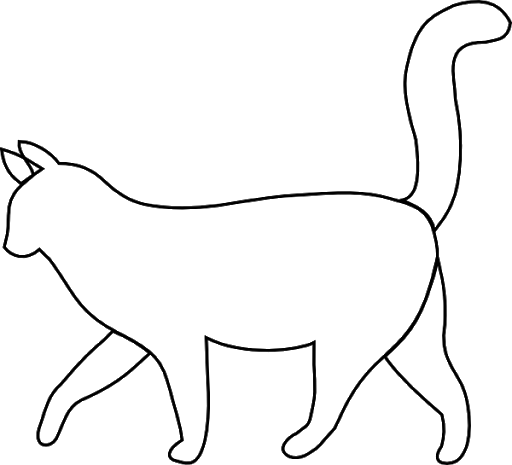
**Activities for Pre-Reading and Above**

**The Work of Suffragists **

***Did you know that at one time you were not allowed to vote in the United States if you were female? People had to fight for the right for women to vote. Finally, in 1909, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, which allowed both women and men the right to vote.***

**Symbols and colors of the suffrage movement**

***Citizens of Great Britain who fought for women’s right to vote were called “suffragists” and they adopted the colors of green and purple to represent their cause.***

***Later, the people in the United States became suffragists to gain the right to vote in this country. They used purple and gold as their colors, and wore banners with the slogan “Votes for Women” on it.* *Some people made fun of them and said they were like hissing cats. Instead of being insulted, they embraced the cat as a symbol of their movement!***

**VOCABULARY WORDS**

**Suffragists – Suffrage means the right to vote in political elections. A suffragist is someone who supports this right, especially for women.**

**Female – This means someone who is a girl or a woman.**

**Amendment – This words represents a change or an addition to the original.**

**Constitution – This is the document that founded our country.**

**Activity One**: Read the brief introduction on the previous page. Then, look at the pictures of the cats on the next two pages. Do you notice the purple and green in these pictures? Point the colors out and ask an adult to read what the words say in each picture. Compare these two cats to each other. What do you notice about each one? Which one do you think you would like to have as a pet and why? They are both different, but they stand for the same message. Why? What is that message? NOW, color in your own cat on the following page. For ideas, look at the pictures of some of the cats that were colored by others. Share yours via social media at #laoldstatecapitol

**Activity Two:** Color in the coloring page showing women marching peacefully to get attention for their cause and hopefully gain support for it. While you color, answer these questions out loud and talk about the questions to your friends and family:

1. How is the way they are dressed different than the way we dress today? Why?
2. Would men also be interested in marching for the right for women to vote?
3. Is it important that women vote? Why or why not?

**Activity Three:** Make your own sash and start your own march! With your parent’s help, cut a long piece of paper (you can use wrapping paper or a paper bag from the market), at least 12 inches long (or longer) and at least 4” wide. Print a short message about something that is important to you on it, like “Be Nice to Puppies!” or “Reading Rocks!” Then, tape your banner across the front part of your body diagonally, just as the women on your coloring sheet have theirs. Then, march in your house to get attention, repeating your slogan. If you can, get some friends to join you! The right to peacefully assemble to get attention for something that is important for you is an American right!

You can also make a “protest sign” by decorating a piece of cardboard with a short slogan that expresses something you feel strongly about, like “Better Lunch at School!” or “Keep America Clean.” A short catchy slogan with a colorful drawing and large letters tends to be most effective. Your voice is important and in fact every movement started with the conviction of one person, like you!







