



Lesson Plan 3: Chartism

Resources

Lesson three articles, the chronology and the glossary
Additional information: Political Reform topic introduction

Key questions:

- What was Chartism?
- How radical were the Six Points in the 1830s?
- How did the Chartists wish to achieve their aim?

Stage 1

In small groups ask the pupils to read the resource on Political Reform, the glossary information on Poor Laws, Feargus O'Connor (MP biography) and the information on the constituency of Monmouth.

Ask them to list the issues that seemed to affect the lives of the working classes.

When this is done ask the pupils to explore what options there are to change things?

Stage 2

Now ask pupils to read the information on Thomas Attwood (MP biography) and Glasgow constituency. From that information can the pupils answer the following questions:

Why were the Chartists formed?

What were the Six Points?

Return to the exercise at the start of the lesson how could the Six Points solve or make better some of the issues affecting working class people in the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s. For each of the points describe how it might help people and their lives at the time.

Stage 3

A number of those involved with the Chartists cause used newspapers as a way to either promote or undermine Chartism.

Using the information in this section split the class into two, ask one half to write a short article in favour of Chartism and how its members are trying to achieve their aim and one half to write articles against it and how it should be stopped.

Stage 4

In the end the Chartists did not get their ideals passed into law immediately, although later all of the points except one became part of the political process. Finish the lesson with a class debate or discussion using the question:

‘The Chartists achieved their aims in the long run by having all but one of the Six Points eventually become law, even though they seemed to fail at the time.’

Extended Activities

Find out when each of the Six Points became law.

Research the history and effect of petitioning Parliament