

Suffrage in the United States

Realization and Visualization

NAME: _____

Define vocabulary:

suffrage

Poll tax

Literacy test

Grandfather clause

register

1. Explain why some groups have struggled to gain the right to vote, while other groups have fought hard to deny certain groups from voting. What is at stake for each side? Why is voting so important?
2. According to the 15th Amendment, a *citizen* is guaranteed the right to vote regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude (slavery)”. Why were poll taxes, literacy tests and the Grandfather clause not declared *unconstitutional*?
3. Describe the requirements that almost all states have for voting today.
4. What restrictions (limits), if any, do you think states should be able to place on voting rights? Explain your position.

For each of the following events, identify the year it took place, and briefly describe how the event helped or hurt the extension of *suffrage* to a group in the United States. Use your reading to complete the following information.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Impact (explain how this event increased or limited suffrage in the United States)</u>
U.S. Constitution	1789	Suffrage based on state laws; suffrage almost exclusively limited to white men with property
Dorr Rebellion in R.I.	1842	
Seneca Falls Convention		Beginning of national protest movement and organization to gain suffrage for women
15 th Amendment passed		
Poll tax laws in the South	early 1870s	
Literacy laws in the South	early 1870s	
Grandfather Clause	early 1870s	

<i>Minor v. Happersett</i>		Supreme Court ruled that being a citizen does not guarantee individuals the right to vote
Women's Declaration of Rights	1876	
Wyoming Territory	1890	Not yet a state, the western territory is the first to grant suffrage to women
Expansion of women's suffrage	1900	Western states of Colorado, Utah and Idaho allow women to vote in state elections
Bull Moose Progressives	1912	Presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt platform supports national women's suffrage
19 th Amendment passed		
24 th Amendment passed		
Voting Rights Act passed		
Vietnam War	1963-1973	Tens of thousands of young Americans drafted to fight, but not old enough to vote in elections
26 th Amendment passed		

Create a timeline of the events from above. Place them in proper *chronological* order. Add images to bring your timeline to life!

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- A. How many constitutional amendments have been passed to protect voting rights (suffrage) throughout U.S. History?
 - B. When you turn 18, will you take advantage of your constitutional right and civic responsibility to vote? Explain why or why not.