



A **TRUE** BOOK™

WOMEN in the Civil Rights Movement

Kesha Grant

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The
**FOUNDING
MOTHERS**
of the
United States

Selene Castrovilla

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WOMEN in World War II

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WOMEN
and the
Right to Vote

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Thank you to Elise McMullen-Ciotti for her insights into Indigenous Peoples' history and culture.

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Front cover: The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) parade held in Washington, D.C., on March 3, 1913.
Back cover: A suffragette cart advertising "Votes for Women."

Find the Truth

Everything you are about to read is true *except* for one of the sentences on this page.

Which one is **TRUE**?

- T or F** In 1917, New York became the first state to grant women the right to vote.
- T or F** During the struggle to win the right to vote, more than 90 women spent time in jail.



INTRODUCTION

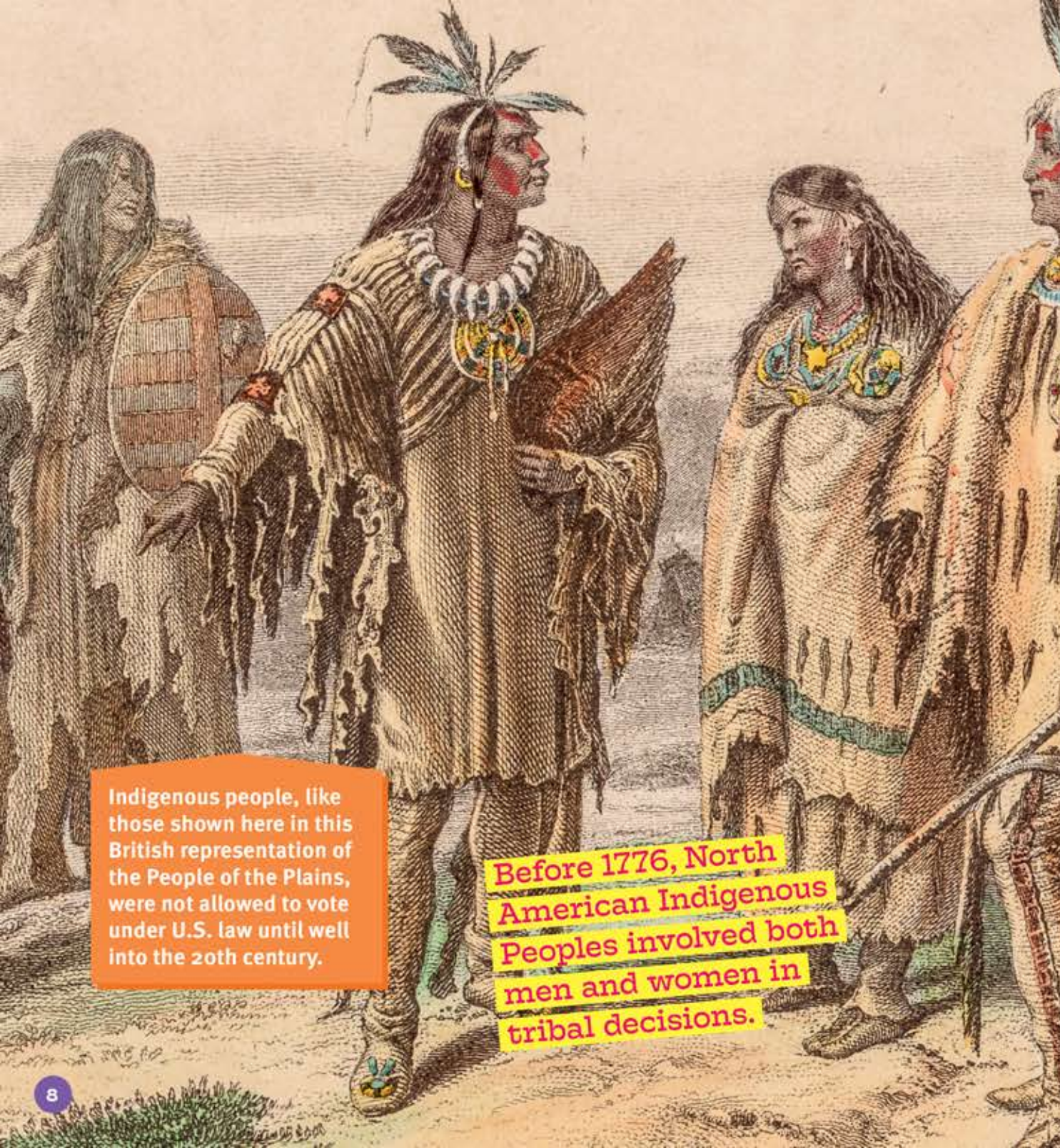
A Long Struggle

American women began demanding **suffrage**, the **right to vote**, in **1848** at the women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. One of the reasons women began demanding rights for themselves was their experience in the **abolition** movement. **For decades, women argued that the brutality of slavery must stop.** Women also wanted other rights they did not have, like the right to own land and get an education. **Black women also wanted to empower their communities, oppressed by racism.**



The battle for women's suffrage had many supporters and lasted many decades. Unlike other fighters throughout history, **women waged a war of words and nonviolent protests.** The movement had setbacks. Many people did not want change, and **women's organizations were divided** on several issues including race and policy. But there were also victories. Many women got the right to vote in **1920** when the Nineteenth **Amendment** was added to the U.S. **Constitution.** However, true equal voting rights would take much longer...

Statues at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, commemorate women who attended the first women's rights convention in 1848.



Indigenous people, like those shown here in this British representation of the People of the Plains, were not allowed to vote under U.S. law until well into the 20th century.

Before 1776, North American Indigenous Peoples involved both men and women in tribal decisions.

CHAPTER



The Call for Change

In 1789, the U.S. Constitution gave the state governments, not the **federal** government, the power to decide who could vote. Most states gave this right to white, land-owning men. Slowly the right to vote was granted to white men without land. In New Jersey, white, land-owning women voted until 1807, when that right was **revoked**. This meant that most people—white women, Indigenous people, and people of color—had no voice in passing the laws they lived under.