

iron jawed angels viewing guide answer key

iron jawed angels viewing guide answer key is your essential resource for understanding the historical context and thematic depth of the film "Iron Jawed Angels." This comprehensive viewing guide is designed to facilitate a deeper engagement with the documentary's portrayal of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. By providing a detailed answer key, we aim to illuminate the key figures, pivotal events, and significant challenges faced by activists like Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. This guide will explore the film's historical accuracy, its impact on understanding women's rights, and the crucial lessons learned from this vital period in American history. Whether you are a student, educator, or history enthusiast, this resource will enrich your viewing experience and solidify your comprehension of the film's powerful message.

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Understanding the Historical Context of "Iron Jawed Angels"

The film "Iron Jawed Angels" vividly depicts the intense struggle for women's suffrage in the United States, primarily focusing on the period leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. To fully appreciate the narrative, understanding the sociopolitical climate of the early 20th century is crucial. Women at this time were largely denied basic political rights, including the right to vote, and faced significant societal constraints. The movement for suffrage had been ongoing for decades, with various organizations employing different strategies, from lobbying and peaceful protest to more radical forms of activism. The film effectively captures the atmosphere of resistance and the deeply entrenched patriarchal structures that the suffragists were fighting against.

The early 1900s were a time of significant social and political upheaval. Industrialization, immigration, and burgeoning progressive ideals were reshaping American society. Within this dynamic environment, the fight for

women's suffrage gained renewed momentum. The film highlights how the movement evolved, incorporating new tactics and attracting a new generation of determined leaders. The prevailing societal attitudes often dismissed women as being too emotional or unintellectual to participate in politics, underscoring the magnitude of the challenge faced by the suffragists. The "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" aims to provide clarity on these historical underpinnings, ensuring viewers grasp the full scope of the fight for equality.

Key Figures and Their Contributions

At the heart of "Iron Jawed Angels" are the determined women who spearheaded the final, aggressive push for suffrage. Alice Paul, portrayed as a brilliant strategist and unwavering leader, is central to the narrative. Her commitment to direct action, inspired by her experiences with more militant suffragettes in Britain, fundamentally shifted the tactics of the American movement. Lucy Burns, another pivotal figure, worked closely with Paul, often serving as her trusted lieutenant. Their collaboration was instrumental in organizing protests, rallies, and the now-famous Silent Sentinels.

Beyond Paul and Burns, the film introduces viewers to a diverse cast of suffragists, each contributing to the movement in their own way. Understanding the roles of figures like Ida B. Wells-Barnett, who fought for suffrage while also challenging racial segregation within the movement, offers a more nuanced perspective. The viewing guide will help identify and understand the specific contributions of these individuals, detailing their personal sacrifices and the impact of their activism.

- Alice Paul: Leader of the National Woman's Party, known for her strategic and often confrontational tactics.
- Lucy Burns: Co-founder of the National Woman's Party and a key organizer of protests.
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett: African American journalist and activist who advocated for suffrage and racial justice.
- Dudley Field Malone: A prominent lawyer who resigned from his government position in support of suffrage.

Major Events and Turning Points

The film meticulously chronicles a series of significant events that propelled the suffrage movement forward, often under extreme duress. The formation of the National Woman's Party (NWP) marked a critical turning point, signaling a more radical approach to achieving the vote. The Silent Sentinels' picketing of the White House, which began on Woodrow Wilson's inauguration day in 1917, is a landmark event depicted with compelling detail. This sustained protest, despite harsh weather and public condemnation, brought national attention to the cause.

Another crucial turning point discussed in an "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" is the imprisonment of the suffragists. When arrested for "obstructing traffic," many women, including Alice Paul, were sent to the Occoquan Workhouse. The brutal treatment they endured there, including forced feedings during hunger strikes, shocked the public and garnered sympathy for the movement. The subsequent public outcry and the growing pressure on President Wilson ultimately led to the amendment being sent to the states for ratification.

Themes Explored in the Film

"Iron Jawed Angels" delves into several profound themes that resonate deeply with contemporary discussions on equality and justice. The central theme is, of course, the fight for political equality and the inherent right of women to participate in democracy. The film powerfully illustrates the injustice of a system that excluded half of its population from the decision-making process. It showcases the courage and resilience required to challenge deeply ingrained societal norms and political opposition.

Another significant theme is the nature of activism and protest. The film contrasts different approaches to achieving social change, highlighting the effectiveness of both persistent lobbying and more direct, confrontational methods. The personal sacrifices made by the suffragists—their careers, their reputations, and their personal safety—are also a recurring motif, underscoring the depth of their commitment. The "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" helps to unpack these themes, encouraging critical reflection on the strategies employed and their ethical implications.

The Role of Civil Disobedience

Civil disobedience is a cornerstone of the narrative in "Iron Jawed Angels," representing a deliberate and principled violation of laws deemed unjust. The suffragists, particularly under Alice Paul's leadership, adopted tactics of civil disobedience to force the government to address their demands. Picketing the White House, engaging in parades, and willingly accepting

arrest and imprisonment were all forms of civil disobedience designed to highlight the hypocrisy of a nation founded on principles of liberty while denying fundamental rights to women.

The film shows how the suffragists strategically used their arrests and the subsequent mistreatment to their advantage. The hunger strikes and forced feedings, while horrific, became powerful tools for public awareness and sympathy. This element of the viewing guide aims to explain the philosophical underpinnings of civil disobedience as advocated by figures like Henry David Thoreau and Mahatma Gandhi, and how the suffragists adapted these principles to their specific struggle. The effectiveness of their commitment to non-violent resistance, even in the face of brutal retaliation, is a key takeaway.

Examining the Opposition

The opposition faced by the suffragists was formidable and multifaceted. The film depicts a society deeply resistant to changing gender roles, with many men and women believing that women's place was in the home. Political leaders, including President Woodrow Wilson for a significant period, were hesitant to endorse federal suffrage, often citing states' rights or the perceived lack of public support. The "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" helps to analyze the arguments used by anti-suffragists, which often included fears of societal disruption, the breakdown of the family unit, and the supposed unsuitability of women for the rigors of politics.

Furthermore, the suffragists also faced opposition from within the broader progressive movement, and crucially, from many white suffragists who were often willing to marginalize or exclude Black suffragists. The film touches upon the racial dynamics of the movement, showing how Black women often had to fight for their own suffrage rights separately or face discrimination within mixed-gender organizations. Understanding the varied and often prejudiced nature of the opposition is vital to appreciating the tenacity of the women who fought for the vote.

Legacy and Impact of the Suffrage Movement

The successful passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote nationwide, was a monumental achievement with lasting implications for American democracy. "Iron Jawed Angels" serves as a powerful reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and strategic brilliance that made this victory possible. The film highlights how the suffrage movement paved the way for future generations of women to engage in public life and advocate for their rights. The impact extends beyond the ballot box, influencing social

reforms and challenging traditional power structures.

The legacy of the suffragists is not just in the vote itself, but in the demonstration of the power of organized activism. The film encourages viewers to consider how the tactics and strategies employed by these "iron-jawed angels" continue to inform contemporary social justice movements. An "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" can help contextualize this legacy, connecting the historical struggle to ongoing efforts for equality and civic participation. The fight for complete equality, however, continued beyond 1920, especially for women of color who faced continued disenfranchisement.

Utilizing the Viewing Guide Effectively

To maximize your understanding and appreciation of "Iron Jawed Angels," this viewing guide is designed for active engagement. Before watching, familiarize yourself with the historical period and key figures. During the film, take notes on pivotal scenes, dialogue, and character interactions that illustrate the themes discussed. Use the "Iron Jawed Angels viewing guide answer key" to clarify any historical inaccuracies or complex strategies depicted on screen.

After viewing, revisit the guide's sections on historical context, key figures, and themes. Consider how the film portrays the challenges and triumphs of the suffrage movement. Discuss the film with others to share perspectives and deepen your analysis. This comprehensive resource is intended to serve as a catalyst for critical thinking and a deeper connection to a vital chapter of American history, ensuring that the lessons of the suffragists are not forgotten.

Q: What is the primary historical period covered by "Iron Jawed Angels"?

A: The film "Iron Jawed Angels" primarily covers the period of the women's suffrage movement in the United States leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, with a particular focus on the more militant tactics employed by the National Woman's Party in the years just prior to its ratification.

Q: Who were the main leaders of the suffrage movement depicted in the film?

A: The film prominently features Alice Paul and Lucy Burns as the central

leaders of the National Woman's Party, who were instrumental in advocating for more direct and confrontational methods to achieve women's suffrage.

Q: What were the "Silent Sentinels" and why were they significant?

A: The "Silent Sentinels" were suffragists who picketed the White House daily for over two years, starting in 1917. Their persistent and non-violent protest, even in the face of arrest and brutal treatment, significantly raised public awareness and put pressure on President Woodrow Wilson to support federal suffrage.

Q: What kind of opposition did the suffragists face, as shown in the film?

A: The suffragists faced significant opposition from various sources, including deeply ingrained societal beliefs about women's roles, political leaders reluctant to change the status quo, and public hostility towards their protests. The film also touches on the complexities of racial prejudice within the movement itself.

Q: How did civil disobedience play a role in the suffragists' strategy?

A: Civil disobedience was a key tactic employed by the suffragists, including peaceful protests, parades, and willingly accepting arrest and imprisonment for their actions. This strategy was designed to highlight the injustice of laws that denied women the vote and to provoke a response from the government.

Q: What was the significance of the hunger strikes and forced feedings depicted in the film?

A: The hunger strikes and subsequent forced feedings, particularly for suffragists imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, were depicted as brutal acts of repression that garnered widespread public sympathy for the suffrage cause and increased pressure on the government to act.

Q: Does "Iron Jawed Angels" adhere strictly to historical fact?

A: While "Iron Jawed Angels" is based on historical events and figures, it is a dramatization. Like many historical films, it condenses timelines, combines characters, and embellishes certain dramatic elements for narrative effect,

but it aims to accurately portray the spirit and major turning points of the suffrage movement.

Q: What is the 19th Amendment, and what did it achieve?

A: The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1920, states that the right of citizens to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." It was a landmark achievement that granted women the right to vote nationwide.

Q: What lessons can be learned from the strategies used by the suffragists?

A: The film highlights the power of persistent activism, strategic planning, courageous civil disobedience, and the importance of public awareness campaigns. It demonstrates that significant social change often requires unwavering dedication and the willingness to challenge established power structures.

Q: How does the film portray the contributions of women of color to the suffrage movement?

A: The film touches upon the challenges faced by African American suffragists, such as Ida B. Wells-Barnett, who often had to fight for suffrage rights separately due to racial discrimination within the movement. This aspect underscores the complex intersectionality of the fight for suffrage and racial equality.

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