What did the Women’s Rights Movement achieve and why was there opposition?

**Learning Objectives:** To identify the reasons for opposition and evaluate the significance of Phyllis Schlafly

**Key Terms, Events, Names:** Phyllis Schlafly, ERA, Abortion, STOP, Happiness of Womanhood, Roe v Wade
If it were a lady, it would get its bottom pinched.

If this lady was a car she'd run you down.
As the pressure from women’s rights protesters grew, the government did pass legislation to improve equality between the sexes.

In 1963, the Equal Pay Act made it illegal to pay women less for doing the same job as men. However it did not address the issue of discrimination in seeking jobs in the first place.

This was followed by the 1964 Civil Rights Act which made it illegal to discriminate on grounds of gender.
Progress in Women’s Rights

- To test government legislation, NOW pressed hundreds of *court cases* between 1966-71, securing over $30 million in back pay owed to women.

- In 1964, Margaret Chase Smith announced her *candidacy for President*, becoming the first women to have her name placed in nomination for President in the Republican Party. She lost every single primary, getting only 27 votes.
Women's Liberation Movement

LO: To identify the reasons for opposition and evaluate the significance of Phyllis Schlafly

What is the story behind these images? Create a news catchy news headline for a local paper?
LET'S JUDGE OURSELVES AS PEOPLE.
The women’s liberation movement faced opposition from men AND women.

Some people rejected everything the movement stood for. Others objected only to some of the changes the movement pushed for.

One of the biggest issues that divided people in the USA was abortion.
Abortion

In 1960 abortion was illegal in the USA, although some states allowed it if the mother’s life was at risk. Illegal abortions were dangerous and many women died during procedures. Unwanted pregnancy was too often seen as a problem for the pregnant woman to solve.

Why do you think that this issue faced so much opposition?
Abortion

• Groups like NOW campaigned for the right to abortion, because it was a woman’s body and life that were affected by the pregnancy.

• The issue soon became a struggle between the rights of the woman vs. the rights of the unborn child.
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- From 1965 onwards, some states brought in laws that allowed abortions for **more reasons** than just saving a mother’s life.
- Then in 1973, the case of **Roe v. Wade** was taken to the Supreme Court fighting for a woman’s right to have an abortion.
Abortion

• The decision was that for the first 12 weeks, a **woman now had the right to choose an abortion**, in any state.
• The next 12 weeks, the state could allow abortion depending **on individual cases**.
• For the last 12 weeks the mother's life had **to be at risk**.
• **Abortion was now legal** but anti-abortion groups did not give up the fight to stop it.
Research the Equal Rights Amendment and make a list of its key provisions?
1972 **Phyllis Schlafly** set up **STOP** (Stop Taking Our Privileges) to campaign against ERA.

Schlafly was a married lawyer who had once run for Congress in 1952. She opposed women’s lib as damaging to family values.

Why do you think there were people like Phyllis who were against the women’s movement?
Phyllis Schlafly

- Schlafly argued against ERA because she said it would **remove privileges that many women wanted** (e.g. exemption from conscription to the army)
- She also argued that many **poorer women who wanted to be wives and mothers** would be disadvantaged by the amendment.
- Her campaign **convinced states that there was considerable opposition to ERA** as well. Only 30 ratified the amendment. It was not passed.
Summary – Why did women oppose the women’s movement?

1. Some believed that NOW was dominated by white, middle-class females that working class women couldn’t relate to.
2. Others objected to the extreme demands and methods of the women’s lib movement.
3. A number genuinely believed in and accepted the traditional role of women.
4. Some women were anti-abortion.
5. Movement did not seem to be doing enough to help poor women.