One of the most tragic acts of protest occurred during the running of the English Derby, a popular horse race, on 4 June 1913. Emily Davison ran onto the track apparently to attach a protest flag to the saddle of the King’s horse. She sustained serious injuries after falling under the horse’s hooves and died not long after.

Source 11.19 Photograph taken at the moment of Emily Davison’s collision with King George V’s horse, Anmer, at the area of the racetrack known as Tattenham Corner

How do you think this event would have affected the suffragette cause?

Outcomes
Emmeline Pankhurst ended the campaign when Britain became involved in World War I in August 1914. She encouraged women to respond to calls to take over men’s jobs on the home front and serve as nurses in battle zones.

Women’s participation in the war effort increased their bargaining power. In 1918 the Fourth Reform Act granted the vote to women over 30. At the same time, all men over 21 gained the vote. It was not until 1928 that women gained equal voting rights with men. Emmeline Pankhurst died just a few weeks later, on 14 June 1928.

- What was society’s view of a woman’s place in the early twentieth century?
- How did British women challenge this viewpoint?
- How successful were they?