

# Reading Comprehension - ZP10-Vorbereitung (ESA)



Name:

Date:

## Women's Voting Rights in New Zealand

In 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to allow women to vote. This was a very important event in New Zealand's history. Women could vote in elections and have a say in how the country was run. Before this, only men were allowed to vote.

The fight for women's voting rights was led by Kate Sheppard. She worked very hard and organized many meetings. She also collected thousands of signatures on a petition to show that many people wanted women to vote. Her hard work paid off, and the government changed the law.

Allowing women to vote was a big step for New Zealand. It showed that women were equal to men. This event also inspired other countries to give women voting rights. Today, New Zealand is proud of its history of equality.

1 **petition:** a formal written request signed by many people asking for a change

2 **government:** the group of people who make decisions for a country

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**1. New Zealand was the first country to permit women to vote. This statement is ...**

☐ True ☐ False

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**2. Kate Sheppard showed that many people wanted women to vote by...**

☐ collecting signatures for a petition ☐ organizing protests ☐ writing letters to newspapers

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**3. New Zealand's decision to allow women to vote inspired...**

- ☐ men to campaign for voting rights.   ☐ women to pursue higher education.  
☐ other countries to consider women's suffrage.

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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The success of the women's voting rights movement in New Zealand was not just due to Kate Sheppard. Many other women also played important roles. For example, Mary Ann Müller wrote articles and letters to newspapers to argue for women's voting rights. These writings helped educate people about the issue. Another important figure was Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia. She was the first Māori woman to ask the government to let women vote. She spoke at a meeting and explained why Māori women should also have the right to vote. Her speech was very powerful and influenced many people.

The fight for women's voting rights included many steps. Women held public meetings to discuss the issue. They also created groups like the Women's Christian Temperance Union to help with their cause. These groups worked together to collect signatures for the petition.

The movement showed that women were strong and could make a difference. It was not just about voting; it was also about showing that women deserved equal rights. The work of these women paved the way for future generations to continue fighting for equality.

1 **figure:** an important person in a particular situation or event

2 **to argue:** to give reasons for or against something

3 **temperance:** the practice of avoiding alcohol

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**4. Kate Sheppard was the only woman who contributed to the women's voting rights movement in New Zealand. This statement is ...**

☐ True ☐ False

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**5. Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia was important in the women's voting rights movement in New Zealand because...**

☐ she was the first Māori woman to ask the government to let women vote.  
☐ she organized public meetings for women. ☐ she wrote articles and letters to newspapers.

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**6. Women formed the Women's Christian Temperance Union to support their cause. This statement is ...**

☐ True ☐ False

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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Many women in New Zealand worked hard to get the right to vote. After they succeeded, they continued fighting for other rights. One important area was education. Women wanted to have the same chances as men to go to school and university. They believed that education was important for equality.

Another area was work. Women wanted to have the same jobs as men and to get paid the same amount of money. They also wanted to be able to work after they got married. Before, many women had to stop working when they got married or had children.

Women also fought for their rights in politics. After they won the right to vote, they wanted to be able to become members of the government. They wanted to make laws and decisions for the country. In 1919, New Zealand allowed women to be elected to the government.

These fights were important for women's equality. They showed that women could do the same things as men and deserved the same rights. Today, New Zealand continues to work for equality in many areas.

1 **to succeed:** to achieve what you tried to do

2 **university:** a place where people study after finishing school

3 **elected:** chosen by voting

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**7. Women in New Zealand believed education was important for ...**

☐ learning new skills.   ☐ getting better jobs.   ☐ achieving equality.

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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**Tick the correct box and give one piece of evidence from the text.**

**8. Women in New Zealand were able to become members of the government immediately after they won the right to vote. This statement is ...**

☐ True   ☐ False

**One piece of evidence from the text:**

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