

## Alice Paul



Figure 2

I watched a river of women,  
Rippling purple, white, and golden,  
Stream toward the National Capitol.

Along its border,  
Like a purple flower floating,  
Moved a young woman, worn, wraith-  
like,  
With eyes alight, keenly observing the  
marchers.

Out there on the curb, she looked so  
little, so lonely;

Few appeared even to see her;

No one saluted her.

Yet commander was she of the col-  
umn, its leader;

She was the spring whence arose that  
irresistible river of women

Streaming steadily toward the National  
Capitol.

Figure 1

*Poem courtesy of the historic National Woman's Party, Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Washington, D.C., entitled "Alice Paul"*

*Photo from the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.*

## Activities

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### **Creative Thinking/ Learning Resources and Information Technology**

- Create a map of suffrage by state. A good source of information can be found at: <http://www.rochester.edu/SBA/timeline.html>. On an outline map of the United States denote each state and note when suffrage was granted to women.
- Ask questions. Which 5 states granted suffrage first? Which 5 states granted suffrage last? Is there a geographical connection among these groups? Are there any other connections?

### **Creative Thinking/ Working Independently and Collaboratively**

- In conjunction with the art teacher or in your own classroom, make posters using the Alice Paul poem. Paint, color, or use collage to illustrate the poem.

### **Writing/Viewing/ Problem Solving, Reasoning and Creative Thinking**

- Carefully study the portrait of Alice Paul. What does it tell you about the historical era? Does it give you any clues that connect it with the poem, "Alice Paul"? Write a paragraph to describe Paul's expression.

### **Learning Resources/ Information Technology/ Writing/ Working Independently**

- The poem and the portrait suggest the involvement of many women in the fight for suffrage. Research suffrage and some of the women who spent time working for suffrage, then write a report. Focus the report on one woman who interests you. Find a primary source and interpret it as part of your report.