread support and it eventually died out.

It did, however, lay the groundwork for the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**, which was formed in 1909 with an interracial membership.

Du Bois criticized Booker T. Washington for being too accommodating.

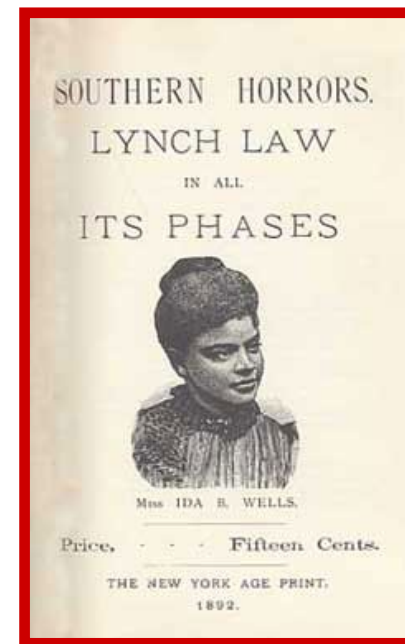




One of the most violent forms of black oppression was **lynching**. This was the practice of killing people by mobs.

Lynching was at its peak between about 1890, with the passage of the **Jim Crow laws**, and 1930. Lynching was rarely prosecuted.

Activist Ida B. Wells as well as other members of NAACP worked to pass legislation to make lynching a federal crime, but all these bills were stopped by Southern legislators.





The Progressive era saw equal rights movements and organizations for both women and black Americans. Decide whether you think these statements are true or false.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Were equal rights obtained?



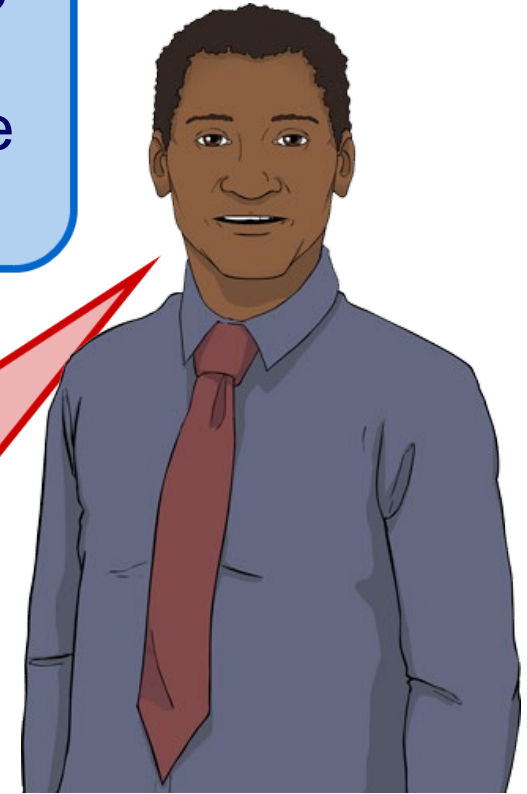
board
works

Despite some activism and changes, equality was still a long way off.



The battle for racial equality continued throughout the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

It was not until 90 years after the NAACP's report that President Obama signed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law.



Do you think equal rights activists made any real gains during the Progressive era?