

Read the information and answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided.

The women's suffrage movement generally began with the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, held by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. It would take over 70 years for the efforts at Seneca Falls to materialize into the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Wyoming was the first territory or state to grant *full* suffrage to women. By 1908, 27 states granted women *some* voting rights, often in municipal or school board elections. This did not include the right to vote for state and national legislators, or the President. One reason national suffrage was such a battle was because Southern legislators were worried that by enfranchising black women, white power and white supremacy would be weakened.

Jane Addams was not generally regarded as a suffragist – her interests were in social reform. However, by 1910 Addams became clear that the women's vote was necessary to winning support for reforms.

A woman's simplest duty ... is to keep her house clean and wholesome and to feed her children properly. Yet if she lives in a tenement house, as so many of my neighbors do, she cannot fulfill these simple obligations by her own efforts because she is utterly dependent upon the city administration for the conditions which [make] decent living possible. Her basement will not be dry, her stairways will not be fireproof ..... She cannot even secure untainted meat for her household .....unless the meat has been inspected by city officials....

... [If] woman would fulfill her traditional responsibility to her own children ... then she must bring herself to use the ballot..... American women need this ... to preserve the home.

**Source:** Jane Addams, "Why Women Should Vote," *Ladies Home Journal*, January, 1910.

**Note:** Jane Addams was the co-founder in 1889 of Hull House, a famous settlement house in Chicago.



**Source:** Library of Congress Image

1. When did Jane Addams write her article for *Ladies Home Journal*?
2. What did she mean by "the ballot"?
3. How does Jane Addams use traditional gender rolls for women to justify women's suffrage?
4. In the photo of the "Silent Sentinels" above, the sign being displayed reads, "Mr. President, How Long Must Women Wait For Liberty?" The protestors were standing in front of the White House. Do you think this was a good way for women to fight for the vote?