



Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten and 10,000 Miles

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Book Description

Elementary | Nonfiction

In April 1916, Nell Richardson and Alice Burke set out from New York City in a little yellow car to spread the ‘Votes for Women!’ message on their 10,000-mile journey across the United States. This picture book with lively illustrations chronicles their adventures as they furthered their cause through ingenious means.

Discussion Questions

- How did new inventions (bicycle, car, train, typewriter, telegraph, etc.) impact the women’s suffrage movement?
- Why didn’t Neil and Alice travel through Utah? If they had stopped in Utah and you had lived there then, what would you have said to them?
- What creative ways have you seen others use to raise awareness for causes they care about?
- Other national suffrage events passed through Utah. For example, an automobile envoy passed through Salt Lake City, and suffragists paraded up Main Street in Salt Lake City, and later, up State Street to the Utah State Capitol. How do these demonstrations compare to demonstrations and protests that happen today?

Utah Connection

Sara Bard Field and Frances Joliffe transported a suffrage petition and resolutions cross-country by automobile—collecting additional signatures along the way to present to Congress and the President. The automobile was driven by Swedish women Ingeborg Kinstedt and Maria Kindberg. Mabel Vernon traveled ahead of envoys by train and helped organize autocades, parades, meetings, and petition drives at various stops. In addition to stopping in Salt Lake City twice, the envoy visited San Francisco, Denver, Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.



A suffrage parade coming up Main Street in Salt Lake City in August 1915 involving Utah suffragists and leaders from the National Woman’s Party. Participants were on their way to interview Utah senator Reed Smoot about his support for a national suffrage amendment. Courtesy of the National Woman’s Party.