

**EQ #9- Who can vote in the U.S.? How has the right to vote changed over time?**

**Chapter 6**

# Suffrage Quickwrite

- In your INB, answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss!
  1. Who votes in America's democracy?
  2. Who has the right to vote?
  3. Who doesn't have the right to vote?
  4. What limits should there be on who can vote in the U.S. today?

# Review the Timeline

- Mark it up as you read. What stands out? Pick THREE things that are new and/or seem most important to you
- Be prepared to discuss with a table partner

- 
- Write a **ONE sentence reflection** about what you learned in INB. **“I learned that voting in the US...**

# Who can vote?

- The U.S. Constitution did NOT list requirements for voting.
- It was left up to the States to determine who could vote.

# Voting History-

## Who could vote?

- In 1789, only white male property owners could vote
- That was less than 1/15 of all white men at the time.
- Today over 250 million Americans are eligible to vote.
- **Voting Rights-** Have expanded greatly since the US Constitution was ratified!

# Key Terms

## What is *Suffrage* or *Franchise*?

- The right to vote



## What is the *Electorate*?

- Those eligible to vote in an election



# Who Could Vote?

1789-

- **Who?:** White male property owners
- **Why?** Revolutionary War liberated Colonies from Britain; states set rules
- The British had even fewer able to vote at the time

# Video Clips

- [Ted Ed-](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9VdyPbbzII>



# Who could vote?

**By 1850-**

- **Who?**

Nearly all white adult males over 21

- **Why?**

Social changes eliminated property ownership requirement.

# Who could vote?

**By 1870- Black men gain right to vote**

- **Who?** Most men over 21, including Black men. (Native American men excluded; not considered citizens)

- **Why?** Civil War liberated slaves and the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed guaranteeing the right to vote to former slaves.

Though many southern states found other ways to prevent the Black vote...

# Who could vote?

## By 1920- Women's Suffrage

- **Who?:** Many men and women over age 21
- **Why?** 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed granting women the right to vote.



# Who Could Vote?

## In 1924- Native Americans

- **Who?**

Native Americans gain the right to vote.  
Now all men and women over 21.

- **Why?**

Congress passed the Snyder Act which gave all Native Americans born in the U.S. citizenship so they became eligible to vote; still, many states prevented their votes.

# Who could vote?

## 1971- Youth Vote

- **Who?:** All men and women over 18
- **Why?** -26<sup>th</sup> Amendment expanded suffrage to all over 18.
- Young men could be drafted for Vietnam War but couldn't vote yet. This seemed unfair to most.

# Trends in Suffrage

- Over time, more citizens can vote in the U.S. due to amendments to the U.S. Constitution that expanded suffrage
  1. The 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Amendments pass and expand suffrage.
  2. States gradually eliminate restrictions.
  3. The Federal Government enforces the amendments by sending in troops when necessary.

# Voter Qualifications Among States

- The trend has been to allow more people to exercise their right to vote with fewer restrictions
- There still are requirements, however

# Activity- Right to Vote

- How did \_\_\_\_\_gain the right to vote in the US?
- Groups create poster to answer.
  - African Americans
  - Women
  - Native Americans
  - Asian Americans
  - Youth
  - Convicted Felons



# Process

- Teams of FIVE
- Pick a group to research from the list
- **African Americans, women, Native Americans, youth, Asian Americans, convicted felons**
- Create an illustrated **timeline** with FIVE key events to show how each group gained the right to vote and what obstacles remain today.

# Groups

- Braley, Talia, Anna, Dru, Gabe
- Lillian, Kayley, Luke, Alex, CJ
- Barrett, Erick, Dacey, Toby, Zylah
- Emma, Dustin, Donovan, Sam, Michael
- Anthony, Elizabeth, Ian, Kobe, Noah
- Kaylee, Jordan, Alijah, Hunter, Dominyk

# Tuesday Tasks

- Voting Rights Project Work Time...
- Get into groups and Get computers
- Create Google doc with team
- Read articles; take notes!!
- Discuss what you learned with your group
- Choose FIVE events
- Decide who in your group will focus on EACH key event/person/issue you chose

# Thursday Tasks

- GROUP- Choose **FIVE key factoids** (can be a person, event, law, amendment...)
- EACH TEAM MEMBER
  - Writes **one paragraph per each of your poster's FIVE FACTS**
  - Creates **3-5 bullet points from their paragraph** for poster
  - Chooses **ONE graphic for your FACT**
- ALL- Assemble poster! Due at end of class today!!

# Friday

- Finish posters with group (15 min)
- Groups present their findings (1-2 min each)
- Gallery walk to complete the Graphic Organizer (turn in)
- Make sure your poster is turned in with names on it!

# Monday

- What is required to vote in the US?
- How do you register to vote in Oregon?
- Film- ***A Time for Justice***
  - Why was the Civil Rights Movement necessary to secure the right to vote for African Americans? What obstacles remain today?

# Voting Requirements-

## All States Require These...

### 1. Citizenship

- All states require citizenship

### 2. Residence

- Must be a legal resident of state to vote there.

### 3. Age

- Must be 18 on or before the election

### 4. Registration-

- 49 states require registration; must register from 0-29 days before elections (depending on state rules); Oregon is 21 days

# Voting Requirements-

## Most states have rules about...

- **Mental Competence**

- Most states require mental competence but it's tricky to determine
- The courts must determine if someone is NOT mentally capable to vote in cases of disability

- **Criminal Record**

- Most states restrict convicted felons from vote
- Rules vary by state
- Many states allow former felons to vote after time served



# Voter Qualifications Now Illegal...

- **Literacy**

- Literacy tests have been outlawed by the Civil Rights Acts
- Were used unfairly to keep African Americans from voting in the South



- **Poll Tax / Payment**

- Some Southern states charged a tax to vote to keep poor Blacks from voting; these were banned by the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1960s.

# How to Vote

- In most states, **voting happens at a polling place or precinct**. This is a public place in your neighborhood.
- In Oregon, Washington and Colorado, ALL voters vote by mail.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ERdsSPpF\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ERdsSPpF_4)

# How to Register to Vote

- <https://www.dmv.org/or-oregon/voter-registration.php>
- Go to the site and answer the Q's below in your INB LEFT side
  1. What are the THREE ways you can register to vote in Oregon?
  2. How old do you have to be to register?
  3. What forms of ID do you need?
  4. Record THREE other fun facts you learn.

# **What are the pros and cons of All Vote by Mail?**

- Read the handout about vote-by-mail.
- Discuss your TOP TWO pros and cons
- Write a short reflection that answers the prompt

**Do the benefits of all-vote-by-mail state systems outweigh the costs?**

# **Film- A Time for Justice**

- Watch the film about Civil Rights Movement in U.S.

# Warm-Up-

## *Civil Rights & Voting*

- Discuss with your table partner.
1. What were FOUR ways that Blacks were kept from voting in the South after the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1870?
  2. Name ONE law passed during the Civil Rights Movement that helped African Americans secure the right to vote.

# What are Civil Rights?

## What is the Civil Rights Act?

What laws were necessary to secure the right to vote for ALL African Americans?

- **Civil rights-** Are protections for groups against discrimination by government and other citizens.
- **Groups protected-** Women, minorities, disabled, elderly, youth & others
- **Where?-** Found in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment which guarantees “equal protection under the law” for all citizens.

# Civil Rights and Suffrage

- **The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment:** Was passed in 1870 to grant **suffrage** to African American men who had been slaves.
- The Federal Government didn't enforce this amendment in southern states for 90 years.
- In many southern states, blacks were systematically kept from voting **by law and through intimidation.**



# How have civil rights laws affected voting qualifications?

- The Civil Rights Movement inspired/forced Congress to act and protect voting rights for Blacks in ALL states.
- Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act to enforce fair voting.

# How have civil rights laws affected voting?

- **The Civil Rights Acts of 1964**
  - Outlawed discrimination based on race or gender in employment and public places
  - Ended unfair requirements (**literacy test, grandfather clause**) that kept Blacks from voting
- **The Voting Rights Act of 1965**
  - Required federal oversight of all elections
  - Led to registration of millions of Blacks in the South and helped other minorities secure the right to vote

# Tactics to prevent Black votes

- In the South, the following were used to suppress Black votes-
- **Literacy Test**- A difficult knowledge test
- **Poll Tax**- Charging a tax to vote
- **White Primary**- Only whites could vote in the primary election to choose candidates
- **Grandfather Clause**- Allowed white voters to avoid literacy tests & poll taxes because their “grandfathers” hadn’t had to take them.

