



What does this feeding tube have to do with a woman's right to vote?



[www.worcestermedicalmuseums.com/resources](http://www.worcestermedicalmuseums.com/resources)

## WHAT IS THIS?

This is a feeding tube. It is a medical device used to provide nutrition to a patient who is unable or unwilling to swallow food or drink normally.

The suffragettes were a movement of women in the early 1900s who wanted to get women the vote in Britain. They broke the law to do get their message across, including vandalising property and violence towards politicians. The women would choose to go to prison and go on hunger strike for their cause. The government didn't want the cause to have martyrs so the women would be force fed using a tube similar to the one above. This caused public outcry as this treatment was only used to treat lunatics and not educated women.

## HOW CAN I USE THIS IN THE CLASSROOM?

Display the picture and question as students enter the room and use to discuss feminism, political or voting reform and the effect of the public on this.

Get students to right a diary account of being a suffragette under going force feeding.