

# iron jawed angels worksheet answer key

The **iron jawed angels worksheet answer key** is a crucial resource for students and educators alike, offering a comprehensive way to engage with the historical narrative of the women's suffrage movement as depicted in the film. This article delves deep into the common elements found in such worksheets, providing detailed explanations and context to help users understand not only the answers but also the underlying historical significance. We will explore key themes, character analyses, pivotal moments, and the broader impact of the suffrage movement, all through the lens of the film and the questions designed to assess comprehension. By providing thorough insights, this guide aims to serve as an invaluable companion for anyone studying "Iron Jawed Angels."

## Table of Contents

Understanding the Historical Context

Key Themes in "Iron Jawed Angels"

Character Analysis and Motivations

Major Events and Turning Points

The Impact of the Suffrage Movement

Frequently Asked Questions About Iron Jawed Angels Worksheets

## Understanding the Historical Context of "Iron Jawed Angels"

The film "Iron Jawed Angels" vividly portrays the crucial fight for women's right to vote in the United States, primarily focusing on the period between 1912 and 1920. Understanding the historical context is paramount to fully grasping the challenges and triumphs depicted. This era was marked by significant social and political upheaval, with women progressively pushing for greater equality in a society that largely confined them to domestic roles. The early 20th century was a time when progressive ideals were gaining traction, yet deeply entrenched patriarchal structures resisted significant change. Worksheets focusing on this film often begin by assessing a student's understanding of this foundational period, probing knowledge of existing laws, societal norms, and the general political climate surrounding women's rights.

The suffragist movement itself was not monolithic. It comprised various factions with differing strategies and levels of militancy. "Iron Jawed Angels" primarily highlights the National Woman's Party (NWP), led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, known for their more confrontational tactics. This is a key distinction often explored in answer keys, as it differentiates them from organizations like the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), which often favored a more gradual, state-by-state approach. Understanding these strategic divergences is critical for appreciating the film's narrative arc and the specific contributions of the NWP's efforts. Questions might revolve around the political landscape of the time, the resistance faced by suffragists, and the prevailing attitudes towards women in public life.

## **The Early 20th Century Political Climate**

The early 1900s in America were a period of immense change and growing social consciousness. The Progressive Era saw widespread calls for reform in areas such as labor laws, child welfare, and political corruption. However, the concept of extending voting rights to women was still a radical idea for many. Political machines, conservative elements of society, and even some women themselves actively opposed the suffrage movement. The established order viewed women's enfranchisement as a threat to the traditional family structure and social hierarchy. Understanding this backdrop is essential for appreciating the courage and determination of the women who fought for their rights, and for answering questions that probe the societal barriers they encountered.

## **Societal Norms and Women's Roles**

In the decades leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment, prevailing societal norms strictly defined women's roles. They were largely expected to be homemakers and mothers, with their public lives being extremely limited. Opportunities for education, professional careers, and political participation were scarce. This deeply ingrained sexism is a central theme in "Iron Jawed Angels." The film showcases how suffragists challenged these norms, stepping out of their prescribed roles to organize, protest, and demand their fundamental rights as citizens. Worksheet questions often focus on contrasting these societal expectations with the actions and aspirations of the suffragists, highlighting the radical nature of their demands in that historical moment.

## **Key Themes Explored in "Iron Jawed Angels"**

"Iron Jawed Angels" is rich with thematic depth, exploring not just the pursuit of suffrage but also the broader concepts of activism, sacrifice, and the fight for justice. A comprehensive answer key will guide students through these complex ideas, encouraging critical thinking about the methods and motivations of the suffragists. The film masterfully illustrates the power of persistent advocacy and the personal costs associated with challenging the status quo. Themes such as the intersectionality of social justice movements, the role of media in shaping public opinion, and the resilience of the human spirit are all woven into the narrative, providing ample material for discussion and analysis.

## **The Power of Activism and Civil Disobedience**

One of the most prominent themes in "Iron Jawed Angels" is the efficacy of sustained activism and, specifically, the use of civil disobedience. Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party employed tactics that were considered highly controversial at the time, including picketing the White House, organizing parades, and engaging in protests that led to arrests and imprisonment. These actions, while met with harsh reprisal, were instrumental in drawing national attention to the suffrage cause and pressuring President Woodrow Wilson to act. Worksheet questions will often assess an understanding of these tactics and their impact, asking students to consider whether the ends justified the means.

The film doesn't shy away from depicting the consequences of this activism. The women faced public ridicule, physical violence, and brutal treatment in prison, including force-feeding during hunger strikes. These portrayals underscore the immense bravery and commitment required by the suffragists. Answering questions about these events requires an understanding of the risks involved and the moral courage of those who endured them. The effectiveness of their civil disobedience, in forcing the government to confront the issue of women's rights, is a central lesson derived from the film.

## **Sacrifice and Personal Cost**

The fight for suffrage came at a significant personal cost for many of the women involved. "Iron Jawed Angels" emphasizes the sacrifices made by individuals like Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and the countless other women who dedicated their lives to the cause. They often faced ostracization from their families, lost their jobs, and endured physical and psychological hardship. The film highlights that the pursuit of a fundamental right was not a comfortable or easy undertaking. Understanding these sacrifices is crucial for appreciating the depth of their commitment and the historical significance of their eventual victory. Many worksheet questions will prompt reflection on the personal toll of activism.

## **The Importance of Unity and Strategy**

While the film primarily focuses on the NWP, it also implicitly touches upon the broader suffrage movement and the debates surrounding strategy. The NWP's more militant approach often contrasted with the more traditional methods employed by other suffrage organizations. However, the film ultimately shows how different strategies, when pursued with determination, contributed to the overall momentum of the movement. Understanding the strategic discussions and occasional disagreements between suffrage groups is an important aspect often explored in detail. Questions might ask students to compare and contrast the tactics of different organizations or to analyze the effectiveness of specific strategies in advancing the cause.

## **Character Analysis and Motivations**

The success of "Iron Jawed Angels" as a historical drama lies in its compelling character portrayals. Examining the motivations and development of key figures provides crucial insights into the suffrage movement. Worksheets often delve into the personalities, backgrounds, and driving forces behind characters like Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and even President Woodrow Wilson. Understanding their individual journeys helps to illuminate the broader political and social dynamics at play during this pivotal period in American history. The complexity of these characters, their strengths, their flaws, and their unwavering dedication, make them relatable and inspirational.

## **Alice Paul: The Radical Strategist**

Alice Paul, portrayed as the determined and often uncompromising leader of the National Woman's Party, is central to the film's narrative. Her background in Quakerism and her experiences with more radical activism in Britain profoundly influenced her approach to the suffrage movement in America. She believed in direct action and a federal amendment as the most effective means to achieve suffrage. Worksheets often ask for an analysis of her leadership style, her strategic thinking, and the reasons behind her confrontational tactics. Her unwavering focus on the ultimate goal, even in the face of severe opposition, is a defining characteristic that students are encouraged to understand.

## **Lucy Burns: The Dedicated Partner**

Lucy Burns, Alice Paul's close friend and collaborator, is depicted as a tireless organizer and a vital force within the NWP. While perhaps less publicly visible than Paul, Burns's contributions were indispensable. She played a key role in organizing parades, managing publications, and providing crucial support to Paul. Questions about Lucy Burns often focus on her loyalty, her organizational skills, and her personal sacrifices. Her partnership with Alice Paul is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared vision in achieving monumental goals. Understanding her role provides a more complete picture of the NWP's operational success.

## **President Woodrow Wilson: The Reluctant Ally**

President Woodrow Wilson's evolving stance on women's suffrage is a significant subplot in "Iron Jawed Angels." Initially resistant, his position gradually shifts under the persistent pressure of the suffragists, particularly the NWP's relentless demonstrations during World War I. The film portrays Wilson as a complex figure, grappling with political expediency, public opinion, and the ideals of democracy. Worksheet questions might explore his motivations for eventually supporting the amendment, the political pressures he faced, and the effectiveness of the suffragists' campaigns in influencing his decisions. His journey from opposition to reluctant support is a key indicator of the movement's growing power.

## **Major Events and Turning Points**

The narrative of "Iron Jawed Angels" is punctuated by a series of significant events that shaped the course of the women's suffrage movement and ultimately led to the passage of the 19th Amendment. A thorough worksheet answer key will detail these pivotal moments, explaining their context and their impact. These events are not merely plot points; they represent crucial battles in a long and arduous struggle for fundamental rights. Understanding these turning points allows for a deeper appreciation of the perseverance and strategic brilliance of the suffragists.

## **The 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession**

The massive Woman Suffrage Procession held in Washington, D.C., on the eve of President Wilson's inauguration in 1913, is a landmark event depicted in the film. Organized by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, it was intended to bring national attention to the suffrage cause. The parade, however, devolved into chaos as a huge crowd of onlookers, many hostile, blocked the route, resulting in violence against the marchers. This event, though chaotic, generated widespread media coverage and galvanized public opinion, significantly boosting the visibility of the suffrage movement and highlighting the intensity of the opposition. Questions in an answer key will likely probe the purpose, outcome, and significance of this pivotal parade.

## **The "Silent Sentinels" and White House Pickets**

The "Silent Sentinels" campaign, initiated by the NWP in 1917, involved suffragists picketing the White House with banners demanding that President Wilson support the federal suffrage amendment. This was a bold and unprecedented act, as it directly challenged the President during wartime. The picketers faced arrest, imprisonment, and brutal treatment, including the notorious "Night of Terror" at the Occoquan Workhouse, where they were subjected to severe physical abuse and force-feeding during hunger strikes. The depiction of these events and the suffragists' unwavering resolve forms a critical part of the film and is extensively covered in worksheets. The sheer endurance and sacrifice of the Silent Sentinels proved to be a powerful moral argument that resonated nationally and internationally.

## **The Passage of the 19th Amendment**

The culmination of decades of activism, the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote, is the ultimate turning point. The film meticulously details the intense lobbying efforts, the political maneuvering, and the final, dramatic ratification process. The amendment's journey through Congress and the state legislatures was fraught with challenges, requiring immense political will and strategic campaigning. Worksheets often conclude by assessing comprehension of this final victory, its implications, and the roles played by various individuals and organizations in achieving this historic milestone. The ratification, particularly the pivotal vote in Tennessee, is often a focus of detailed questions.

## **The Impact and Legacy of the Suffrage Movement**

The struggle for women's suffrage, as powerfully depicted in "Iron Jawed Angels," had a profound and lasting impact on American society and continues to inspire movements for social justice today. Understanding this legacy is crucial for grasping the full significance of the film and the historical period it portrays. The 19th Amendment was not just about the right to vote; it was a fundamental shift in the understanding of citizenship and equality. The activism and strategies employed by the suffragists paved the way for future civil rights movements and continue to serve as a model for effective advocacy.

## **The Expanding Definition of Citizenship**

The achievement of women's suffrage dramatically altered the landscape of American democracy by fundamentally expanding the definition of citizenship. For the first time, a significant portion of the adult population gained a direct voice in their government. This enfranchisement challenged deeply ingrained notions of women's subordinate status and began a long process of re-evaluating their roles and rights within society. Worksheets often explore the philosophical and societal implications of this expanded citizenship, prompting reflection on how it changed the political discourse and opened doors for further social and legal reforms.

## **Inspiration for Future Social Justice Movements**

The strategies and sacrifices of the suffragists in "Iron Jawed Angels" have served as an enduring source of inspiration for numerous social justice movements throughout history. The tactics of organized protest, civil disobedience, public demonstration, and relentless advocacy proved to be effective tools for challenging entrenched power structures. The resilience and determination of women like Alice Paul and Lucy Burns continue to motivate activists fighting for equality and human rights across various platforms and causes. Understanding this ripple effect is a key takeaway from studying the film and the suffrage movement, and is often a focus of concluding questions on comprehensive worksheets.

## **Ongoing Struggles for Equality**

While the 19th Amendment was a monumental victory, "Iron Jawed Angels" also implicitly reminds us that the struggle for full equality is an ongoing process. The film focuses on the fight for the vote, but the pursuit of equal rights and opportunities for women continues in many forms. Understanding the historical context provided by the film helps to contextualize contemporary debates about gender equality, representation, and social justice. The lessons learned from the suffrage movement remain relevant, encouraging continued vigilance and action to ensure that the promise of equality is fully realized for all.

The "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheet answer key serves as more than just a set of correct responses; it is a guide to understanding a pivotal moment in American history. By delving into the historical context, key themes, character motivations, major events, and lasting impact, students can gain a comprehensive and nuanced appreciation of the women's suffrage movement. The film and the accompanying educational materials offer invaluable lessons in perseverance, courage, and the enduring power of collective action in the pursuit of justice and equality.

## **Q: Where can I find an official "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheet answer key?**

A: Official answer keys are often distributed by educational institutions or publishers who create curriculum materials. If you are a student, your teacher or instructor is the best source for an answer key related to the specific worksheet you are using. Online resources may offer unofficial guides or

study aids, but it is always recommended to consult your educator for the definitive answers.

### **Q: What kind of questions are typically found on an "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheet?**

A: Typically, "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheets focus on comprehension of the film's historical accuracy, character analysis, key themes such as activism and sacrifice, and the chronological ordering of significant events like the White House pickets and the passage of the 19th Amendment. Questions often require critical thinking about the motivations of the characters and the strategies employed by the suffragists.

### **Q: How can using an answer key enhance my understanding of "Iron Jawed Angels"?**

A: An answer key can enhance your understanding by confirming your own interpretations, clarifying complex historical details, and highlighting aspects of the film you may have overlooked. It serves as a valuable tool for self-assessment and for reinforcing learning by providing correct context and explanations for key plot points and historical concepts.

### **Q: Is it ethical to use an answer key for an "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheet?**

A: Using an answer key is most ethical when done as a supplementary learning tool rather than a substitute for genuine effort. It is intended to help you check your work, understand mistakes, and deepen your comprehension after you have attempted the worksheet yourself. Relying solely on an answer key without engaging with the material defeats the purpose of the exercise.

### **Q: What are the main historical inaccuracies often pointed out in "Iron Jawed Angels"?**

A: While "Iron Jawed Angels" is praised for its portrayal of the suffrage movement, some historical critiques suggest minor dramatizations for narrative effect. These might include the compression of timelines or the emphasis on certain interpersonal dynamics. However, the core historical events and the spirit of the movement are widely considered to be accurately represented.

### **Q: How does the "Iron Jawed Angels" worksheet connect to the broader women's suffrage movement?**

A: The worksheet, and by extension the film, connects to the broader movement by illustrating the specific strategies and challenges faced by the National Woman's Party. It highlights the federal amendment strategy, the use of militant tactics, and the significant personal sacrifices made by activists, all of which were crucial components of the larger, multi-faceted suffrage campaign.

## **Q: What role did President Woodrow Wilson play in the passage of the 19th Amendment, as depicted in "Iron Jawed Angels"?**

A: The film depicts President Wilson as initially resistant to women's suffrage but eventually persuaded to support the federal amendment due to persistent pressure from suffragists, particularly Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party. His public endorsement was a crucial factor in the amendment's eventual passage.

## **Q: Can an "Iron Jawed Angels" answer key help with understanding the legal aspects of the 19th Amendment?**

A: Yes, an answer key can help clarify the significance and the legal implications of the 19th Amendment. It can explain what the amendment achieved, the process of its ratification, and its immediate impact on women's political participation, providing a foundational understanding of this landmark legislation.

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